National Council for Behavioral Health
Board Business Meeting Minutes DRAFT
April 20, 2017

Board Members Present:
Susan Blue, Chair
Donald Miskowiec, First Vice Chair
Jeff Richardson, Second Vice Chair
Constance Peters, Addictions Committee Chair
Brent McGinty, Association Executives Committee Chair
Richard Leclerc, Audit Committee Chair
Matthew Brooks, 100% Association Representative
Alan Hartl, Nominating Committee Chair
Randy Tate, Membership Committee Co-Chair

Victor Armstrong
Kevin Campbell
Danette Castle
Cari Cho
Pat Coleman
Robert Davidson
Vitka Eisen
Mark Fontaine
Topher Hansen
Walter Hill
Susie Huhn
Mark Ishaug
David Johnson
Linda McKinnon
Kevin Norton
Steven Ronik
Arthur Schut
Christine Stoner-Mertz

Staff in Attendance: Jeannie Campbell, Alicia Aebersold, Bruce Pelleu, Rebecca Farley, Joe Parks, Amber Robinson

Susan Blue, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:35PM.

Chair Report
Provided by Susan Blue, Chair

Susan welcomed Board members, thanked Board members and staff for their support during NatCon17, and noted the Conference exceeded expectations. The minutes from the March 2017 and April 2017 Board Meeting will be reviewed during the May Board call. Nominations for open Board positions are closed and elections will open May 1st. Decisions on the new slate of Board members will be made in time for the June meeting.

Public Policy Report
Provided by Rebecca Farley, Vice President Policy & Advocacy

Rebecca Farley reported on the latest related to the American Health Care Act. Rumors surfacing about a resurgence of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) as early as the week of April 23rd. Some members of the
Republican Tuesday Group and the Freedom Caucus have agreed on an amendment that would permit insurers more flexibility via underwriting. This will allow consumers to be charged more, and allow them to reassess what health benefits are essential. The current law puts a cap on premiums.

There are conflicting reports from the press and Capitol Hill. The press is reporting a deal is imminent on April 29th, marking 100 days of Trump’s presidency, although Congress may not have the support needed as the agreement may not reflect the views of the party. Rebecca urged Board members to continue to be active and push the importance of preserving and protecting Medicaid and to remind state representatives to continue to support this message. National Council is doing ad buys to remind consumers of this, and is working with association executives on op-eds to run in key targeted states.

She then reported that the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires April 28th, and if Congress doesn’t enact another CR or pass a full spending bill, there will be a government shutdown. Two issues that could cause a shutdown include a proposal for the border wall and a proposed shift in funding from nondiscretionary programs into military spending.

The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education provisions of the Education bill are close to being finalized. There are some political questions that need to be resolved before we see an omnibus bill. President Trump will release a new budget for FY 2018 shortly. We are looking at either level funding or potential cuts.

Rebecca shared that there are several proactive works on Capitol Hill. The Excellence in Mental Health Act bill is being reintroduced. It includes an expansion of both states and years. We are hoping to see this bill reintroduced in the House and the Senate and may be calling on the membership for support with Congressional members.

There is legislation that may allow addiction service providers to participate in the National Health Service Corps loan forgiveness program, an idea that came directly from our membership. Rebecca may reach out to recruit sponsors.

There is work on the addictions front that could provide relief for Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD), a potential bed-limit move from 16 to 40 beds. In addition to IMD, there is another waiver regarding administration and regulatory work requirements which could impose premium payments for those above the poverty line by 20% and impact benefits of those not actively working. Due to the number of activities in motion, Rebecca reminded members to stay alert and let us know what each state is doing.

Conference Follow-up Update

Provided by Jeannie Campbell, Executive Vice President; Alicia Aebersold, Senior Vice President Communications/Strategic Development; and Joe Parks, Medical Director

Joe Parks discussed the release of the access paper which came out 10 days before NatCon17 and reminded the Board to look at page 50 to see what should be incorporated into their respective organizations. Joe is working with Linda and the Executive team to decide which recommendations should be the focus.

Dr. Parks reviewed the strategic plan with the Medical Directors Institute, in which the medical directors agreed to involve themselves in one task.
Alicia Aebersold shared that social media and media at NatCon17 broke records: Twitter saw over 115 million impressions and 3500 people engaged on twitter. There were several reporters onsite, including USA Today, NPR and The Carter Center for Journalism Fellow. Facebook Live of the NatCon17 sessions happened for the first time. One of the more popular talks was Steve Clemons’ talk about working with the Trump Administration. Plenaries from NatCon17 will be available for viewing on YouTube and entertainment videos will be put online as well.

Alicia and the communications team are working on, and have had success with, desk-sides meetings, local op-eds and national coverage with Linda. The focus is on continuing to showcase Board members in Behavioral Health Magazine. National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day with SAMHSA will be held the week of April 23rd.

Jeannie Campbell reported that Linda is on vacation this week. She then shared that this year’s NatCon was the most successful ever, with over 6,000 attendees. Jeannie thanked the Board and staff for their hard work and support, noting the attendance figure speaks to the dedication from all parties.

She gave special thanks to David Johnson from Washington state for helping with location needs. She shared that National Council is seeing positive reviews about the conference & Awards Dinner, convention center, curriculum and faculty, as well as good feedback from first-time exhibitors. We will continue to review incoming feedback and use it for planning NatCon18, which takes place on April 23-25, 2018, in Washington, DC. Two sessions that engaged and were well-attended were: “Vivek Murthy: A Fireside Chat with the Surgeon General,” and “Uwe Reinhardt: Do We Get What We Pay for in American Health Care?”

**Spring Board Meeting planning**
Provided by Jeannie Campbell

Planning has begun on the Spring Board meeting, happening June 12-14, 2017 here in Washington, DC. Meetings will be held all day Monday and Tuesday with a half day on Wednesday. There will be a dinner on Tuesday at the National Council office. The meeting agenda along with lodging information will be sent to Board members soon.

Jeannie will put together a planning committee regarding the Association Executives retreat.

**Finance & Administration Report**
Provided by Bruce Pelleu

The current financial statements were provided to the Board prior to the call. Bruce gave an in-depth review of the financials for 2017 as we are six months into the fiscal year. Overall, National Council is on track to meet/exceed the planned budget. The total revenue is currently higher than this time last year. There is a difference regarding the agreement with the state of Maryland in terms of how to operate the storefront, however it is expected that the budget be closer in line with the results in 2015. There are no issues with AR as balances are still low at 4%. There was a large investment in winning the IDIQ earlier this year. We are on track to meet/exceed budget related to membership, conference, Mental Health First Aid and Federal Government contracts and grants.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Thursday, May 18, 2017.
There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:19 PM.

These minutes have been reviewed and approved by the National Council Board of Directors on XX/XX/XXXX.

________________________________
Susan Blue, Chair

________________________________
Tim Swinfard, Secretary/Treasurer