**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Alison Avery, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Gian-Carl Casa, Danette Castle, Brenda Cornett, Rick Crawley, Jud DeLoss, Terry Dosch, Doyle Forrestal, Robyn Garrett, Jesse Hambrick, Chelsea Hughes, Lee Johnson, Lisa Joly, Claire Kozik, Joel Landreneau, Mark Levota, Holly McCorkle, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Mary-Linden Salter, Megan Socha, Maria Smith, and Lyly Trinh.

**Staff in Attendance**: Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Joe Parks, and Reyna Taylor.

**Guest Speaker**: Jeff Tenenbaum and Nisha Thakker, The Tenenbaum Group

**Summary Notes:**

Policy Update

Reyna Taylor

Reyna introduced the National Council’s new Director of State Policy and Advocacy Keisha Pitts.

In-Person Meetings and Conferences

Jeff Tenenbaum and Nisha Thakker

Jeff provided background on his work which included cancelling in-person meetings and minimizing liabilities.

He also gave guidance on cancelling future in-person meetings including regarding:

* Using “force majeure” clauses if there are state or local restrictions in place regarding capacities on gatherings; and
* Checking meeting contracts regarding language on commercial impracticability.

Jeff also discussed considerations in negotiating with hotels and event spaces if an association must cancel their in-person meetings such as:

* Offering a rebooking of the event;
* Using any cancellation penalties as a deposit for future events;
* Negotiating to increase food and beverage minimums at future events; or
* Holding smaller meetings in addition to the original rescheduled event.

He advised against reaching out to hotels initially and informing them of intent to cancel. Instead, Jeff suggested contacting the hotel to let them know that the association has concerns and would like to explore all options.

Jeff also gave guidance to associations who are moving forward with their in-person events and discussed topics including:

* Renegotiating guaranteed minimums to account for decreased in-person attendance;
* Avoiding liability through -
  + A liability waiver,
  + Vaccine mandates and required legal accommodations, and
    - Using vaccine verification companies to verify vaccine status of attendees.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.