



## ABH March Committee Meetings

Tuesday, March 7  
**CSS/TSS**, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Friday, March 10  
**Children's Services**,  
10 a.m.  
**Corporate Compliance**, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 13  
**Billing**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 14  
**CBFS**, 2:30 p.m. (ABH)

Friday, March 17  
**DAE/SOA**,  
10 a.m. (ABH)  
**Quality and Outcomes**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 21  
**OTP**, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

Friday, March 31  
**PDT/PH**, 10 a.m. (ABH)

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

## Governor Releases FY 18 Budget

Governor Charlie Baker proposed his Fiscal Year 2018 Budget on January 25 (referred to as House 1). The \$40.5 billion budget for fiscal year 2018 includes an increase in state spending of \$1.655 billion. This represents a 4.3 percent growth in spending over projected spending in the current fiscal year. The budget relies on \$27 billion in tax collections. Governor Baker proposes to move \$98 million into the Stabilization Fund and uses less than \$100 million in one-time revenues. A full summary is available [here](#).

The FY18 budget includes the following highlights:

- The Department of Mental Health is funded at \$773,074,057. This is a \$5.4 million increase over projected FY18 spending.
- The Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) is funded at \$140.6 million.
- Governor Baker projects a \$997 million increase for MassHealth, \$600 million of which is tied to increased enrollment. MassHealth projects there will be over 2 million MassHealth members by June 2018.
- Governor Baker proposes rate caps on hospitals and other providers as a cost-control mechanism.
- Behavioral health and primary care providers are exempt from the rate caps.
- The Governor's budget includes \$50.8 million in funding for Chapter 257 rates.

## DMH Therapeutic Day Service Rates Hearing

EOHHS has announced that a public hearing has been scheduled for **101 CMR 427.00: Rates for Certain Youth and Young Adult Support Services**, which includes DMH Therapeutic Day Services (Activity Code 3068). The public hearing is scheduled for Friday, February 3rd, 2017 at 10 a.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, 100 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA. Additional information about the rates and hearing can be found [here](#). ABH will be submitting testimony; written testimony must be submitted by February 10.

# ABH and MA League of Community Health Centers Event

## Office of Community Corrections: Innovation, Motivation for Community Safety

ABH and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers invite you to attend a special presentation by the Massachusetts Probation Services, Office of Community Corrections (OCC) on February 9th.

OCC is charged by statute with the development of community corrections programs to be implemented as intermediate sanctions for probationers, parolees and ex-offenders returning to the community post incarceration. The OCC executes this charge through two major initiatives: Community Service Programs (CSPs) and Community Corrections Centers (CCCs).

The presentation will focus on CCCs and why enhanced supervision is vital to safer and stronger communities; how CCCs are increasingly trying to leverage and access more community-based behavioral health services as a component of sentencing; and what enhanced supervision at the CCC is all about for service providers, probation, and parole officers and participants.

### Presenters:

Vincent Lorenti, Director of the Office of Community Corrections

Pat Horne, Deputy Director of the Office of Community Corrections

Sandra Brown, Manager of Clinical Services, Office of Community Corrections

**Target Audience:** Providers interested in serving criminal justice-involved clients.

**When:** Thursday, February 9, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Check-in begins at 12:30 p.m.)

**Cost:** Free! No Charge.

**Location:** Community Corrections Center 340 Main Street, Suite 200 (Second Floor on the right), Worcester, MA 01608 (Attendees must access paid parking lots in the downtown area)

*This event is for ABH and Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers' Members Only.*

*Seating is limited to 38 ABH members.*

**[Register Now!](#)**

Questions: Contact Ellen Caliendo at [ECaliendo@ABHmass.org](mailto:ECaliendo@ABHmass.org) or at 508.380.9887.

## Monthly digest of disciplinary reports

As you may know, the Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) updated their website a few months ago and stopped producing a Monthly Digest of Disciplinary Actions. As many ABH members used this report to monitor their professionally licensed providers and meet accreditation requirements, ABH reached out to DPL about this important issue.

