**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Laura Aldinger, Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Jason Cain, Blanca Campos, Nadia Chait, Shelly Chandler, Tom Chard, Ann Christian, Jen Christian, Natalie Cook, John Coppola, Mark Drennan, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Robyn Garrett, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Lisa Henick, Heather Jefferis, Teresa Lampl, Robb Layne, Richard Leclerc, Mark Levota, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McCowen, Jin Palen, Michelle Ponce, Flora Schmidt, Ellyn Wilbur, and Stephen Wilder.

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

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor

Reyna stated that we are sending newly confirmed Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra a welcome letter. Reyna stated that we will also send along a list of our requests that include:

* Including behavioral health services in the home and community-based services (HCBS) funding increase.
* The ability to have behavioral health organizations with pharmacies on-site deliver COVID vaccines.

House Appropriations Committee

Michael Petruzzelli

Michael stated the deadline for the House Appropriations Committee has been extended to April 28, 2021. The National Council’s topline appropriations requests include.

* CCBHC Expansion Grants – From $250 million (FY2021) to $300 million
* Mental Health First Aid – From $23.9 million (FY2021) to $28.9 million
* Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care (PIPBHC) Grants – level funding at $52.9 million
* PIPBHC Technical Assistance Center – level funding at $1.991 million
* Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Program - $10 million with full authorization levels.
* Mental Health Block Grants – from $757 million (FY2021) to $792 million (+$35 million for an additional five percent crisis care set aside)
* Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant – level funding at $1.89 billion

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Stephanie Katz

Stephanie said that the deadline for application for the 2nd round of PPP loans is set to expire on March 31st. However, she said stated that all indications are that it will be extended by the House through May 31, 2021. She stated she believes the extension will pass with bi-partisan support.

988 Implementation Discussion and Breakout Rooms

Frankie Berger

Frankie and the policy team lead discussions with Association Executives regarding 988 implementation through two breakout rooms:

* Statewide or Regionals crisis system(s) in place -
  + Topics discussed included the significant amount of work and resources needed to implement 988 by July and how to fund the current gaps that exist between the current system and implementation.
* Patchwork of crisis services available -
  + Common areas of discussion related to financing and ensuring that states have the workforce to implement, respond, and provide continued treatment to 988 calls.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 from 2-3:00 p.m. ET.