**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Laura Aldinger, Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Danette Castle, Nadia Chait, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, Lydia Conley, Natalie Cook, Jud DeLoss, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Josh Evans, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Lisa Henick, Teresa Lampl, Robb Layne, Rich Leclerc, Mark Levota, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McCowen, Jin Palen, Mary-Linden Salter, Adrienne Shilton, Andrea Smyth, John Tassoni, Jr., Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

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

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor

Reyna gave an update on California Attorney General Xavier Becerra’s nomination to become Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). She said that he is currently in the middle of the nomination hearing with the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Reyna also provided an update on President Biden’s proposed COVID-19 relief legislation. She said that the House is currently reviewing what can remain in the package and what must be removed due to the Byrd Rule (which limits items in budget reconciliation legislation to just those items related to the budget). Reyna stated that President Biden’s intent is that behavioral health funds allotted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration stay intact as intended.

42 CFR Part 2 and HIPAA

Dianne Pledge – Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP

Dianne gave an overview of the proposed Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy regulatory changes. During her presentation, she gave a background of what brought on the proposed changes and highlighted four key areas of proposed change:

* Patients’ right to access their protected health information.
* Permitted disclosures for care coordination and case management.
* Permitted disclosures believed to be in the best interest of the patient.
* Patient notice requirements.

Diane shared with Association Executives next steps, including how to submit comments to the HHS Office of Civil Rights, which are due March 22, 2021.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

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