**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Gian-Carl Casa, Nadia Chait, Lauri Cole, Lydia Conley, John Coppola, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Doyle Forrestal, Robyn Garrett, Linda Grant, Lauren Grimes, Jesse Hambrick, Lisa Henick, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Kyle Kessler, Teresa Lampl, Robb Layne, Mark Levota, John Magnusson, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Adrienne Shilton, Andrea Smyth, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, Mary Windecker, and Alex Wolff.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Dr. Joe Parks, Michael Petruzzelli, Sarah Surgenor, and Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor

Reyna shared that President Biden’s infrastructure package will be released shortly and said that outreach from the Biden administration is occurring on a bipartisan basis to assist moderate Democrats that want to see the infrastructure pass in bipartisan manner. She stated the infrastructure package may be split into two reconciliation packages, and our goal is to ensure that behavioral health funding is included in at least one of those packages. Reyna said our advocacy efforts will include a congressional briefing at the end of May (Mental Health Awareness Month) that will cover topics such as the mental health crisis in America and 988 implementation.

She also said the National Council will leverage Mental Health Awareness Month as platform to springboard our advocacy efforts, which will include outreach via social media and other outlets to ensure we are raising awareness for the need for mental health and substance use treatment funding, and the influx of needs centered around COVID-19 and social injustice.

Reyna also shared that the Excellence in Recovery Housing Act will hopefully get introduced tomorrow and that we will share a list of other legislation we are promoting with Association Executives.

Children’s Residential Treatment Centers and Workforce

Mary Windecker

Mary kicked off a discussion around workforce challenges pertaining to children’s residential treatment centers. She stated that while children’s residential centers are experiencing the most hardship regarding workforce (40% vacancy), the challenges extend to all residential facilities.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 from 2-3:00 p.m. ET.