**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Melanie Brown-Woofter, Jason Cain, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Shelly Chandler, Tom Chard, Jud DeLoss, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Robyn Garrett, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Lisa Henick, Heather Jefferis, Kyle Kessler, Abigail Kim, Teresa Lampl, Robb Layne, Misty Leitsch, Mark Levota, John Magnuson, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McCowen, Jennifer McCollum, Brent McGinty, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Sarah Potter, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Adrienne Shilton, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, Mary Windecker, Alex Wolff, and Cameron Vickers.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Dr. Joe Parks, and Michael Petruzzelli.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Michael Petruzzelli, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger

President Biden’s Budget  
Michael discussed the administration’s top line budget. Michael said that this budget is a draft, and more details will be available in the coming weeks. Highlights from the budget proposal include:

* $1.6 billion for Mental Health Block Grants.
* $10.7 billion to support research, prevention, treatment, and recovery for opioid addiction.
* $1 billion to increase the number of counselors.
* $551 million for home and community-based services.
* $65 billion over FY21 for broadband access.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Funding Opportunity Announcement

Michael shared that SAMHSA shared their funding opportunity announcement (FOA). Chuck said that SAMHSA’s intent for eligibility is left to the state authority and we need to ensure the funding goes to behavioral health providers.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Substance Use Disorder Hearing

Brett shared that the House Committee on Energy and Commerce will meet at 10 am on Wednesday, August 14th. Brett said that are 11 bills related to addiction that will be discussed including:

* Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021
* Medication Access and Training Expansion Act (MATE)
* Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act (MAT)
* For a complete list of legislation, visit <https://energycommerce.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/hearing-on-an-epidemic-within-a-pandemic-understanding-substance-use-and>

988 Update

Frankie shared that the National Council has analyzed responses from Association Executives regarding 988 implementation and we are currently drafting a report. She stated that the two main themes that resonated were workforce and finance. Frankie also shared that the National Council will be holding office hours around 988.

Vaccine Update

Dr. Joe Parks

Dr. Parks shared information regarding the pause in Johnson & Johnson vaccine distribution. He said that out of 6.8 million administered, 6 individuals experienced the side effect of having a blood clot. He shared that each of those who experienced the side effect were women. Dr. Parks stated the FDA will likely put a temporary halt in place.

Parity Legislation

Dr. Joe Parks

Dr. Parks shared that parity legislation should result in increased attention and diligence among insurance agencies.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 2-3:00 p.m. ET.