**National Council for Behavioral Health**

**Association Executives Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Eastern Time

Members Participating:

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| Laura Aldinger | Lisa Henick |
| Jeremy Blair | Heather Jefferis |
| Matt Brooks | Lee Johnson |
| Melanie Brown-Woofter | Kyle Kessler |
| Gian-Carl Casa | Maryam Kiefer |
| Danette Castle | Teresa Lampl |
| Ann Christian | Mark Levota |
| Lauri Cole | Marvin Lindsey |
| Phaedre Cole | John Magnuson |
| John Coppola | Brent McGinty |
| Terry Dosch | Jin Palen |
| Lori Doyle | Michelle Ponce |
| Mark Drennan | Sarah Potter |
| Annette Dubas | Mary-Linden Salter |
| Candy Espino | Flora Schmidt |
| Mark Fontaine | Malory Shaughnessy |
| Doyle Forrestal, Chair | Adrienne Shelton |
| Eric Foster | Andrea Smyth |
| Robyn Garrett | Chris Stoner-Mertz |
| Lauren Grimes | John Tassoni |
| Shannon Hall | Kerran Vigroux |
|  | Ellyn Wilbur |

Staff in Attendance: Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Sanjana Bhakta, Jeannie Campbell, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Brian Evans, Teresa Halliday, Sara Haywood, Chuck Ingoglia, Stephanie Katz, Shannon Mace, Diane Millard, Joel Nepomuceno, Joe Parks, Michael Petruzzelli, Ray Russell, Shelley Starkey, Sarah Surgenor, Reyna Taylor, Nicholas Thomas, and Mohini Venkatesh.

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Doyle Forrestal, Chair, started the meeting at 1:32pm.

Summary – The Association Executives held their Spring Meeting and discussed budget challenges in the states and access to federal COVID-19 relief funding. In addition to COVID-19 related topics, there were also discussions on:

* managed care,
* criminal justice reform and behavioral health, and
* storytelling and communications best practices.

Items Discussed – The Association Executives Spring Meeting included in-depth discussions on:

* Budget challenges states are facing – Many states are facing significant financial challenges due to COVID-19 and are planning budget cuts, including for behavioral health. Most members have adapted to telehealth. Many state associations also face budget challenges. Additional issues discussed included moving association meetings to a virtual platform and retaining association members.
* Managed Care - Chuck Ingoglia and Shannon Mace presented the managed care paper prepared for the National Council by independent consultants entitled, "THE TRANSITION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES INTO COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAID." The paper addresses challenges states have experienced implementing managed care with behavioral health such as contract oversight, how to avoid pitfalls, and ways models fail to meet intent.
* Criminal justice reform and behavioral health - In the wake of the ongoing protests of racial and social injustice and recent push for criminal justice reform, Association Executives discussed the possible opportunity of enhanced funding for prevention and de-escalation through behavioral health services. Topics discussed included: increasing public awareness of how behavioral health services positively impact communities, the cost of the criminal justice system versus the cost of prevention through behavioral health, and civil citation programs. Association Executives discussed the possibility of creating a working group to focus on criminal justice reform.
* Effective storytelling - Sarah Surgenor, National Council Vice President of Marketing and Communications, presented on best practices for “telling a story” to capture attention, make emotional connections, and improve desired advocacy outcomes.

Decisions Made – Association Executives decided to spend time at a future meeting having a more in-depth discussion on desired telehealth policy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Actions for the Board of Directors – No action for the National Council Board.

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There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

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Doyle Forrestal, Chair