**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Jason Cain, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Tom Chard, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, John Coppola, Mark Drennan, Candy Espino, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Robb Layne, Mark Levota, Liz Logan, Holly McCorkle, Jennifer McCollum, Brent McGinty, Michelle Ponce, Malory Shaughnessy, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Dr. Joe Parks, Sarah Surgenor, and Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor

Reyna stated that the Senate Parliamentarian has ruled in favor of a provision that would allow for an additional budget reconciliation, which opens the possibility to an amendment to President Biden’s American Rescue Plan. Reyna also stated that this does not change the fact that there will be an additional reconciliation done around October 1 for the FY2022 budget.

Reyna also shared that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will release half of the Mental Health Block Grant ($825 million) funding later today.

Lastly, Reyna stated that the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) funding included in the American Rescue Plan can be a source of funding for mental health treatment providers. She said that much of the language describing eligibility for the HCBS 10% FMAP (federal medical assistance percentage for Medicaid) increase, indicates that many of the programs that National Council members provide will be eligible for funding, including:

* Peer support services
* Community outreach
* Community based centers.

Reyna concluded saying that we would send around a paper by the Bazelon Center describing the HCBS funding eligibility.

ROADMAP to the Ideal Crisis System

Dr. Joe Parks

Dr. Parks shared an overview of a new resource, authored by the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry, the ROADMAP to the Ideal Crisis System. This resource is being distributed by the National Council and is geared toward policy makers, people who run health systems. The report highlights three design elements that must work cohesively to achieve success including:

* Accountability and Finance – the structure and mechanism for allocating responsibility and accountability that holds behavioral health crisis systems accountable to the community to meet the needs of the population.
* Crisis Continuum – Basic Array of Capacities and Services – which includes triage and screening, mobile crisis, and population and staffing capacities.
* Basic clinical practices – what staff and people who service the person in crisis need to do in terms of engagement, screening, and intervention.

The roadmap also includes tools to help implementation which include:

* Ten steps for communities
* Ten steps for system leaders and advocates
* Examples of successful local crisis system implementation and
* A Community Behavioral Health Crisis System Report Card, which gives organizations an instrument in assessing their current status.

CCBHC Support

Reyna Taylor

Reyna said the National Council will be designing and launching a campaign to promote CCBHC permanency and we will ask Association Executives for assistance in advocating both from a legislative standpoint, and in advocating with fellow patient-oriented sister associations.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 from 2-3:00 p.m. ET.