

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare

Access. Care. Recovery.



Executive Committee Call
June 14, 2021
3 p.m. ET

Minutes

Roll Call

Present: Members: Jameson Norton, Board Chair; Frank Ghinassi, Pat Hammer, John Hollinsworth, Eric Kim, Matt Peterson, Mark Covall

Staff: Shawn Coughlin, Kirsten Beronio, Maria Merlie, Julia Richardson, John Snook, Sarah Wattenberg, Emily Wilkins, Jessica Zigmond

Absent: Pat Hammer, Tom Kenny, Dominic Sirianni

I. Minutes Approval: May 10 Executive Committee Call

Jameson asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. There was no discussion, and members approved the minutes unanimously.

II. David Wyman, president/CEO, Gracie Square Hospital – Board Seat

Shawn recommend Michael L. Radosta MA, MS, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, Vice President, Behavioral Health Nursing and Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, Behavioral Health, NewYork-Presbyterian assume his board term through December 31, 2022. Matt Peterson moved to approved and John Hollinsworth seconded to approve Michael Radosta. Members voted unanimously to approve.

III. Biden Budget

Shawn reported that President Biden's \$6 trillion budget continues to increase funding in areas that NABH supports, especially for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, graduate medical education, community mental health, and more. The budget window runs through the end of September, and Congress will now work on appropriations.

A bipartisan group of senators is working on an infrastructure package. Shawn asked if there were questions- there were not.

IV. Inpatient Psychiatric PPS Comment Submission

Kirsten Beronio reported that NABH supported the proposed update to the payment rule for inpatient psychiatric facilities in 2022. This update changed the base rate: from \$815 to \$833 per diem and made changes to the IPQRP. NABH asked for a further delay for a change in the last rulemaking process regarding labor market delineations and what constitutes urban versus rule.

CMS asked for comments on a number of issues in the Inpatient Psychiatric Quality Reporting Program (IPQRP) and proposed to add a new measure that would require reporting the percentage of personnel who have received the Covid vaccine. NABH highlighted earlier problems related to this measure for reporting flu vaccines.

Mark Covall said the NABH Quality Committee has asked about the experience-of-care measure. Kirsten said we have a small workgroup about this, which includes NABH Board Member Frank Ghinassi. This was an area that CMS asked for comments on and hinted that the agency will move toward the HCAHPS model for this and are considering a technical expert panel, or TEP, on this. NABH expressed concern that HCAHPS is administered after a patient leaves a setting and this might not yield a good response rate.

V. Committee Meeting Updates

Shawn said the team has hosted all committee meetings except the Addiction Quality Committee meeting, which will be tomorrow, Tuesday, June 15.

Sarah said Rick Rosen, M.D., M.P.H. will discuss contingency management.

Shawn said the team has action items from the Spring committee meetings and will begin to prepare for the Fall meetings, which will be held during the Annual Meeting in October.

VI. Provider Relief Fund Update

There is about \$24 billion that has not been distributed, and an additional \$8.5 billion for rural providers that was made through the American Rescue Plan.

Kirsten reported that on Friday HHS issued revised rules regarding using Provider Relief Funds. The period of availability for when the funds must be used has been extended so that it no longer needs to be used by June 30. Now there will be different deadlines based on when the funds were given. Recipients will have 90 days to complete reporting, instead of the original 30. Also, the portal for reporting will be available on July 1. NABH will inform the membership later this week.

VII. Parity Implementation Assistance Act Introduction

Shawn said the team has been working closely with Senators Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-La.) who introduced the *Parity Implementation Assistance Act*, which authorizes grants to states. To learn more, please see the June 11 edition of [CEO Update](#).

VIII. DOL Workplace Safety Rule

Shawn reported that OSHA released its workplace safety rule, which applies only to workers in healthcare settings. It is an Emergency Temporary Standard and applies only until the end of this year. To learn more, please see the June 11 edition of [CEO Update](#).

IX. Workplace Violence Workgroup

Kirsten said NABH has convened a workgroup focused on OSHA's activities related to workplace violence prevention. The House has passed a bill that directs OSHA to issue such standards and it maps out an expedited process for this. This bill does not seem to have much support in the Senate, but it could find its way to another bill (i.e., the infrastructure package).

X. GAO Mental Healthcare Access Study

Shawn said the GAO is developing a mental healthcare access study and contacted NABH for help in this area. It is a baseline study about access to behavioral healthcare. Shawn said we raised issues such as the IMD exclusion, the 190-day lifetime limit, and parity enforcement.

Kirsten asked GAO about the context and analysts said this was a follow-up to a recent report at Sen. Wyden's request.

XI. Coalition to Protect America's Health Care

Shawn said this coalition has convened to fight against congressional actions that threaten America's hospitals, such as reimbursement cuts.

Mark Covall said this coalition of hospitals and health systems nationally has been around for a long time and has been effective. Behavioral health was never a focus, so we provided some funds to be a part of it. Mark also wanted NABH to have a board seat with this coalition, which Shawn now has. This group focuses on both Medicare and Medicaid.

XII. United Healthcare New Emergency Department Coverage Policy

United Healthcare identified the nation's emergency rooms as an area of increased cost growth and said it would review charges. Since then, United has said it will delay that policy.

XIII. Managed Care Denial Portal Launch

NABH expects to launch the portal the week of June 21. Shawn said it's timely and members approve it.

XIV. 2021 Annual Meeting

Shawn said registrations are coming in "slow and steady" and we have had a strong response from exhibitors and sponsors.

XV. NABH Office Transition

Shawn said we are seeing Washington, D.C. emerge from the pandemic slowly. Some of the restrictions are being relaxed, and the Metro is not yet running at full capacity. Shawn said we will return to the office after Labor Day.

XVI. Adjournment

There were no comments or questions, and the call adjourned at 3:48 p.m.