National Council for Behavioral Health

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Participants: Mary Abrams, Laura Aldinger, Jeremy Blair, Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Danette Castle, Nadia Chait, Tom Chard, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, Paul Curtis, Lori Doyle, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Mark Fontaine, Robyn Garrett, Linda Grant, Lauren Grimes, Kelly Hansen, Kimberly Higgs, Heather Jefferis, Kyle Kessler, Mark Levota, John Magnuson, Brett McGinty, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Adrienne Shilton, Andrea Smyth, Christine Stoner-Mertz, John Tassoni, Jr, Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker

Staff in Attendance: Chuck Ingoglia, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Diane Millard, Joel Nepomuceno, Joe Parks, Michael Petruzzelli, Sarah Surgenor, Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

**Federal Legislative Update**

Presented by Reyna Taylor and Stephanie Katz

Reyna provided an overview of the Senate Republicans’ Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools (HEALS) Act. She said that the HEALS Act totals nearly $1 trillion and is the starting point between the Senate and House negotiations. Reyna said that the HEALS Act includes:

* An extension of Medicare telehealth waivers through the length of the public health emergency;
* $4.5 billion in supplemental appropriation to SAMHSA including:
  + $2 billion in the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, of which no less than 50% of funds should be directed to community mental health services (as defined in the Public Health services Act),
  + $1.5 billion in the Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment Block Grant,
  + $600 million in CCBHC expansion grants,
  + $50 million in suicide prevention programs,
  + $250 million in flexible emergency grants to states,
* Liability protection for employers, and
* Continuation of the Paycheck Protection Program--$190 billion set aside for business and non-profits with no more than 300 employees.

Chuck Ingoglia emphasized that this is the starting point of bipartisan negotiation and that he does not expect the final bill will look like the HEALS act and most likely, will be somewhere in the middle between the Senate Republican HEALS Act and the House Democrat’s Health and Economic Recover Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act.

Stephanie Katz added that COVID-19 relief for 501 (c)(6) non-profits and PPP loans are included in this version of the bill. However, she noted that it does not include non-profits with more than 300 employees. Stephanie said that this version of the bill also extends the amount of time available to utilize funding (to December 31, 2020), in addition to how the funds received can be used. She also stated that new loans cannot exceed $2 million and cannot exceed $10 million when combined with the original loan received. Stephanie also added that there is $25 billion of funding set aside for organizations with less than 10 employees.

**Special Presentation: Discussions about Race Equity with Your Members**

Presented by Le Ondra Clark Harvey, PhD

Le Ondra Clark Harvey from the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies gave a presentation sharing best practices on how to address the current social unrest with staff and how to address implicit bias. She stated that while social unrest and the strive for equality is not new, the #BlackLivesMatter movement and current situation feel different and now more than ever, it is important to have conversations with staff and colleagues to address the current racial pandemic. Le Ondra also discussed how organizations should be aware of how racism shows up in innocuous ways including:

* + Personal beliefs;
  + Interpersonal expression of racism between individuals;
  + Institutional discriminatory treatment policies and practices;
  + Structural, systematic, and other norms that perpetuate inequality; and
  + Subconscious and implicit bias.

She also highlighted resources for discussions about race.

**Announcements**

Joe Parks, MD

Dr. Parks shared with the association executives that the National Council will have CEO only office hours and asked the group for suggestions on topics.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

August 4, 2020, 2:00 PM ET