National Council for Behavioral Health

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**:

Laura Aldinger, Danette Castle, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, Lydia Conley, John Coppola, Terry Dosch, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Doyle Forrestal, Shannon Hall, Kelly Hansen, Heather Jefferis, Julia Jernigan, Lee Johnson, Maryam Kiefer, Mark Levota, Mary-Linden Salter, Holly McCorkle, Brent McGinty, Jin Palen, Michelle Ponce, Sarah Potter, Malory Shaughnessy, Christine Stoner-Mertz, Andrea Summerville, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, and Mary Windecker

**Staff in Attendance**:

Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Jeremy Atterman, Brett Beckerson, Nicole Cadovius, Neal Comstock, Joe Parks, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzelli, Sarah Surgenor, Reyna Taylor, Kanchan Tomar, and Mohini Venkatesh

**Summary Notes:**

**Federal Legislative Update**

President-Elect Biden’s Administration in Terms of Behavioral Healthcare

Reyna Taylor

Reyna gave an overview of how the National Council is moving forward to re-emphasize what President-elect Biden has promised in campaign messages, and how we will hold the campaign accountable. She also stated that the National Council will have a better understanding of the path forward on the federal front once the run-off elections in Georgia are complete in January.

Phase 3 Relief Funding Portal

Reyna Taylor, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger

Reyna emphasized the need to get additional federal financial support for our members as a result of the pandemic. She said the National Council is gathering data on the current state-of-the-states in terms of Medicaid and budget cuts. Brett reviewed data from McKinsey & Company that showed that the pandemic could cause a 50% increase in prevalence of behavioral health conditions, and that Medicaid enrollment could increase substantially (due to the loss of jobs). He also described how the Center for Disease Control reports that anxiety and depression has increased to 1 out of every 3 Americans. Brett also said that frontline healthcare workers and the newly unemployed are those most susceptible to developing behavioral health issues.

Affordable Care Act

Reyna Taylor, Michael Petruzelli

Reyna stated the National Council is developing strategies around several possible outcomes of the Affordable Care Act Supreme Court hearings, especially around pre-existing conditions and essential benefits. She shared that 18 states have developed laws to protect pre-existing conditions. Reyna stated that the outcome will not be clear until June 2021. Michael shared information of the Senate Appropriations Funding hearings taking place, and stated that there does not seem to be much discrepancy between the current discussions and what was discussed in the summer, roughly $4 billion in funding going to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration .

Opioid Settlement

Frankie Berger

Frankie stated that state and local governments have finally reached a $26 billion settlement with three major manufacturers. She stated that factors to be considered in the distribution of the settlement funds include state population, number of overdose deaths, number of pills used, and the number of people with substance use disorders. Frankie said that once the settlement amount is decided, it is up to the state to decide how to use the settlement.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2-3:00 p.m. ET