



ASSOCIATION  
FOR BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTHCARE

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## **ABH Announces Vice President for Mental Health Lydia D. Conley Elevated to President and CEO**

*Health policy expert has decades of experience in government, non-profit sectors*

**Natick, MA - April 11, 2019** - The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), the statewide organization for community-based mental health and addiction services providers, today announced that ABH's vice president for mental health, Lydia D. Conley, will assume the role of President and CEO, succeeding Vic DiGravio, as of July 1, 2019.

For two decades, Conley has worked in the government and non-profit sectors, helping to shape public policy that has established Massachusetts as perhaps the nation's most progressive provider of behavioral health services and insurance coverage for mental health and addiction treatment.

"The board unanimously agreed that Lydia was the ideal choice to lead ABH in the coming years," said Diane Gould, chair of ABH's board of directors and president and CEO of Advocates, Inc. "Lydia is one of the most highly respected and knowledgeable advocates in the nation for organizations serving individuals with behavioral health needs. We are thrilled that she has accepted the challenge of leading ABH."

In her role as vice president, Conley has worked closely with state and federal officials to advocate for equitable reimbursement to support the ability of ABH member organizations to continue to deliver high quality services to individuals living with mental health and/or substance use disorders.

From 2008-2014, Conley worked as policy director and assistant commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, to plan, implement and evaluate programs designed to assist individuals to obtain training and skills for employment.

From 2000-2008, Conley worked at ABH's predecessor organization, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Corporations of Massachusetts, in various policy positions. She rejoined ABH in 2014.

"I am excited to assume this new role with ABH and continue working with community-based behavioral health providers and the Commonwealth to improve the lives of men, women and children living with mental health and addiction disorders," Conley said. "We have made a great deal of progress, but every year, every month, and every day we learn new lessons about how to better provide essential services, and when and where people need them."

"We are extremely pleased that Lydia has agreed to lead ABH," said DiGravio, who has served as president and CEO for 12 years. "Lydia is well respected by ABH members, the staff, and policymakers and legislators who will continue to benefit from her expertise. ABH is in great hands."

Conley, a native and current resident of Framingham, began her career as a legislative aide in the office of former State Representative John Stefanini of Framingham. She is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and holds a JD degree from New England School of Law.

### **About**

ABH's 82 members are the primary providers of community-based behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts. Member providers and their 47,000 dedicated employees provide clinically effective and cost-sensitive care to 81,000 individuals on any given day in communities throughout the state. As an organization with three decades of experience in not only the advancement, but also the preservation and promotion of community-based mental health and addiction services, ABH is recognized as the leading statewide association in this field. Visit [www.abhmass.org](http://www.abhmass.org) for more information.

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