



A Special Message From **PRESIDENT & CEO CHUCK INGOGLIA**

AMAZING - PROGRESS, PEOPLE AND POTENTIAL

We have faced significant hurdles over the past two years.

And we have overcome them together.

When I look back on 2021, I'm so proud of our achievements. My gratitude is exceeded only by my joy. I know the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and its members can do anything we set our minds to. We accomplished so much this year, and we emerged stronger than we were when it began.

When 2021 began it was painfully obvious that mental health and substance use treatment organizations had an urgent need for financial assistance, so we worked tirelessly to ensure our members were included in negotiations around the American Rescue Plan Act.

Our advocacy helped lead to specific block grant funding for mental health and substance use treatment organizations and ensured the availability of additional provider relief funding through the Department of Health and Human Services, particularly for those in rural communities and those serving vulnerable patient populations.

Part of the American Rescue Plan Act also included grant funding for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). Our work paid off, and in 2021 alone we secured an estimated \$4 billion in federal funding through various sources to help our members keep their doors open.

Our work is more important than ever, and our efforts have helped all of us become stronger. We turned a crisis into an opportunity – to improve mental health and substance use treatment, to destroy barriers to access, to improve the crisis response ecosystem by championing 988 and relentlessly advocating for investment in that critical infrastructure.

We met the moment.

We did more than show our strength and resilience in 2021. We displayed a dynamic spirit and willingness to innovate.

Changing our name to the National Council for Mental Wellbeing represented an enormous task that required the creativity and ingenuity of staff throughout the organization. That generational effort was driven by the need to celebrate what our members do every day – help people experience wellbeing.

Our new name more aptly reflects the reason our members do the work they do and promotes greater inclusivity because we are changing how people view mental health and substance use. In that way, this change allows our members to see themselves in our new name.



So, the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and its hard-working members will continue to raise awareness about the need to identify consistent federal funding for mental health and substance use programs, eliminate barriers to access, reduce stigma and support recovery in all forms. We intend to shed light on the need to make mental wellbeing, including recovery from substance use challenges, a reality for everyone.

And we will continue to promote wellbeing – for everyone.

We will continue to support mental health and substance use treatment organizations, so they have the resources necessary to provide life-saving care in their communities. That includes finding solutions to overcome a crippling workforce shortage, which represents a grave threat to our collective wellbeing.

All our efforts revolve around our members, and the National Council is fortunate to have a Board of Directors with the talent and focus necessary to overcome whatever hurdles we will face in the year ahead.

Amazing people allowed the National Council to make impressive progress in 2021, and I'm filled with optimism about our potential moving forward.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Ingoglia".

Chuck Ingoglia

President and CEO

National Council for Mental Wellbeing



HEALTHY MINDS
STRONG COMMUNITIES