



ABH September Committee Meetings

Friday, September 6
Children's Services, 10 a.m.

Monday, September 9
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, September 10
ACCS, 2:30 p.m. (Crown
Plaza, Natick)

Wednesday, September 11
**BHCP Executive Commit-
tee**, 10 a.m.
eHealth, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Thursday, September 12
Human Resources, 10 a.m.
Residential, 10 a.m.

Friday, September 20 **DAE/
SOA**, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, September 25
Quality and Outcomes, 10
a.m.

Friday, September 27 **PDT/
PH**, 10 a.m.

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

Final FY 2020 Budget

Recently, Governor Baker signed into law the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. With appropriations totaling \$43.1 billion, the FY20 General Appropriations Act (GAA) represents a 3.3% increase over the FY19 GAA. The Conference Committee had proposed \$317 million in spending not previously included in either the House or Senate budget bills. The Governor adopted the increased revenue assumptions in their entirety and returned amendments striking language only. Lydia Conley, ABH's President & CEO was pleased with the Legislature's support of behavioral health in this year's budget:

The House and Senate budget for Fiscal Year 2020 reflects a strong commitment to increasing funding for behavioral health services that are desperately needed by individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth. The Legislature increased state spending for addiction prevention and treatment and for mental health programs that impact the lives of countless Massachusetts residents. They also appropriated new money to support the behavioral health workforce and to establish an important anti-stigma campaign.

In addition, the legislature adopted crucial language that limits behavioral health insurance clawbacks. This current practice is a significant financial and administrative burden for those providing services. Limiting the time period when insurers can take back provider payments for services rendered in good faith is a game changer for behavioral health providers.

The FY20 budget includes the following highlights, including many ABH priorities:

- **ABH's priority legislation limiting insurance clawbacks to a twelve-month period was signed into law.** Payers who clawback money will be required to furnish a written explanation of the reason for the denial and what documentation is needed to pay the claim.
- DMH is funded at approximately \$891.8 million. The Adult Community Services line item (5046-0000) is funded at \$490.4 million, approximately \$1.2 million over projected FY19 spending. The Children and Adolescent Services line item (5042-5000) is funded at \$93.9 million.
- DHCD Rental Subsidies for DMH Clients line item (7004-9033) was funded at \$7.5 million, compared to \$6.5 million in FY19.

*See page 2 for additional highlights.

...Budget highlights continued

- BSAS is funded at \$162,749,348. It includes an increase of \$7 million over projected FY19 spending levels, and nearly \$14.1 million greater than was proposed under the Governor's House 1 proposal.
- The FY20 GAA includes \$10 million in new funding for the delivery of medication assisted treatment in County Correctional facilities.
- The Division of Professional Licensure (7006-0040) is funded at \$5.7 million, including language requiring that \$400,000 to be expended to address backlogs in licensure application processing for behavioral health professionals.
- The budget creates a Behavioral Health Outreach, Access, and Support Trust Fund (1595-4512). It is funded at \$10 million, with \$500,000 dedicated to an anti-stigma public awareness campaign and \$2 million for a loan forgiveness for mental health professionals.
- MassHealth includes funding nearly identical to the House and Senate proposals. MassHealth covers 1.9 million residents and accounts for approximately 38% of the FY20 budget.
- The Chapter 257 Rate Reserve (1599-6903) is funded at \$20.5 million for FY20.
- The final budget also included \$5 million to promote various harm reduction efforts (4512-0206), including "pilot programming to advance the creation of new supportive places for treatment and related observation", as recommended by the Harm Reduction Commission. The Commission was established by section 100 of Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2018. Specific initiatives funded within this line item include:
 - ◆ \$1.5 million to increase the availability of sterile and safe injection equipment and syringe disposal;
 - ◆ \$150,000 for a pilot program to provide access to fentanyl testing strips or similar equipment; and,
 - ◆ \$300,000 to increase the availability to naloxone rescue kits prior to discharge from an emergency department after treatment for an opioid overdose.

Salute to Excellence Speaker!

We are thrilled to announce that our **2019 Salute to Excellence** speaker will be Jordan Burnham of [@MindingYourMind](#). When Jordan was a high school student, he seemed to have it all. But the smiling happy face was a mask he wore to cover the anxiety and depression that lay beneath the surface. Soon he was drinking and his grades were falling, and he was finally diagnosed with depression. A year later, he found himself in a treatment center. Shortly after that, he attempted to end his life.

Now, Jordan speaks out about his struggles as a young adult speaker with Minding Your Mind. He offers a message of hope for others that although we can't choose the things that happen to us we CAN choose how we cope with them.

