National Council for Behavioral Health

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Participants: Jeremy Blair, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Danette Castle, Shelly Chandler, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, Paul Curtis, Terry Dosch, Lori Doyle, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Robyn Garrett, Rachelle Glavin, Kelly Hansen, Lisa Henick, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Kyle Kessler, Maryam Kiefer, Mark Levota, Marvin Lindsay, Pete Nielsen, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Sarah Potter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Andrea Smyth, John Tassoni, Jr., Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

Staff in Attendance: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Christopher Coughlin, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Diane Millard, Joel Nepomuceno, Joe Parks, Michael Petruzzelli, Sarah Surgenor, Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

**Federal Legislative Update**

Presented by Reyna Taylor

Reyna summarized the status of the stalled negotiations between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows. She also described four executive orders signed late last week:

* Suspending the payroll tax;
* Suspending student loan repayments;
* Providing an additional $400 in unemployment insurance ($300 from the federal government, $100 from state government); and
* Halting evictions.

She stated that it is highly likely that these executive orders will get held up in litigation. Reyna said that since negotiations have stalled, the soonest a vote on a new legislative package of COVID-19 relief will most likely take place is September 14th.

Reyna also stated that HHS has combined the Medicaid and Medicare portals into one portal, which will be open through August 28th. She stated that any provider that did not receive at least 2% of the annual total revenue is eligible to apply, and she made clear that all providers can get up to 2% of their gross patient revenue. Reyna stated we are creating a revised infographic to help make clear what the next steps are and how to apply. She encouraged Association Executives to ask all their members to apply.

Chuck emphasized that there are no longer separate tranches of funding, they are combined into one. Stephanie Katz also specified that what may have caused organizations to be ineligible in the past does not make organizations ineligible now.

Reyna then noted that many of the executive orders are very politically driven and reminded Association Executives to advocate just for what is best for behavioral health organizations and additional funding.

Frankie Berger discussed the soon to be released the Financial Stability Toolkit. She said the toolkit gives projections on what an organization’s finances will look like based on a variety of factors. This was developed from the Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) series. The toolkit will consist of three parts:

* The ECHO Series Toolkit itself;
* An example of how to use it; and
* A webinar with instructions.

Frankie also asked Association Executives for any referrals of members who have focused significantly on Diversity Equity and Inclusion for National Council’s Practice Improvement team.

Sarah Surgenor also asked if Association Executives have any members whose psychiatric/rehab/detox beds have been repurposed for COVID-19 treatment. She asked for referrals on behalf of a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* who is writing a story on this subject.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

August 18, 2020, 2:00 PM ET