

# National Association for Behavioral Healthcare



Access. Care. Recovery.

## Executive Committee Call February 10, 2020 Minutes

### Roll Call

Present: Members: Pat Hammer, Board Chair; Mark Covall, Michele Gougeon, Eric Kim, Jameson Norton, Chris Roussos

Staff: Shawn Coughlin, Maria Merlie, Julia Richardson, Sarah Wattenberg, Jessica Zigmund

### I. Minutes Approval

Pat asked for a motion to approve the December 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded and Executive Committee (EC) members passed the motion unanimously.

### II. Year-End Financials

Mark Covall said the audit will be completed by the Annual Meeting next month. He added that NABH's Revenue exceeded our budgeted projections for two reasons: 1) Revenue for new members was \$90,000 and we had budgeted \$50,000. In addition, we're getting some larger members, and those members tend to have a high retention rate; 2) We had a high retention rate among current members. In 2019, only three NABH members, and two of those were at the lowest revenue level.

On Expenses, it was slightly above budget. We did have an increase as we invest in the association's future. The bottom line: we have a surplus just above our budgeted surplus. It was a good year overall and we're starting strongly in 2020.

### III. 2020 NABH Advocacy Agenda

Shawn Coughlin said NABH's 2020 advocacy agenda will track the 2020 Annual Meeting theme of *Expanding Access: Right Care. Right Setting. Right Time.*

Top advocacy issues include managed care, regulatory relief, EMTALA, ligature risk, and reforming conditions of participation/B-tags. The team will also continue to focus on the 190-day limit, the IMD exclusion, and workforce development.

### IV. Update on Annual Meeting and Committee Meeting

2020 Annual Meeting: Shawn said the team is fine-tuning plans and details for the meeting at the Mandarin Oriental Washington, DC (March 16-18). We're working on our advocacy documents and the first draft of our video, which will focus on providers this year.

We are also reviewing how to enhance federal agency engagement with our committees. We think the Annual Meeting is a good time for this to open dialogue and improve current discussions.

**V. Addiction Treatment**

Sarah Wattenberg said two representatives from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will attend the Addiction Treatment committee meeting. One representative helped on OTP payment model and the other is from the agency's enrollment area.

Sarah also reported that Joe Pritchard has agreed to be chair of the Addiction Committee's medication subcommittee.

**VI. Legislative Update**

Shawn reported that today (Monday, Feb. 10) President Trump submitted his 2021 budget proposal to Congress. Members will receive an NABH Alert on this. This is the first time a president has proposed a budget that addresses the IMD exclusion. The White House has shown strong interest in NABH's analysis to address the IMD exclusion. The budget includes a \$5.4 billion provision to address the IMD.

The budget also identified an additional \$500 million to exempt Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) from the IMD exclusion.

Meanwhile, Congress has set a May 20 deadline to finalize appropriations. One of our issues is the parity provisions in the S. 1895, which included parity provisions we have advocated for; the legislation requires the HHS secretary to review at least 20 plans a year. If one is out of compliance, the secretary must define corrective action within 45 days. It also requires the Labor secretary to release a report on this.

NABH is tracking the following pieces of legislation: The Senate's *Lower Health Care Costs Act* (S 1895), and the following bills related to surprise medical billing: HR 5826, HR 5800, and HR 3630.

**VII. Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs**

Kirsten Beronio, currently the senior policy advisor for behavioral health at CMS, will start at NABH on Monday, Feb. 24. Kirsten has worked on the 1115 state waiver process. She has also been active with CMMI and parity implementation.

Mark added that he has known Kirsten for years, both from her work on the Hill and with Mental Health America. She has tremendous experience and NABH is lucky to have her.

**VIII. Parity Plus Workgroup**

Shawn said he attended a group of parity advocates (APA, MHA, Kennedy Forum, NAMI, ASAM, National Suicide Prevention, National Council) about parity priorities. He said there was general agreement in the room that things are getting worse, not better. The group discussed utilization management, medical necessity, and other topics NABH advocates for related to countering managed care plans.

Mark said it's important that we see these groups look at this issue in different ways and become aggressive at the same time. We need to look at different ways to go at this because we're at a crossroads here. He said this is a very positive step that these other groups agree.

**IX. Executive Session: 2019 Bonuses**

NABH staff left the call and EC members moved into Executive Session at 3:25 p.m.