



ABH January Committee Meetings

Tuesday, January 3
CSS/TSS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Monday, January 9
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 10
CBFS, 2:30 p.m. (Child &
Family Services, Worcester)

Friday, January 13
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.
Children's Services, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 17
OTP, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

Thursday, January 19
Recovery Committee for
Residential Services,
10 a.m. (ABH)

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

Thursday, January 26
Human Resources, 10 a.m.

Friday, January 27
PDT/PH, 10 a.m. (ABH)
Quality and Outcomes,
10 a.m.

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

Call Senator Warren TODAY to Support \$20 Million in Opioid Treatment Funding

Congress is currently considering the **21st Century Cures Act** which includes \$1 billion in funding to expand treatment capacity and recovery resources in response to the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic.

Massachusetts would be eligible for up to \$20 million in funding if this bill passes.

Senator Elizabeth Warren has said **she will not vote** for the 21st Century Cures Act in its current form because of other aspects of the legislation.

[Click Here to Call Senator Warren TODAY](#)

1-202-224-4543

We expect the Senate to take up this legislation very soon so we need your help contacting Senator Warren's office to voice your support for this portion of the legislation!

Please express your strong support for this funding to the individual who answers the phone in Senator Warren's office as they are accustomed to taking these types of phone calls. Be sure that you let them know your name, that you live in Massachusetts and whether you are a treatment provider, an individual in recovery or a family member advocating for this funding.

"I am calling to ask Senator Warren to support the \$1 billion for addiction treatment included in the 21st Century Cures Act. Last year, over 1700 individuals died from opioid overdoses in Massachusetts, and that number is expected to grow in 2016. Massachusetts desperately needs the additional \$20 million that would come from this legislation to combat this epidemic."

Thank you for your support!



The Election is Over. Now What?

We now know who will be serving in Congress and the State Legislature. Many are returning to public office, but a new group of state legislators was also elected. Seize this opportunity to introduce or reintroduce yourself to these important leaders in your community and invite them to see your programs.

ABH will be holding a short conference call to follow up on our All Politics is Local trainings and to recap the state election.

When: Thursday December 15th, 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Call Number: 1-800-867-0549 (Access code #6478316)

We will discuss:

- Recap of the state election
- Preparing for the 2017 legislative year
- Update on legislator site visits



In the Meantime...Make your organization ABH's All Politics is Local Champion

Send newly elected or reelected legislators a congratulatory letter or email that also invites them to visit a program in their district.

- Find out who represents the cities and towns you serve [here](#). The contact information is included on tabs 2 & 3.
- Find a sample letter and invitation [here](#).

Need details on how to host a successful site visit? Check out ABH's guide [here](#).

Use your social media accounts to publically congratulate your local legislators on their election. It takes a lot of dedication and sacrifice to run for office and it's important to acknowledge these individuals' commitment to serving their community.

Do some basic research about your legislators before you meet them. Campaign websites, social media accounts and the state legislature's website (malegislature.gov) all list information about legislators that can be useful as you get to know them. ABH also has access to some basic biographical information that may be of use so don't hesitate to be in touch ([email Mandy](#))

Have a one-page description of your organization (sample [here](#)) to give to your legislator when they visit.

Be sure you know how many people your organization serves in the cities and towns the legislator represents. There is no need to break it down by precinct if the legislator only represents part of a city and/or town. It's also great to know how many employees live in their district!

Let ABH know about your site visit! Post a picture of the Legislator 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 so ABH can tweet about your site visit.

Be sure to check out the ABH website at ABHMass.org. The members only section of the website has these and other resources to help you with your advocacy!

Read All About It!

The first-ever
Surgeon General's
Report on Alcohol,
Drugs and Health

To read the
(lengthy) report or
the Executive
Summary, click
[here](#).



CMS Approves MassHealth Section 1115 Waiver

In early November, the Commonwealth announced Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval for a Section 1115 Demonstration, which authorizes more than \$52.4 billion to the MassHealth program over the next five years. The Demonstration or “waiver” is intended to support the restructuring of the MassHealth program to provide integrated, outcomes-based care to MassHealth members. Design details promote accountable, coordinated care through Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and recognize the importance of integrating community-based expertise into delivering health care through Community Partners. The waiver also expands substance use benefits.

More information can be found on the MassHealth Innovations website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/masshealth-innovations/1115-waiver-proposal-information.html>.

The Baker Administration's press release can be found here:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/eohhs/healthcare-reform/masshealth-innovations/ma-1115-waiver-press-release.pdf>

A waiver fact sheet is available here:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/eohhs/healthcare-reform/masshealth-innovations/ma-1115-waiver-factsheet.pdf>

As always, ABH will keep you updated with information as it becomes available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lydia Conley at LConley@ABHmass.org.

Making Life Easier

The Massachusetts eHealth Institute (MeHi) has announced a grant for health IT vendors to develop an interface via the Mass Hlway with the goal of reducing the burden of CBHI providers having to enter the CANS into both the provider's EHR system and the Virtual Gateway. The RFP for this grant is available [here](#). RFP responses are due December 12.

Reminder: Eligible PCNPs Register

As a quick reminder, eligible Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists (PCNPs) must register for the Medicaid Incentive Program by December 5. The program “provides financial incentives to Adopt, Implement, or Upgrade (AIU) and demonstrate Meaningful Use (MU) of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT).”

If you have any difficulty registering, call 1-855-MassEHR or email massehr@masstech.org. Registration details are available [here](#).

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A Peek in the Personnel File

Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH, recently announced that Allison Bauer has been appointed Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS). ABH has worked with Allison in her previous role as Senior Director of Health and Wellness at The Boston Foundation. Allison also served as the Chief Counsel for the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse during Representative Ruth Balser's tenure as House Chair of the Committee. We are very excited to work with Allison in her new role at BSAS.



Expanded Access to Opioid Treatment

The U.S Department of Health and Human Services, through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), recently announced that nurse practitioners and physician assistants are now able to take the required training to prescribe buprenorphine. Once they complete the 24 hours of training, nurse practitioners and physician assistants will be able to prescribe buprenorphine for up to 30 patients starting in early 2017. Previously, only physicians were allowed to prescribe buprenorphine.

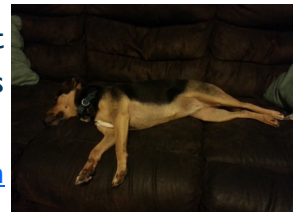
More information, including training information is available [here](#).

ABH will continue to update members on this process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Connie Peters at CPeters@ABHmass.org.

Keeper's Korner

Keeper loves Thanksgiving leftovers, but has been able to get some reading done in between snacks. Here's what she has this month:

- [Surgeon General Vivek Murthy: Addiction Is A Chronic Brain Disease, Not A Moral Failing.](#) *Huffington Post.*
- [Declaring Addiction a Health Crisis Could Change Criminal Justice.](#) *The Atlantic*
- [Middlesex DA Launches Pilot To Get Drug Defendants Into Addiction Treatment.](#) *WBUR*
- [How Value-Based Payment Arrangements Should Measure Behavioral Health.](#) *Health Affairs Blog*
- [Clinics Help Keep People With Serious Mental Illness Out Of ER.](#) *Kaiser Health News*
- [Alone And Aging: Creating A Safety Net for Isolated Seniors.](#) *Kaiser Health News*
- [Trump's Pick To Run Medicare And Medicaid Has Red State Policy Chops.](#) *Kaiser Health News*



All that turkey makes a dog tired.