National Council for Behavioral Health

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Participants: Laura Aldinger, Bianca Blaikner, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Gian-Carl Casa, Danette Castle, Nadia Chait, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, Lydia Conley, John Coppola, Paul Curtis, Terry Dosch, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Robyn Garrett, Linda Grant, Lauren Grimes, Shannon Hall, Kelly Hansen, Heather Jefferis, Julia Jernigan, Lee Johnson, Maryam Kiefer, Mark Levota, Brett McGinty, Adrienne Shelton, Mary-Linden Salter, Andrea Smyth, Chris Stoner-Mertz, Kerran Vigroux, John Tassoni, Jr, Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

Staff in Attendance: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Diane Millard, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzzelli, Sarah Surgenor, Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

**Federal Legislative Update**

Presented by Reyna Taylor and Frankie Berger

Reyna gave a summary of the recent House Energy and Commerce Committee Health Subcommittee hearing covering 21 health bills. She also discussed the call Chuck Ingoglia had with HHS Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan to address the confusion and mix-messaging around the previous tranches of funding available to behavioral health organizations. She mentioned that we are in the process of developing a thank you letter to Secretary Hargan with the goal to summary and document what was said during the discussion.

Frankie solicited feedback from the group to better understand how the National Council can help with Association Executives’ state legislative efforts given upcoming state budget challenges resulting from the pandemic. She requested feedback on how we can assist in helping states address the confusion around behavioral health organizations receiving federal funding, make the argument at the state level to ensure behavioral health organizations remain whole retroactively, and what the National Council can provide to assist states with advocating at the federal level. Some feedback from states included:

* Assistance to stay on top of media with budget or data analysis information, comparisons in revenue from last year, and other ways we can paint the picture of our dire financial situations and the importance that behavioral health organizations are able to provide viable services to the community.
* Ideas for thinking outside the box to diversity funding steams on business models and practices.
* Assistance for states to make the case that behavioral health organizations have priority in state budgets over everything else.
* Ways to humanize the stories we tell illustrate the importance of behavioral health organizations now, and more importantly, their increase in importance in the future.

**Announcements**

Presented by Jeannie Campbell

Jeannie discussed how we are planning for NatCon at Home (July 15th) and the progress in putting the meeting together. She stated we are learning from the successes and improvements needed from Hill Day at Home. As of Tuesday, July 7th, there were 6,500 registrants. She reminded Association Executives that we are continuing to offer 1 on 1 consultations to help plan state’s upcoming meetings.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

July 14, 2020, 2:00 PM ET