**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Laura Aldinger, Jason Cain, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Danette Castle, Tom Chard, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Terry Dosch, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Josh Evans, Doyle Forrestal, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Kelly Hansen, Robb Layne, Mark Levota, John Magnuson, Holly McCorkle, Jennifer McCollum, Brent McGinty, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Sarah Potter, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Andrea Smyth, Chris Stoner-Mertz, Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, Mary Windecker, Alex Wolff, and Cameron Vickers.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzzelli, and Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor, Michael Petruzzelli, Stephanie Katz

Michael stated that the House passed its version of the American Rescue Plan late Friday night/early Saturday morning. He stated that the House’s version of the bill includes:

* $3.5 billion for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant and the Community Mental Health Services block grant.
* State permits to provide bundled payments for community-based mobile crisis services at an 85% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid rate.
* A one-year increase for states to make improvements to home and community-based services.
* Almost $500 million in additional funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

He also stated the target date to get the bill signed by the President is March 14, 2021, as that is when enhanced unemployment benefits expire.

National Council Survey Findings

Reyna Taylor and Connor McKay

Connor stated that the National Council will be releasing results of our recent member survey with Morning Consult on Thursday morning. Connor highlighted a few key findings including:

* A large percentage of behavioral health organizations reporting that if nothing changes, they will survive less than 12 months (40%) with 25% reporting 6 months or less.
* Demand for mental health and substance use treatment has increased with 67% of organizations reporting an increase in demand for services.
* A significant increase in demand for youth mental health (60%).
* An increase in wait list in the last six months (7.5%).

Reyna stated we will use the data from this survey to advocate more federal support for mental health and substance use treatment providers as a result of COVID-19’s continuing impact on workforce shortages and an increased demand for services.

HIPAA Privacy Rule Change

Reyna Taylor

Reyna stated that our comments for the proposed on the HIPAA changes will be drafted next week and will be sent to Association Executives so they may use the National Council’s comments as a guide to draft their own comments. She said that deadline for submission of comments is March 22, 2021.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 from 2-3:00 p.m. ET.