**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Melanie Brown-Woofter, Jason Cain, Blanca Campos, Danette Castle, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Kimberley Higgs, Heather Jefferis, Jerry Jenkins, Lee Johnson, Mark Levota, John Magnuson, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Jin Palen, Michelle Ponce, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

**Staff in Attendance**: Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzzelli, Sarah Surgenor, and Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor

Reyna said that a number of relevant hearings have taken place in the past week and that the National Council team was monitoring these hearings to understand the discussions around mental health and substance use disorders. She explained that the National Council was especially interested in HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra’s answers and discussions around mental health and substance use treatment funding in the Biden Administration’s proposed FY2022 budget.

Reyna also gave an overview of the nomination hearing for Miriam Delphin-Rittmon to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. Reyna shared that Dr. Delphin-Rittmon demonstrated a commitment and understanding of what is needed for the future and illustrated a forward-thinking philosophy around mental health and substance use.

She also shared that she believes there will be a full Senate Finance Committee hearing on mental health and substance use treatment care on June 15th.

Agenda Items for June 15th Association Executives Spring Meeting

Doyle Forrestal

Doyle solicited ideas for agenda items for the Spring Association Executives Committee meeting from Association Executives. Some agenda items discussed included:

* A discussion around challenges regarding workforce.
* A representative from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to speak to Association Executives
* Organizational management post-COVID for associations.

Association Executives Committee Chair Election

Neal Comstock

Neal stated that Doyle Forrestal’s term as Association Executives Committee Chair expires on June 30 and that nominations are now open. He said that Doyle is eligible to serve another term. Neal explained that if no other candidates were nominated, then under the Bylaws no elections would be needed, and her re-election will most likely be certified by the Nominating Committee of the Board.

**Open Discussion**

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, from 2-3:55 p.m. ET.