**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Danette Castle, Ann Christian, John Coppola, Annette Dubas, Josh Evans, Doyle Forrestal, Robyn Garrett, Jesse Hambrick, Lisa Henick, Kimberly Higgs, Heather Jefferis, Robb Layne, Mark LeVota, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Michelle Ponce, Mary-Linden Salter, Julie Tessler, Cameron Vickers, and Ellyn Wilbur.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeremy Attermann, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Dr. Joe Parks, and Michael Petruzzelli.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor, Michael Petruzzelli, and Stephanie Katz

Reyna described how Association Executives were just sent a summary report with the specifics of the American Rescue Plan legislation and asked if anyone had any questions. Some questions included what state and local relief funds and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Block Grants could be used for. Chuck clarified that most restrictions on the use of SAMHSA Block Grant restrictions come from the states.

Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act

Reyna Taylor

Reyna and Michael said that Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) has announced a vote on H.R. 1868, which would postpone the scheduled 2% sequestration cut to Medicare from April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. He stated it would also prevent a 4% Medicare cut that would be go into effect at the start of the next fiscal year on October 1, 2021. Reyna said that without congressional action, these two policies would result in cuts to funding for Medicare providers totaling $55 billion.

Medicaid Access and Training Act of 2021

Stephanie Katz

Stephanie said that the Medicaid Access and Training Act of 2021 will be introduced in the Senate by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). The bill would require physicians who prescribe opioids to receive extra training regarding the risk and dangers of prescribing opioids.

988 Implementation Discussion and Breakout Rooms

Frankie Berger

Frankie described how Association Executives would have discussions centering on 988 implementation in three self-selected breakout rooms:

* Statewide or Regional crisis system(s) in place;
* Patchwork of crisis services available; or
* Very little crisis capacity

After the breakout rooms ended and the full group reconvened, Frankie discussed how it seems that further discussion is needed. She announced that the conversation will continue during next week’s Association Executive meeting.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 from 2-3:00 p.m. ET.