

ABH December Committee Meetings

Friday, December 2
PDT/PH, 10 a.m. (ABH)
Children's Services CEO,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, December 6
ATS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, December 7
e-Health, 10 a.m.

Thursday, December 8
SOAP, 10 a.m.

Friday, December 9
CBHI, 10 a.m.
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.

Monday, December 12
Billing, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, December 14
Outpatient, 10 a.m.

Friday, December 16
DAE/SOA, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Tuesday, December 20
OTP, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

All meetings are held at the Hampton Inn, Natick unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 508-647-8385.

All Politics is Local Challenge

As part of our All Politics is Local campaign, ABH is challenging your organization to host a site visit with every legislator that represents your catchment area. The ABH member organization that hosts the most legislative site visits before May 2017 will be honored as our **All Politics is Local Champion**.

Why a site visit? Hosting a site visit at one of your programs is one of the most effective ways to develop or expand relationships with your legislators. Site visits help your elected representatives more clearly understand the work of your organization, including the services you provide and the population(s) you serve. They provide the opportunity to establish a working relationship with your legislators, highlight your organization's successes and educate legislators about the challenges your organization faces in meeting your mission. Site visits also allow you to demonstrate the contributions your organization makes to your community by showcasing the services you provide, the individuals you serve, and the people you employ.

When your legislator is called upon to show leadership on mental health and/or addiction issues, he/she will draw upon their knowledge and impressions gleaned during their visit with you!

How will ABH know I had a legislator visit? Post a picture of the Legislator visiting your program on Facebook and Twitter and tag @abhmass with #allpoliticsislocal & #mapoli (If your organization doesn't have Twitter, be sure to share the photo with Mandy Gilman at agilman@abhmass.org so ABH can tweet about your site visit.). Make sure you tag the legislator and thank them publically on social media for their visit!

ABH will recognize all member organizations that host at least 5 legislative site visits before May 2017 at our Annual Meeting. The ABH member that hosts the most site visits will be crowned our **All Politics is Local Champion**.

Need help finding the legislators in your catchment area? Have questions about the perfect site visit? Call or email Mandy for help! (AGilman@ABHmass.org; 508-647-8385 x 16).

Salute to Excellence

On Friday, October 21, we were joined by our members from across the state as we celebrated the amazing accomplishments of our **2016 Salute to Excellence Awardees**. Their work is, quite simply, awe inspiring, and we hope you will join ABH in congratulating them.

2016 Salute to Excellence Awardees

Carl B. Cutchins Award for Children's Behavioral Health
Anthony Irsfeld, Community Healthlink

Francis O'Brien Award for Addiction Services
Frederick Newton, Hope House Addiction Services

Elizabeth Funk Emerging Leader Award
Lisa Blanchard, Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.

Excellence in Best Practices
Meg Mastriana (posthumously), Behavioral Health Network, Inc.

Excellence in Program Leadership
Denise Galvagni, The Brien Center
Joanna Bell, Walker, Inc.

Excellence in Administration & Finance
Tom Durling, The Home for Little Wanderers

Special Recognition
Adrienne Cassidy, Advocates, Inc.

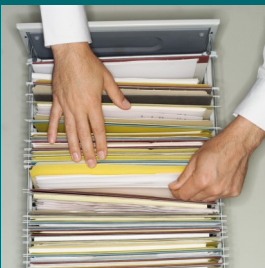
Lifetime Achievement Award
Deborah Reuman, Justice Resource Institute (JRI)

Unsung Hero Award
Judy Girard, Lahey Health Behavioral Services



A Peek in the Personnel File

DMH Commissioner Joan Mikula announced the appointment of Emily Sherwood as Deputy Commissioner for Child, Youth and Family Services effective November 14, 2016.



A Thank You to Our Sponsors

Suffice to say that our Salute to Excellence would not be a success without the help of our sponsors. Please join ABH in thanking them for their generous support:

Lunch Sponsors

Beacon Health Options
Justice Resource Institute (JRI)

Program Book Sponsor
Alkermes

Breakfast Sponsors
Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.
Vinfen

Break Sponsor
Advocates, Inc.

Dessert Sponsor
Wayside Youth and Family Support Network

Centerpiece Sponsor
Adcare Educational Institute, Inc.

Photographer Sponsor
Alkermes

Raffle Sponsors
eHana
Gosnold on Cape Cod
High Point Treatment Center
Neighborhood Health Plan



To see more photos from the Salute to Excellence, click [here](#).

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Support Full Funding of CARA



A few weeks ago, Congress voted for an initial appropriation of funds for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA). We know it's not nearly enough—not when 9 out of 10 Americans cannot access the treatment services they need. The addiction community needs to send a strong, unified message to Congress when it returns after the November elections.

Take Action Now!

[By taking one minute to sign on to this letter](#), you can tell Congress to increase funding for opioid and heroin abuse treatment programs as part of the final version of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. Please encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to sign on as well. This letter is being circulated by Facing Addiction and the National Council for Behavioral Health and ABH are supporting the effort.

The passage of CARA was an important step forward in improving access to treatment services for opioid and heroin addiction. Now let's make sure the law lives up to its promise by urging the members of Congress to fully fund CARA!

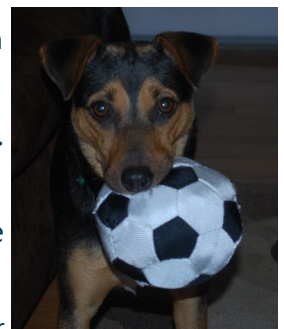
State Supplemental Budget

At the beginning of October, Governor Baker signed a supplemental budget into law that included an additional \$4 million for the substance abuse services fund in FY17 ([Chapter 283 of the Acts of 2016](#)). Thank you for your advocacy during the budget process to ensure this vital funding was included.

Keeper's Korner

In October, Keeper celebrated her adoption anniversary (it's been six years since she rescued her owners) by curling up and reading:

- [Scientists have Identified 3 Keys to Addiction in the Brain.](#) *Business Insider.*
- [On Lowell's Streets, Reaching Addicts where they Live.](#) *The Boston Globe.*
- [Rehab For Addiction Usually Lasts 28 Days. But Why?](#) *Kaiser Health News.*
- [Scarcity Of Mental Health Care Means Patients — Especially Kids — Land In ER.](#) *Kaiser Health News.*
- [States See Peer-Recovery Coaches As A Way To Break The Addiction Epidemic.](#) *Kaiser Health News.*



Keeper recently celebrated her sixth adoption anniversary.