National Council for Behavioral Health

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Danette Castle, Shelly Chandler, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark-Harvey, Lauri Cole, Lydia Conley, John Coppola, Jud DeLoss, Lori Doyle, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Doyle Forrestal, Daniel Frey, Robyn Garrett, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Kelly Hansen, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Kyle Kessler, Misty Leitsch, Mark LeVota, Maya Luong, Jack Mallery, Brent McGinty, Pete Nielsen, Carolyn Petrak, Mary-Linden Salter, Malory Shaughnessy, Christine Stoner-Mertz, Adrienne Shilton, Andrea Summerville, John Tassoni, Jr., Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker

**Staff in Attendance**:

Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley-David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Dr. Joe Parks, Michael Petruzelli, Sara Surgenor, Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

**Federal Legislative Update**

Reyna Taylor, Rebecca Farley David, and Frankie Berger

Reyna began the update paying tribute to the late Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline -Reyna gave Association Executives and update on the 9-8-8 hotline stating that it has passed the House of Representatives and is headed to President Trump to be signed into law. She stated that we need states to advocate for federal funding for states, similar to how 9-1-1 is funded. Reyna also stated that executives from Lifeline will be joining the Association Executives weekly meeting on October 6 to discuss the operational aspects of the 9-8-8 hotline.

Continuing Resolution Draft - Reyna also discussed the Continuing Resolution (CR) draft was released and included continued funding for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC), which is now aligned with the Medicare extenders until December 11th, 2020. Chuck stated that within the CR draft we are asking for additional funding for the behavioral health system in light of COVID-19 such as the Block grant funding articulated in the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools (HEALS) Act.

Telehealth - Reyna stated that we are hearing from allied organizations that commercial health plans have said that they will stop covering telehealth services allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Feedback from Association Executives included hearing about commercial plans reducing rates for telephonic services, and Medicaid ending reimbursement once the pandemic is over.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s Replacement - Reyna stated that we are following likely implications of Justice Ginsburg’s replacement and how that could affect the continuation of coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

Relief Funding Portal - Frankie stated that the Department of Health and Human Services released the reporting guidelines around relief funding and the guidelines will be posted on Engage.

Behavioral Health Commissioner’s Summit - Becca discussed the recent Behavioral Health Commission’s Summit. She said that more than 60 commissioners and staff joined from 22 states and that data, trends, and forecasting pertinent to the behavioral health system were shared during the call. Becca stated that New York, Nevada, and Texas provided insight as to how the CCBHC model bolstered their system and brought value to individuals within their state. Reyna shared that the convening of commissioners was both informative and influential—and the National Council is looking to replicate a similar event for the 9-8-8 model.

Managed Care Organization Workgroup - Frankie stated that we are developing a managed care workgroup to help understand how to best tailor current National Council managed care resources and help translate to more actionable items. She asked the Association Executives who would be interested in joining the workgroup.

Sarah Surgenor asked the Association Executives to reach out to her if anyone has heard of members or other behavioral health organizations having difficulty accessing rapid COVID-19 tests so we may properly initiate a PR campaign.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

September 29, 2020, 2:00 PM ET