National Council for Behavioral Health

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Danette Castle, Lauri Cole, Terry Dosch, Lori Doyle, Mark Drennan, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Lisa Henick, Kimberly Higgs, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Maryam Kiefer, Rich Leclerc, Mark Levota, Holly McCorkle, Brent McGinty, Pete Nielsen, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Steve Shannon, Adrienne Shilton, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler and Kerran Vigroux.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley-David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Joe Parks, Sarah Surgenor, Reyna Taylor, Michael Petruzelli, and Mohini Venkatesh.

**Guests**: John Draper and Matt Taylor

**Summary Notes:**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/9-8-8

Matt Taylor, John Draper (Lifeline/Vibrant)

John gave an overview of the Lifeline mission, which is to effectively reach and serve all persons who could be at risk of suicide in the United States through a network of crisis call centers attached to one central number.

John also stated that this is currently locally funded and serviced through local and states centers so:

* Suicide prevention is rooted in the community
* Callers are able to be linked to local resources
* Wait lists are shorter.

John discussed the rapid growth since their inception with 46,000 calls in 2005 and 2.3M calls in 2019.

John also asked for assistance in recruiting local call centers to help field many of the calls that come in. He said the more call centers, the more quickly operators are able to answer the phone, and the probability of abandoned calls decreases.

He talked about the urgency of the crisis calls, which included:

* 8% of the calls incoming were from suicides in progress.
* 60% of callers have had a previous suicide attempt.
* 12% of the callers have stated it saved their life.

He stated the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have made a target date of July 2022 for 9-8-8 to be implemented and gave a brief overview of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 which includes:

* SAMHSA and the VA to report to Congress on infrastructure need within six months
* Requires SAMHSA to submit a plan for training
* Allows states to levy fees for local 9-8-8 on wireless/IP carriers
* Requires the FCC to report to Congress how fees are collected and distributed from wireless/IP carriers.

**Federal Legislative Update**

Reyna Taylor and Frankie Berger

Reyna followed the Lifeline/Vibrant presentation by letting Association Executives know that we need to start collaborating to ensure callers to the hotline have a place to receive treatment after their call. She stated that we have a window of input as we head toward 2022. Reyna also stated that Frankie Berger and Michael Petruzelli are working together with sister organizations to ensure we have a plan for funding.

She also stated that Phase 3 of the HHS funding portal is now open and goes beyond the original 2% allocated in the initial two funding cycles. She encouraged all members to apply.

Reyna discussed the Executive Order that was released the previous day creating a COVID-19 task force focusing on mental health and addiction.

She also discussed that the Public Health Emergency (PHE) will be extended for an additional 90 days, which will take the PHE through the end of January. This will also extend the FMAP increase through the end of March 2021.

**CPT Documentation Codes**

Joe Parks

Dr. Parks stated that beginning January 1st, the level of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code billed will depend on the complexity of examination and history of person, or it could also depend on what percentage of time treatment providers spend on counseling. He stated that information on this change is on the National Council website and is available for review. He also encouraged Association Executives to let their providers know to inform their billing staff.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 2-3:00 p.m. ET