**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, January 5, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**:

Laura Aldinger, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanco Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Nadia Chait, Tom Chard, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, Lydia Conley, Bahney Dedolph, Mark Drennan, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Doyle Forrestal, Rachelle Glavin, Linda Grant, Lauren Grimes, Jesse Hambrick, Kelly Hansen, Lisa Henick, Kimberley Higgs, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Mark Levota, Mary Linden Salter, John Magnuson, Holly McCorkle, Jin Palen, Michelle Ponce, Sarah Potter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Adrienne Shilton, Chris Stoner-Mertz, Andrea Summerville, John Tassoni, Jr., Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, Stephen Wilder, Mary Windecker, and Alex Wolff.

**Staff in Attendance**:

Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Tramaine El-Amin, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Tom Hill, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Joe Parks, Michael Petruzelli, Amelia Roeschlein, Sarah Surgenor, Reyna Taylor, Nicholas Thomas, and Mohini Venkatesh.

**Summary Notes:**

Omnibus Bill/CCBHC Funding

Reyna Taylor and Rebecca Farley David

Becca provided an overview of the recent omnibus bill and the CCBHC funding incorporated into the bill. She highlighted that an unprecedented amount of funding came through from the CARES Act expansion/omnibus bill that included:

* COVID relief which included:
  + $600 million for CCBHC expansion
  + An extension of the CCBHC demonstration for three years
* The FY2021 appropriations which included:
  + An additional $250 million in CCBHC expansion
    - The third consecutive year of at least a $50 million increase

Becca also reminded Association Executives that there are two sets of funding tracks for CCBHCs, which are:

* CCBHC demonstration project—which is run through Medicaid and administered by the states (now 10 states total)
* Grant funding—which goes directly to clinics and is administered by SAMHSA

She noted that in total, there was $850 million in grant funding for CCBHC’s. Becca also said that SAMHSA has announced an opportunity for new clinics to apply for CCBHC status and SAMHSA will consider those that have previously applied but were denied.

SAMHSA Report on the President’s Executive Order

Rebecca Farley David

Becca also gave a summary of SAMHSA’s report on the President’s Executive Order, which:

* Endorses the CCBHC model and encouraged more states to apply.
* Allows states to use mental health block grants to transition clinics to become CCBHC’s.
* Is the first time SAMHSA has said in writing that states can use block grant dollars to CCBHC purposes.

Opioid Settlement

Frankie Berger and Brett Beckerson

Brett said that states are fighting hard to get dollars from the opioid settlement into their general funds to use as they see fit, including for purposes unrelated to behavioral health or substance abuse. He stated that the Chair(s) of the legislative Judiciary Committee(s) and Attorneys General are in charge of what the settlement looks like in most states.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Dr. Joe Parks

Joe provided an overview of the two vaccines (Pfizer/BioTech and Moderna) that have received emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA. He also gave an overview of the requirements for EAU which include:

* A demonstration for immediate need.
* Safety and effectiveness thresholds being met.
* Benefits outweighing the risks.
* No effective alternatives available.

Joe also gave a summary of each phase of clinical trials, how the approved vaccines, and those that are still in trail work, effectiveness, and side effects. He also gave an overview of the key demographic that demonstrate reluctance to receive vaccine (older adults, minorities, and low-income) and the best way to address their valid concerns.

Resilience-Oriented COVID-19 Navigation

Amelia Roeschlein

Ami gave an overview of the National Council’s efforts to acknowledge and learn how behavioral health provider organizations adapted to addressing the competing challenges people are facing in 2020. She said that the National Council gathered data from surveys and webinars to better understand, provide tools, and innovative best practices to help providers engage the people they serve to address these unique challenges. Ami said that a white paper will be released and posted later in the week on the National Council’s findings, analysis, and solutions.

**Announcements**

SAMHSA Mental Health Awareness Training Grants

Tramaine El-Amin

Tramaine discussed the recently released mental health training grants from SAMHSA. She stated that the new grants amount to $16.5 million for organizations to provide training such as Mental Health First Aid. Tramaine said that the National Council will be hosting a webinar Friday on the grants and encouraged Association Executives to share the information with their members.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executive meeting will be on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 2-3:00 p.m. ET.