**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, January 19, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**:

Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Tom Chard, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, John Coppola, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Doyle Forrestal, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Kelly Hansen, Kimberley Higgs, Heather Jefferis, Kyle Kessler, Robb Layne, Mark Levota, Mary-Linden Salter, John Magnuson, Brent McGinty, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Andrea Smyth, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, and Alex Wolff.

**Staff in Attendance**:

Chuck Ingoglia, Joe Park, MD., Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzzelli, and Reyna Taylor

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor

Reyna discussed how a fact sheet with information regarding President Biden’s COVID-19 and vaccine distribution plan has been sent to Association Executives. She stated the change in committee leadership and balance in power in the Senate may take a while to settle and we will continue to observe how budget reconciliation and COVID-19 relief legislation proceeds. Reyna also stated that the $4 billion directed to SAMHSA in President-Biden’s proposed COVID-19 relief package is unprecedented. She said that our priority is to ensure that the $4 billion for mental health and substance abuse in the relief package stays intact as the package moves forward.

Removing X-waiver Limits

Joe Parks, MD

Dr. Parks gave a brief update regarding a rule removing X-waiver requirements for the prescription of buprenorphine and other methadone as treatment for opioid use disorder. He said that under current rules, physicians can treat no more than 30 patients with buprenorphine at any given time. Dr. Parks stated that if the number of patients exceed 30, then the physician would need to acquire a waiver.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executive meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2-3:00 p.m. ET.