**National Council for Mental Wellbeing**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, November 16th, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Mary Abrams, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Danette Castle, Nadia Chait, Tom Chard, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lydia Conley, Rick Crawley, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Doyle Forrestal, Heather Gates, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Heather Jefferis, Breeah Kinsella, Claire Kozik, Mollie Laird, Marie Lallier, Teresa Lampl, Robb Layne, Joel Landreneau, Richard Leclerc, Mark Levota, Liz Logan, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McCowen, Jennifer McCollum, Lake Morehouse, Brita Nelson, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Kelsey Pinckney, Michelle Ponce, Flora Schmidt, Robert Sheehan, Malory Shaughnessy, Andrea Smyth, Chris Stoner-Mertz, Deb Stidham, John Tassoni, Jr., Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, and Katherine Youngblut.

**Staff in Attendance**: Hicham Bakhit, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Bill Glanz, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzzelli, Keisha Pitts, Aaron Polacek, Reyna Taylor, and Natalie Weiner.

**Summary Notes:**

CMS Covid-19 Interim Final Rule

John O’Brien

John provided an overview of the CMS (vaccine mandate) Interim Final Rule requirements rule, which was released on November 5th and applies to all Medicare and Medicaid certified providers, specifically to Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) certified under Medicare and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Programs.

John discussed:

* Implementation dates – December 6th for all staff to receive the first dose and January 2nd for all staff to be fully vaccinated.
* Which staff are required -
  + All current staff, facility employees, administrative staff, individuals under contract to provide services, and staff who provide services in home or community settings.
  + Individuals who provide 100% remote services are not required to be vaccinated.
* Vaccine Exemptions and Accommodations -
  + Including allergies, medical conditions, or religious beliefs.
* The requirement of contingency plans to adhere to vaccination requirements.
* Agency requirements to ensure all required staff are vaccinated, and a process for tracking vaccination status.

OSHA Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Emergency and Temporary Standards

Molly Evans, and Dianne Pledgie

Molly and Dianne provided a brief overview of OSHA (vaccine mandate) vaccination and testing standards rule. In addition to discussing key dates and timelines, Molly and Dianne also discussed an employer’s policy requirement regarding vaccination, its responsibility to determine vaccination status of its staff, and its responsibility to support an employee’s ability to receive COVID vaccines and recovery. They also discussed testing requirements for staff that are not fully vaccinated and steps to take in case of positive COVID-19 tests. Molly and Dianne also discussed the responsibility of the employer to fully communicate to its employees the requirements and policies around COVID-19 vaccinations.

**Next Association Executives meeting**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.