**National Council for Mental Wellbeing**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Participants: Laura Aldinger, Melanie Brown Woofter, Blanca Campos, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, John Drebinger, Mark Drennan, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Zoe Frantz, Robyn Garrett, Linda Grant, Anne Hajek (on behalf of Annette Dubas), Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Soley Hernandez, Stephanie Katz, Kyle Kessler, Alysia Smith Knight, Joel Landreneau, Richard Leclerc, Erika Leuchte, Mark LeVota, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Joan Miller, Diane Novy, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Michele Salomon, Mary Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, John Solomon, Debra Wentz, Marissa Williams, and Mary Windecker.

Staff in Attendance: Chuck Ingoglia, Mohini Venkatesh, Deanna Roepke, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Christopher Coughlin, Rebecca Farley David, Erin Griebe, Connor McKay, Ann Mukherjee, Keisha Pitts, Aaron Polacek, Reyna Taylor, DeAnn Wandler-Vukovich, and Monika Witt.

Guests: Adam Falcone, Jade Moser and Michelle Salomon.

**Summary Notes:**

**Introduction of New Association Executives –** Doyle Forrestal

Doyle introduced two new Association Executives; Joan Miller from the Washington Council for Behavioral Health and John Solomon from the Alaska Behavioral Health Association.

**NatCon Update** – Neal Comstock & Doyle Forrestal

Neal provided an update on registrations, which were more than 4,500 with approximately 250 new registrations coming in per week. He also provided information on policy-related events happening at NatCon of potential interest to Association Executives. Doyle shared information on the Association Executives breakfast scheduled at NatCon.

**Policy Updates** – Reyna Taylor, Adam Falcone & Connor McKay  
Reyna provided an update on Congress being back in session, focusing on the debt limit debate and on subcommittee hearings. She noted that President Biden signed a resolution ending COVID-19 National Emergency which will end on April 10, 2023, which goes along with the Public Health Emergency which is also expiring soon. Reyna said that the Administration also designated fentanyl combined with xylazine as an emerging threat with 23% of fentanyl seized being combined with xylazine. She noted that Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) has introduced 3 bills addressing this issue. Reyna also discussed CMS’ guidance to encourage states to apply for authority to cover a package of pre-release Medicaid health care services for up to 90 days prior to incarcerated individual's expected release date.

Adam Falcone discussed the withdrawal of 3 defining antitrust policy statements first issued in 1993. He described how without much notice, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission withdrew all three policy statements through a brief joint press release issued on February 2, 2023. Adam’s "Withdrawal of Federal Health Care Antitrust Policy Statements" presentation was provided following the meeting.

Connor McKay shared the initial results from a workforce survey conducted by the National Council with the Harris Poll in February 2023 and described how the data collected will be helpful in contributing to National Council’s public policy asks in talking about workforce shortages and the negative impact regarding burnout and ability to stay in the field. Jade Moser and Michelle Salomon of the Harris Poll presented detailed information regarding the poll and their presentation "Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Workforce Shortages Research" presentation was shared following the meeting.

**Next Association Executives meeting**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.