**National Council for Mental Wellbeing**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Doyle Forrestal, Melanie Brown Woofter, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Shelly Chandler, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, Lydia Conley, John Coppola, Morgan Coyner, Vicki DaPonte, John Drebinger, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Robyn Garrett, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Lisa Henick, Chelsea Hughes, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Kyle Kessler, Teresa Lampl, Joel Landreneau, Richard Leclerc, Mark LeVota, Liz Logan, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Diane Novy, Michelle Ponce, Malory Shaughnessy, Alysia Smith Knight, Chris Stoner-Mertz, John Tassoni, Jr., Kedron Vrabel, Debra Wentz, and Marrissa Williams.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Deanna Roepke, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Chris Coughlin, Rebecca Farley David, Erin Griebe, Teresa Halliday, Stephanie Katz, Sola King, Connor McKay, Aaron Polacek, Sarah Surgenor, Reyna Taylor, Taslim van Hattum, Mohini Venkatesh, DeAnn Wandler-Vukovich, and Monika Witt.

**Guest**: Vikrum Vishnubhakta

**Summary Notes:**

**Policy Updates** – Reyna Taylor  
Reyna Taylor provided an update on new House committee assignments with the change in leadership. She also reported HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra extended the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on January 11th, and that we are continuing to analyze plans to mitigate the impact of ending the PHA after this current extension.

Rebecca Farley David discussed SAMHSA’s request for comments on updated criteria for CCBHCs. She reported that there is a draft National Council comments document that will be shared, and that Association Executives can utilize it as a template when drafting comment letters.

Reyna and Aaron Polacek also discussed how the National Council plans to assist Association Executives in efforts to protect and grow the public mental health and substance use managed care system with an upcoming report and resource “playbook.”

**Member Insights Report -** Chris Coughlin, Heather Jefferis, Vik Vishnubhakta -

Chris provided an overview of the Annual Member Insights Report which analyzes 990 tax return data from National Council members. Our data consultant, Vik Vishnubhakta, described the report’s main findings. Heather Jefferies described how she has used data from the report as part of advocacy efforts in Oregon.

**CDC Overdose Reduction Grant Opportunity** - Taslim van Hattum

Taslim provided information regarding a CDC request for applications and grant opportunity on preventing and reducing overdose and other drug-related harms through innovative harm reduction strategies. Please contact Taslim van Hattum with questions at [taslimvh@thenationalcouncil.org](mailto:taslimvh@thenationalcouncil.org).

**NatCon23 Update** – Deanna Roepke

Deanna described plans for NatCon23 including key speakers, themes, and opportunities for learning and member engagement in Los Angeles from May 1-3.

**Next Association Executives meeting**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.