**National Council for Mental Wellbeing**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Nadia Chait, Tom Chard, James Childers, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lydia Conley, Gerald DeLoss, Emily Diehl, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Zoe Frantz, Robyn Garrett, Shannon Hall, Lisa Henick, Heather Jefferis, Kyle Kessler, Teresa Lampl, Robb Layne, Joel Landreneau, Rich Leclerc, Mark Levota, Liz Logan, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Emily Miller, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Sarah Potter, Mary-Linden Salter, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Hicham Bakhit, Brett Beckerson, Malka Berro, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Stephanie Katz, Mason Lee, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Keisha Pitts, Aaron Polacek, Reyna Taylor, Deanne Wandler-Vuko, and Natalie Weiner.

**Summary Notes:**

Federal Policy Updates
Reyna Taylor and Rebecca Farley David

Reyna said that HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra intends to extend the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for 90 days (through October 13th), extending the Consolidated Appropriations Act telehealth flexibilities for another 151 days thereafter. She also shared that the National Council is keeping a close eye on Senate Finance Committee spending legislation and on House Committee on Energy and Commerce Committee regarding developments around a potential mental health legislative package.

Becca shared that there have been a large number of applications for the latest round of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) grants and that we are not expecting any grant announcements until at least August.

George Washington University Substance use Workforce Tracker

Clese Erikson, Deputy Director, Health Workforce Research Center, George Washington University

Clese provided an overview of the workforce survey completed by National Council members. She stated that the survey had a response rate of 25%, including 113 CCBHCs. Some key findings of the survey include:

* Top employees employed by National Council members are licensed professional counselors, Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), and substance use/addiction counselors.
* Most challenging employees to retain are the same that our members employed (licensed professional counselors, LCSWs, and substance use/addiction counselor).
* Barriers to staffing include shortage of workers within the occupations, wages offered are not competitive, and challenging client populations.
* Strategies to address workforce challenges include using psychologists/counselors in training, locum tenens, and substituting services offered with other professions.

June Association Executives Meeting and Hill Day

Jeannie Campbell and Reyna Taylor

Jeannie and Reyna discussed the in-person Association Executives meeting on June 13th and the Public Policy Committee meeting scheduled for June 14th. Jeannie said that the agenda was being finalized for the Association Executives meeting and included both the launch of 988 and a discussion on CCBHCs. Reyna shared that Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) would be receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award and would be recognized on the reception on June 13th. Reyna also stated that John Palmieri from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) would be presenting during the Public Policy Committee’s meeting.

Association Executives Retreat

Jeannie Campbell

Jeannie said that the 2022 Association Executives Retreat will take place in Nashville, TN either August 21-22 or August 28-29. She stated that she is conducting site visits and Doyle Forrestal is heading a planning committee for the retreat.

**Next Association Executives meeting**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.