**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Laura Aldinger, Gian-Carl Casa, Danette Castle, Shelly Chandler, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark-Harvey, John Coppola, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Mark Fontaine, Linda Grant, Lauren Grimes, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Kimberley Higgs, Kyle Kessler, Rich LeClerc, Mark Levota, Mary Linden Salter, John Magnuson, Holly McCorkle, Brent McGinty, Emma Oakley, Jin Palen, Michelle Ponce, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Andrea Smyth, Chris Stoner-Mertz, Andrea Summerville, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Mary Windecker, Stephen Wilder, and Alex Wolff.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Jeremy Attermann, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzelli, Reyna Taylor, Kanchan Tomar, and Mohini Venkatesh.

**Summary Notes:**

**COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts to Support Members**

Reyna Taylor

President-elect Biden Nominates HHS Secretary -

Reyna shared with Association Executives that President-elect Biden has nominated California Attorney General Xavier Becerra for HHS Secretary. Reyna stated that Attorney General Becerra spent 12 terms in Congress, is a defender of Affordable Care Act, and has a history of supporting behavioral health and substance use treatment in California. Association Executives from California shared that Attorney General Becerra understands behavioral health needs. Reyna said we are formulating a thank you message to Attorney General Becerra for his work in the behavioral health.

Behavioral Health Professionals as Essential/Front Line -

Reyna also shared that the National Council has sent HHS a letter to help ensure behavioral care professionals are considered front line/essential workers as states work to prioritize COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Several Association Executives from states where the priority list has been made public shared that behavioral health workers are included in the top tier of vaccine distribution priority.

Continuing Resolution for Government Funding -

Reyna said that we are evaluating the draft continuing resolution aimed at funding the government through December 18, 2020 at current spending levels.

**Announcements**

Taslim van Hattum

Behavioral Health Training Institute for Health Officials Program –

Taslim gave an overview of the Behavioral Health Training Institute for Health Officials Program, which is expanding its current program to include 70 participants. She said that this program is designed for public health departments to better understand behavioral health. Taslim said the Institute receives funding form the CDC and invites public health officials from across the country to learn about behavioral health and partnerships. She asked Association Executives to encourage their members to partner with and apply with public health officials for the program.

Jeannie Campbell

2020 Association Executives Survey -

Jeannie encouraged Association Executives to please complete and send back the 2020 Association Executives Survey. She reiterated that the survey is a yearly instrument we send out to all Association Executives to gather information helpful to associations on membership, dues, revenue, public policy work, lobbying, and Association Executive compensation and benefits.

Call for Papers on NatCon21 - May 3-5, 2020 -

Jeannie said the call for papers is now open for NatCo21. She asked Association Executives to encourage members they may know to apply who have a story to tell that may resonate with members. Jeannie also asked Association Executives to reach out to her with any questions or recommendations.

Jeremy Attermann

National Council Covid Relief Fund -

Jeremy shared that there are still fund available through the National Council Covid Relief Fund. He said that the use of distributed funds is unrestricted but recommended for use acquiring PPE and telehealth equipment. He also stated that members who have already applied and received funding can reapply.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2-3:00 p.m. ET