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Contact: T-Kea Blackman
Email: Blackman@abhw.org
Phone: (301) 915-6771

JESSICA KELLEY LEAVES CAPITOL HILL TO JOIN ABHW AS POLICY MANAGER

Washington, DC (April 20, 2022) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits for over 200 million people, today announced the appointment of Jessica Kelley, as Policy Manager. In her role, Ms. Kelley will assist in developing and executing ABHW’s policy and advocacy strategies and legislative and regulatory strategic plans.

“Jessica brings a wealth of Capitol Hill experience, particularly in her most recent role working for Representative Katko and previously supported the U.S. House of Representatives,” said ABHW President and CEO, Pamela Greenberg. “Her knowledge of behavioral health issues attained through her participation with the Congressional Mental Health Caucus will be a great asset. We are excited to have her on the team.”

Jessica recently served as the Legislative Assistant for Ranking Member John Katko, who serves as Co-Chair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus. She assisted with developing legislative initiatives, including Medicare Part D initiatives, and removing barriers to work for early medical worker retirees during the COVID-19 pandemic. She developed and led the introduction of new legislation centered on Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse. Jessica helped aid various policies in healthcare, education, financial services, housing, social security, natural resources, environment, veterans, tax, agriculture, and supplemental nutrition assistance programs.

“I’ve gained extensive knowledge from working on Capitol Hill by tracking, developing, and working to pass legislation that furthers mental health service availability. I have had the opportunity to work with individuals and associations to understand the need for action and how difficult it can be to ask for help,” stated Ms. Kelley. “From that experience, I grew a deep passion for expanding access to mental health services. ABHW’s mission is to advance the availability of mental health and substance use services, and I am looking forward to using my experience to reach goals and fulfill its mission.”

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ABHW is the leading health plan association working to improve access and quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders. ABHW's members include national and regional health plans who care for more than 200 million people. Together we work to reduce stigma and advance federal policy on mental health and addiction care. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, AmeriHealth Caritas, Anthem/Beacon, Centene Corporation/Magellan Health, Evernorth, a Cigna company, Kaiser Permanente, New Directions Behavioral Health, and Optum.