National Council for Behavioral Health

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Participants: Jeremy Blair, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Danette Castle, Nadia Chait, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lydia Conley, Lauri Cole, Paul Curtis, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Daniel Frey, Robyn Garrett, Lauren Grimes, Kelly Hansen, Heather Jefferis, Julia Jernigan, Kyle Kessler, Maryam Kiefer, Amber Kirchoff, Mark Levota, John Magnuson, Brett McGinty, Michelle Ponce, Flora Schmidt, Steve Shannon, Malory Shaughnessy, Adrienne Shilton, Andrea Smyth, Christine Stoner-Mertz, Julie Tessler, 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 provided an overview of the progress of negotiations between House Democrats and the Trump Administration and said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has called for negotiations to continue through the weekend. Reyna stated that the National Council is still doing outreach in support of funds allocated in the Senate Republicans’ HEALS Act, but the funds in the bill does not come close to the $38.5 billion we requested in COVID-19 relief for behavioral health providers. She stated that we must remain vigilant about not taking sides, but to continue to advocate for what is best for National Council members.

She also described an executive order signed by President Trump expanding telehealth with a focus on rural communities. Reyna said that the order was signed on Monday, August 3rd and that a FAQ sheet prepared by our federal legislative consultant will be sent around. She stated that the executive order is also geared toward helping those providers with work force shortages, requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop voluntary payment model, directs HHS to improve mental health access in rural communities, and includes all Medicare facilities.

Reyna also stated the distribution from the Provider Relief Fund to Medicaid CHIP providers will go through August 28th and that there is potential for reopening the Medicare distribution portal from August 10th-August 28th. Both portals will open soon and the National Council will create an infographic to help guide members on which portal they should go to and what types of funding they would be eligible for.

**Announcements**

Presented by Jeannie Campbell

Jeannie made three National Council announcements. First, that there will be a virtual reception honoring the 2020 Awards of Excellence Award Winners on August 20th at 4 pm ET. Second, we will have the Annual Membership Meeting on August 27th at 4 pm ET. The Annual Membership Meeting will focus on the National Council’s roadmap to the future, will highlight work done in the public policy arena, and will serve as a platform to hear from our members. Lastly, Jeannie stated that we will continue work with association executives on virtual meeting platforms and conferences. We will hold two events in August on these topics.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

August 11, 2020, 2:00 PM ET