**National Council for Mental Wellbeing**

Association Executives Meeting Summary Notes

Friday, February 2, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants:** Laura Aldinger, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Karen Campbell, Lydia Conley, Frank Cornelia, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Zoe Frantz, Elizabeth Ganz, Robyn Garrett, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Soley Hernandez, Lance Johnson, Lee Johnson, Kara Johnson-Hufford, Kyle Kessler, Victoria Kildal, Joel Landreneau, Mark LeVota, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Emily Miller, Joan Miller, Pete Nielsen, Meredith O’Brien, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Cherryl Ramirez, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Anna Sever, Ben Shuberg, Alysia Smith-Knight, John Solomon, Chris Stoner-Mertz, Brad Story, and Debra Wentz

**Staff in Attendance:** Chuck Ingoglia, Deanna Roepke, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Crystal Cook, Peter Delia, Rebecca Farley David, Erin Griebe, Stephanie Katz, Keisha Pitts, Aaron Polacek, Phil Rutherford, Katherine Seibel, Reyna Taylor and Nicholas Thomas.

**Summary Notes:**

**Opening Remarks -** Kyle Kessler

Kyle opened the meeting with a reminder for Association Executives register for NatCon in St. Louis. Kyle and Neal Comstock welcomed two new members to their first meeting: Brad Story, the Executive Director of West Virginia Behavioral Health Providers Association; and Victoria Kildall, new Chief Learning Officer of the Alaskan Behavioral Health Association.

**Policy Update** – Reyna Taylor

Reyna reviewed policy priorities for 2024 and shared that the Senate Mental Health Caucus is focused on spreading awareness about programs like Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). She also noted that the House Mental Health Caucus is transitioning due to retirements and acknowledged the effectiveness of constituents in bringing about much-needed awareness for the work of the Senate Mental Health Caucus. Reyna’s presentation on 2024 policy priorities was shared after the meeting on Engage.

**CCBHC Update** – Rebecca Farley David

Rebecca discussed changes implemented by CMS to the Innovation and Behavioral Health Model and she described the model as being a new demonstration program aimed at improving the integration of care for Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries with serious mental illness or substance use disorders, with participating providers being community-based behavioral health organizations. She also explained that this model is state-centric, meaning only selected states can currently have providers participate, and its focus is on meeting the full needs of individuals across the behavioral health, physical health, and social drivers of both continuums. Rebecca noted that the model involves providers leading an inter-professional care team, with collaboration being an integral part of the process. She added that the model is framed as value-based, with compensation being linked to quality care and improved client outcomes and stated that only community mental health providers can receive payment in this model.

**NatCon24 Updates –** Neal Comstock

Neal reported that the National Council plans to provide marketing support to the Association Executives to encourage their members to register for NatCon and that our team will keep track of and provide updates on registered members by state.

**Introduction of Phillip Rutherford –** Neal Comstock

Neal introduced Phil Rutherford, new Strategy Lead, Substance Use, at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

**Closing Remarks** – Jinny Palen

**Next Association Executives meeting**

The next Association Executives meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 1, 2024, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.