**National Council for Mental Wellbeing**

Association Executives Meeting Summary Notes

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants:** Melanie Brown Woofter, James Childers, Lydia Conley, Mark Drennan, Richard Edley, Mark Fontaine, Zoe Frantz, Robin Garrett, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Kara Johnson-Hufford, Kyle Kessler, Teresa Lampl, Joel Landreneau, Mark LeVota, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Pete Nielsen, Diane Novy, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Mary Linden Salter, Michelle Ponce, Flora Schmidt, Anna Sever, John Solomon, Debbie Wentz, Mary Windecker and Kayleigh Zaloga.

**Staff in Attendance:** Chuck Ingoglia, Deanna Roepke, Will Seto, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Peter Delia, Rebecca Farley David, Erin Griebe, Stephanie Katz, Keisha Pitts, Alexandra Plante, Aaron Polacek, Brie Reimann, Katherine Seibel, and Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

**Managed Behavioral Health Care Toolkit** – Keisha Pitts

Keisha presented on the development and implementation of the Managed Behavioral Health Care Toolkit from the National Council which is designed to support state-level organizations in their managed care efforts. The toolkit was shaped based on lessons learned from previous interviews and includes recommendations on strengthening relationships with State Medicaid offices and behavioral health.

Keisha reported that this toolkit can be used as a foundation point for organizations to refer to as they navigate their managed care processes. The toolkit also contains sample letters to state Medicaid directors and advocacy fact sheets, as well as resources on various approaches to managed care, principles to keep in mind during managed care discussions, and a compilation of lessons learned from different states. Also highlighted during the presentation was the gap between on-ground experiences and state government plans related to managed care.

**Announcement: Mark Drennan** – Jinny Palen

Jinny and other meeting attendees acknowledged the contributions of departing member Mark Drennan, noting his role in West Virginia's achievement in licensing the state's first six CCBHCs.

**Association Executives Monthly Meeting Schedule Change** – Neal Comstock

Neal discussed the need to reschedule the Association Executives’ recurring monthly meetings due to conflicts for senior staff at the National Council. A suggestion was made to move the meetings to Fridays and a poll was conducted to select the most suitable Friday for moving forward in 2024. Neal added that 2:00 p.m. was considered a convenient time for individuals on both the East and West coasts. Results of the poll determined the first Friday of each month was best for the majority with the next meeting to be scheduled for February 2, at 2:00 p.m. ET.

**Open Discussion:**

Participants discussed various concerns and experiences including changes in membership dynamics due to mergers and acquisitions and the development of rubrics for adapting to these changes. Participants also highlighted the importance of recognizing the expertise of staff on the ground in delivering appropriate care. There were also discussions about dealing with payment retraction by health plans and compensation policies as organizations grow.

**Closing Remarks** – Jinny Palen

**Next Association Executives meeting**

The next Association Executives meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 2, 2024, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.