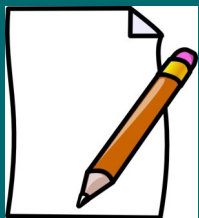
He has been featured in People Magazine, Sports Illustrated, and USA Today. Jordan has appeared on ESPN's E:60 and Outside the Lines, as well as Dr. Phil, The Ricki Lake Show, CNN, the Early Show and Good Morning America. He has been featured in three documentaries and his piece, "Unbreakable" with E:60 was nominated for an Emmy. Most recently, you might have seen Jordan at the White House for the National Conference on Mental Health, hosted by President Obama and Vice President Biden. Jordan has been speaking on his story and mental health all over the country for the last 8 years.

Click [here](#) to register for ABH's Salute to Excellence which will be held on Friday, October 18.



Keep your eyes peeled for our ABH Salary Survey.

Coming this fall!



ABH Salute to Excellence Nominations

ABH's 2019 *Salute to Excellence* will be held **Friday, October 18th** from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Newton Marriot. We can't wait to see you all there!

Do you know someone who should be recognized for their outstanding work in the behavioral healthcare field?

If your answer is YES, then you should nominate them for recognition at ABH's Salute to Excellence on Friday, October 18, 2019. Learn more about the awards [here](#).

It's easy! Just [click here](#) to access the online nomination form. The deadline for submitting nominations is Wednesday, September 11, 2019. To be considered, nominees must be employed by an ABH member organization.

Award Categories

Robert Dorwart, M.D., Award for Mental Health (Individuals Only)

The recipient must be a member of ABH who has demonstrated a personal long-term commitment to the goals of ABH and who has provided leadership and support to the association, its members, and staff around mental health issues.

Moe Armstrong Award for Peer Leadership (Individuals Only)

This award was established to honor Moe Armstrong for his courage and conviction in advocating for the critical role that peer leaders play in helping people recover from mental health and addiction disorders. The recipient of this award must have made an exceptional contribution to the development and/or strengthening of the role of consumers in the mental health and/or addiction treatment systems.

Elizabeth Funk Emerging Leader Award (Individuals Only)

Nominees must be under the age of 40. The recipient must show evidence of commitment to behavioral health through his/her ability as an emerging leader within the field. The nominee should display the ability to motivate staff and communicate effectively in their role as a developing leader.

Provider Recognition Awards (Individuals or Groups)

Nominees show evidence of personal commitment to quality and innovation in their work performance and carry out that commitment in a manner deserving of special recognition in any of the following categories:

Excellence in Outcomes: Integration, utilization and management of client outcomes for quality improvement

Excellence in Best Practices: Planning, implementation and on-going integration of best practices

Excellence in Program Leadership: Program director/staff who exemplify outstanding leadership qualities

Excellence in Administration and Finance: Exceptional management of program/agency/corporate finances and/or operations

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Ghost Networks Legislation Passes!



The Association for Behavioral Healthcare, along with its partners in the Children's Mental Health Campaign, is extremely pleased that both the House and Senate passed *An Act to Increase Consumer Transparency About Insurance Provider Networks* (S. 2295 and H. 4012).

This legislation is also called the Ghost Networks Bill and is aimed at aimed at increasing consumer transparency about insurance provider networks. A ghost network occurs when an insurance carrier appears to have a large number of in-network providers, but many of those providers have moved, closed their practice, or no longer accept that plan. In 2018, the Division of Insurance reported provider directories for behavioral health services listed only 29% to 64% completely accurate information. We would like to thank the House and Senate for their support and applaud them for working to improve behavioral health care.

Off Into the Sunset

When the Massachusetts Legislature passed the FY 2020 budget, it did not include an extension of the Employer Medical Assistance Contribution (EMAC). Currently, the EMAC, originally passed in 2017, is set to expire at the end of the year. The EMAC is used toward a MassHealth budget shortfall, and according to Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), "The assessment has increased EMAC from \$51 to \$77 per employee, while employers are also required to pay up to \$750 for each worker who receives public health benefits."

Save the Date!

The Department of Mental Health is hosting a best practice forum: Supporting Young Adults in Reaching their Goals. This full-day forum is designed for providers who work with young adults to learn about a variety of best-practice models and approaches to effectively support young adults reaching their goals. The forum will be held on Friday, September 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough. Registration information will be coming soon. CEUs are pending.

Current Events Corner

Here are some interesting reads for August:

- [Most Mass. Counties Have Among The Highest Rates Of Dispensing Overdose-Reversal Drug.](#) *WBUR CommonHealth.*
- [States Clash With Cities Over Potential Opioids Settlement Payouts.](#) *New York Times.*
- ['I'm Still Dealing With It': How Two Veterans Are Learning To Cope With PTSD.](#) *WBUR CommonHealth.*
- [What America Got Wrong about the Opioid Crisis.](#) *The Atlantic.*

