**National Council for Mental Wellbeing**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Doyle Forrestal, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Danette Castle, Nadia Chait, James Childers, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, Lydia Conley, Frank Cornelia, Morgan Coyner, Tara Crawford, John Drebinger, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Mark Fontaine, Zoe Frantz, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Chelsea Hughes, Rich Leclerc, Mark LeVota, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McCowen, Marrissa Williams, Jinny Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Alysia Smith, Chris Stoner-Mertz, John Tassoni, Jr., and Debra Wentz.

**Staff in Attendance**: Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Erin Griebe, Stephanie Katz, Mollie Laird, Joe Parks, Aaron Polacek, Keisha Pitts, Reyna Taylor DeAnn Wandler-Vukovich, and Monika Witt.

**Summary Notes:**

Federal Policy Updates -

Reyna discussed the known results of the November elections and how that may impact mental health and substance use related legislation in the next Congress, and she described the omnibus spending bill provisions regarding mental health funding.

She also described the newly released guidance from HHS’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on the youth mental health gap that will outline what SAMHSA wants to see happen in terms of mobile crisis units, particularly around youth mental health and the increased rates of suicidality and suicidal ideation. She noted that this guidance document from SAMHSA is an indication that this is a priority by the administration and the agency and therefore this will be likely priority for Congress this year as well.

Next, Reyna discussed the priorities for the policy National Council for 2023. She noted that what comes into the omnibus, will help formulate our priorities for 2023.

Reyna also discussed a series of regulatory wins including: 2023 physician fee schedule, streamlining Medicaid and SCHIP application, eligibility, termination, enrollment, and renewal processes, and also the mandatory Medicaid and Children’s Health insurance program. She emphasized the importance of how the work we do on behalf our members is done through an accurate equity lends.

CCBHC Update -

Rebecca stated that SAMSHA is currently engaged in a process to implement Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) expansion that has several phases.

She said that SAMHSA has indicated that they are prioritizing keeping updates to a minimum and not looking to do large scale revamping of the criteria that would completely upend clinics and state’s understanding of what it means to be a CCBHC.

Rebecca noted that SAMHSA has stated that newly updated criteria will be finalized by the time the planning grant states are selected in spring of next year.

Interoperability –

Dr. Parks stated that there are two rules from CMS and the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) to empower patients and make it easier to do value-based care and measure outcomes.

He said that the first rule deals with the way that health information is held electronically and transferred and that it will come into force by December 31, 2023, with both payers and providers being required to have full export capability of all their electronic health information.

Dr. Parks described the other rule on information blocking, which is anything that interferes, slows down or delays the relay of health information. There are seven narrow exceptions: preventing harm, privacy extension, security exception, infeasibility, and three others that are fairly technical.

Dr. Parks presentation has been made available to Association Executives. Please let us know if you would like it sent to you.

Association Executives Retreat

Neal provided an update on the Association Executives Retreat to be held from August 20-22, 2023, in Denver, Colorado. He noted that hotel information will be sent as soon as possible.

**Next Association Executives meeting**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.