**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Luis Andrade, Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Nadia Chait, Shelly Chandler, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Frank Cornelia, Terry Dosch, Lori Doyle, Mark Drennan, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Sammy Fejleh, Josh Evans, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jill Hayden, Lisa Henick, Kyle Kessler, Teresa Lampl, Richard Leclerc, Mark Levota, Maggie McCowen, Jennifer McCollum, Brent McGinty, Shauna Moses, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Sarah Potter, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt and John Tassoni, Jr.

**Staff in Attendance**: Jeannie Campbell, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Dr. Joe Parks, Michael Petruzzelli, Reyna Taylor, and Mohini Venkatesh.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor

Reyna briefly described recent congressional hearings that happened on mental health and substance use treatment. She also mentioned that we are not sure if there would be another stand-alone behavioral health legislative effort, or if it would be included in a reconciliation package.

10% Set-Aside for Recovery Services in President’s FY22 Budget

Reyna Taylor

Reyna facilitated an in-depth conversation with Association Executives on the proposed 10% set-aside for recovery services that was included in President Biden’s FY22 budget specifying that states must use 10% of the substance use block grant received for recovery services. She asked for feedback and guidance from Association Executives regarding if the National Council should support the 10% set aside, what is in the best interest of our members collectively and if the step-aside passes, would it set precedent for continuing requirements that requires where states allocate block grant funds.

During the discussion, the National Council polled Association Executives on whether we should support the set-aside for recovery services in the President’s budget and two-thirds of Association Executives (67%) did not support the set-aside requirement. Association Executives who did not support the set-aside requirements said that:

* Each state has different needs when it comes to mental health and substance use treatments and a required set-aside would force states to use already scarce funds for recovery if the funds are needed for other purposes.
* There is a need to invest in the full array of services and continuum of care.
* That states should have flexibility in the use of block grant funds.
* The 10% set aside would take away from a state’s ability to use funds for prevention of substance use challenges.
* The set-aside would take away funding from already struggling residential treatment programs.
* The possibility that states would actually reduce funding for recovery if they are “only required” to use 10% of the funds for recovery.

After the discussion, Reyna suggested to get additional feedback from Association Executives who were not participating and revisit the conversation at an upcoming Association Executives meeting.

Hill Day 2021

Reyna Taylor and Jeannie Campbell

Jeannie shared with Association Executives that Hill Day is scheduled for October 18th, 19th, and 20th. She said however, that the program for Hill Day remains in question because while Washington, DC is completely “open”, Capitol Hill currently has a strict limit of 5 individuals in a visiting group. Jeannie stated that as the situation progresses and we know more, we will continue to keep the group updated.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.