**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Laura Aldinger, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Danette Castle, Nadia Chait, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Cameron Vickers, Linda Grant, Jesse Hambrick, Kelly Hansen, Kimberley Higgs, Heather Jefferis, Kyle Kessler, Teresa Lampl, Robb Layne, Mark Levota, Maggie McCowan, John Magnuson, Holly McCorkle, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Adrienne Shilton, Andrea Smyth, Julie Tessler, Ellyn Wilbur, Mary Windecker, and Alex Wolff.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzzelli, and Mohini Venkatesh.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts to Support Members

Reyna Taylor

Reyna provided an overview of the progress of President Biden’s $1.9 trillion COVID relief package. She explained that House and Senate Democrats reduced the budget resolution which would allow the package to pass through with a process known as budget reconciliation. Reyna also said that counteroffer from Senate Republicans contained the same amount of relief for SAMHSA as President Biden’s original COVID relief package, roughly $3.5 billion. She said that as more information becomes available, she will share with the Association Executives.

9-8-8

Frankie Berger

Frankie opened the discussion regarding 9-8-8 implementation and said that our efforts are aimed at helping to ensure that it has the infrastructure to allow for robust crisis response by the mental health system and support community mental health and substance use treatment providers. Some areas of focus during the conversation included how states can levy fees to fund the technological implementation of 9-8-8, and workforce challenges as the infrastructure is developed and implemented.

National Council Announcements - 2021 Awards of Excellence

Neal Comstock

Neal discussed in the chat that nominations are open for the National Council’s 2021 Awards of Excellence and he encouraged Association Executives to ask their members to submit nominations. He said that there are three categories for this year’s Awards of Excellence: Peer Specialist of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and Innovation at Work. Neal stated the deadline to submit and complete nominations is February 12th.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.