



ABH September Committee Meetings

Tuesday, September 5
CSS/TSS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Friday, September 8
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.
Children's Services, 10 a.m.

Monday, September 11
Billing, 10 a.m.
Partnering with Under-served Populations, 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12
CBFS, 2:30 p.m. (ABH)

Friday, September 15
DAE/SOA, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Tuesday, September 19
OTP, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

Thursday, September 21
Human Resources, 10 a.m.

Friday, September 22
Quality and Outcomes,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, September 26
ATS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Friday, September 29
PDT/PH, 10 a.m.

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

Governor's FY 18 Budget Vetoes

On July 17, Governor Baker signed the FY18 Conference Committee Budget into law and vetoed \$320 million in spending. He also sent back for amendment, as part of a larger package of MassHealth changes, the sections of the budget that would have allowed the Commonwealth to levy new fees and fines on employers to help pay for increased MassHealth costs.

Governor Baker noted the employer tax should only be implemented if the MassHealth reforms he proposed in late June were included as part of the package. The Governor called on the Legislature to hold full hearings on the MassHealth proposals and act within 60 days. It is unclear at this point whether the Legislature plans to act.

Governor Baker vetoed \$4 million in spending from the *Chapter 257* rate reserve line item. The administration noted this funding was included in a supplemental budget that passed earlier this year and is no longer needed in FY18. The administration has assured the provider community that if additional funding is needed in FY18 the administration will pursue this funding through the supplemental budget process.

The vetoes were returned to the Legislature recently. The Legislature now has the opportunity to override each veto. A two thirds vote of each branch is required to override a gubernatorial veto. The Legislature has until the end of the calendar year to act of overrides. For ABH's detailed analysis of the Governor's vetoes, click [here](#).

RFR Roundup

Here's a quick look at recent Requests for Responses:

- DPH/BSAS: RFR to fund existing Extended Release Injectable Naltrexone (ERIN) pilot programs in BSAS funded Clinical Stabilization Service (CSS) programs. Click [here](#).
- DMH:RFR for Child and Adolescent Therapeutic Day Services in the Southeast Area. Click [here](#).

ABH Webinar: MassHealth Systems Transformation

MassHealth, the Massachusetts Medicaid program, is undergoing a significant transformation intended to generate payment and care delivery innovations. These changes have the potential to significantly impact MassHealth members and providers. The webinar, presented by ABH's Vice President of Mental Health, Lydia Conley, will provide the context for MassHealth systems transformation, detail the framework for systems transformation in Massachusetts, including the implementation of Accountable Care Organizations and Community Partners, and explain some of the changes that will impact payment and other relationships for behavioral healthcare providers beginning in early 2018. We anticipate there will be time for Q&A following the presentation.

This **free** webinar is exclusive to ABH Members.

When: The webinar is being offered on two dates:

Tuesday, August 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register here.](#)

Thursday, August 24th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. [Register here.](#)

Target Audience: ABH CEOs, senior staff, and any staff involved in MassHealth systems transformation.

Questions? Contact Megan Thompson at the Association for Behavioral Healthcare at mthompson@abhmass.org.

Marijuana Legislation: Compromise Reached

House and Senate members of the Marijuana Conference Committee reached an agreement on the state's marijuana legislation on July 18. Following this agreement, the House and Senate passed with bill and sent it to Governor Baker's desk. Governor Baker signed the bill into law on Friday, July 28.

Unfortunately, the bill does not include a specific funding amount dedicated to addiction prevention and treatment services. The Conference Committee does raise the maximum tax rate to 20%. This funding would be dedicated to the "Marijuana Regulation Fund." It does include the requirement that funding be spent on public and behavioral health among other uses.

For more information on the legislation, contact Mandy Gilman at AGilman@ABHmass.org.

Rate Hearings

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) recently posted a notice of public hearing for Rates for Clubhouse Services (101 CMR 416) and Rates for Supported Employment Services (101 CMR 419) on Friday, August 4. The rates for Clubhouse and Supported Employment Services are being updated to include an increase by a cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 2.72%. The notice and proposed regulations are available [here](#). Additional information is available [here](#).

Individuals who notify EOHHS of their intent to testify at the hearing [here](#) will be afforded an earlier opportunity to speak. Individuals may also submit written testimony by e-mailing ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Written testimony must be submitted by Friday, August 11.

What is Addiction?

Watch this four-minute video from the Addiction Policy Forum that looks at the current crisis as well as the science behind addiction.

Click here to watch the [video](#).

ABH's Salute to Excellence

Recognizing leadership in community-based behavioral healthcare.

DREAM...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE

Save the Date!

Friday, October 20

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

New Location: Boston Marriott Newton

Keynote Speaker:

Trenni Kusnierek

Co-host of CSN New England's Arbella Early Edition and
Dedicated Mental Health Advocate

Join the conversation on Twitter! @ABHMass #ABHSalute

Caring Together

The Department of Mental Health has invited providers to participate in a statewide meeting to brainstorm solutions that will enable the state to better meet the needs of the youth and families served in STARR Programs. Information gathered will be used at the Joint Commissioners meeting and through ongoing Caring Together Senior leadership meetings for collaboration and planning for the entire Caring Together system.

The meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 9th** from 2 to 4pm at the Hadley Building, 167 Lyman Street in Westborough, in the Rodriguez Conference Room.

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Survey on Diversity and Inclusion

The Partnering with Underserved Populations Committee is conducting a brief survey on diversity and inclusion.

The committee is hoping to also get participation from staff within each ABH member organization, ideally including some direct care staff members, in order to get an accurate picture of the extent to which diversity and inclusion best practices are being used across the ABH membership. All responses are anonymous and organizations will be de-identified. The purpose of this survey is to guide the focus of the Partnering with Underserved Populations Committee.

The survey can be completed [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFKZ7K2) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFKZ7K2>). We encourage you to share the survey with your colleagues and staff. Thank you to those who have already participated!

Prescription for Transportation Forms

Currently, providers are able to submit paper Prescription for Transportation (PT-I) forms in order to request authorization for transportation to an appointment on behalf of the client. Providers must use this [form](#) to do so.

In 2018, MassHealth will transition to a paperless PT-I submission. Providers should request access to the MassHealth Customer Service Web Portal now in order to “ensure compliance, to expedite submission of your PT-I request, and to avoid rejection of an unauthorized PT-I form.: To do so, request a User ID [here](#). Questions should be directed to the MassHealth Customer Service Center at 1-800-841-2900 or at providersupport@mahealth.net.

MCO Procurement Extension

MassHealth announced an extension of the MCO Procurement Timeline, which is attached. The new start date for the MCO/ACO program is March 1, 2018.

Keeper's Korner

Keeper is back in action, rolling around in the yard. Here's what she's reading during her down time:

- A [profile](#) of ABH's very own Vic DiGravio, President/CEO. *MetroWest Daily News*
- [Medicaid Expansion Has Delivered Access To Addiction Treatment, Report Finds](#). *NPR*
- [State-by-State Estimates of Reductions in Federal Medicaid Funding Under Repeal of the ACA Medicaid Expansion](#). *Kaiser Family Foundation*.
- [Latest Idea In The Battle Against Opioid Addiction: A 'Soup To Nuts' Recovery Campus](#). *WBUR CommonHealth*
- [Words Matter: Changing the Language of Addiction](#). *Mental Health First Aid*