Recently, DPL contacted us to let us know that the monthly digest of disciplinary actions can once again be found on their website. DPL Disciplinary Actions can be found below "News & Updates" on each board page, or via this link: <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/government/oca-agencies/dpl-lp/dpl-disciplinary-actions.html>.

## Support ABH's Priority Legislation



Governor Baker recently sent a letter to US House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy in response to requests from Congressional Republicans for input on how to improve the Affordable Care Act.

The letter is available [here](#).

As the Legislature begins its new legislative session, please take a moment to ask your Senator and Representative to co-sponsor ABH's priority legislation. Click [here](#) to send an email (it's easy, we promise).

**1.) Senate Docket 212/House Docket 2309:** Limiting retroactive denials of health insurance claims for mental health and substance abuse services. **Lead Sponsors: Representative Jim O'Day and Senator Mike Rodrigues**

This bill would limit both MassHealth and commercial health insurers to a six-month period for recovering payments to a behavioral health provider for behavioral health services. When providers deliver a service in good faith and in compliance with eligibility rules, they should be compensated without fear of insurance companies taking back these reimbursements years or months after the services were provided. It would also require that MassHealth institute a back-end process to reconcile payment between payers without involving the provider.

**2.) Senate Docket 1921:** Providing access to full spectrum addiction treatment services. **Lead Sponsor: Senator John Keenan**

This bill would require commercial insurance to cover up to 30 days of treatment, improving access to step-down treatment at an estimated cost of only 5 cents per insured member per month.

In 2014 the Legislature established that commercial insurance companies must provide for at least 14 days of addiction treatment, and asserted that decisions about medical necessity must rest solely with the patient and their clinician for this 14-day period. The 30-day commercial insurance requirement proposed in this bill would mirror the coverage already being provided by MassHealth, which was recently expanded through the Baker administration's 1115 waiver.

The deadline for legislators to cosponsor bills in the House is **Friday, February 3rd**. The deadline to cosponsor Senate bills is later in the process but we strongly encourage you to contact your Senators today. House and Senate members can sign on as cosponsors to bills filed in each chamber.

If you have any questions, contact Mandy Gilman ([agilman@abhmass.org](mailto:agilman@abhmass.org) or [508-647-8385 x 16](tel:508-647-8385)).

## Electronic Health Records

Massachusetts has received approval from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to extend the MassHealth Electronic Health Record Incentive Program attestation deadlines for Program Year 2016 for both Eligible Hospitals and Eligible Professionals to May 31, 2017.

Click [here](#) for more info.

## ABH STAFF

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## Discount!!

ABH and the National Council are pleased to partner once again this year to offer **ABH members a special discount rate** to register for the [2017 National Council Conference](#) which will be held April 3-5 in Seattle. **ABH members using this discount will save \$200** off of the standard registration fee.

Members registering for the conference by Friday, February 24th will only pay \$775 instead of the Early Bird rate of \$995. The following is the schedule of registration fees based on specific deadlines moving forward:

- Register before February 24th: \$775 instead of \$975
- Register after February 24th: \$875 instead of \$1075

As of today, **over sixty ABH members** have taken advantage of the ABH member discount and have registered to attend NatCon17.

To receive the special ABH \$200 discount, **enter the code "17memberMA" when you register**. I hope you will join your many colleagues who will be heading to Seattle for what is always a great conference.

## Join Our Monthly Advocacy Call

Hear updates on the legislative & budget process and how you can help support the mental health and addiction treatment advocacy agenda.

9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, January 19, 2017

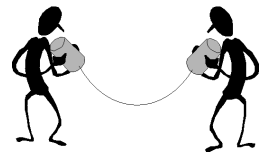
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Thursday, June 20, 2017

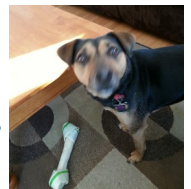


Questions: Contact Mandy Gilman at [AGilman@ABHmass.org](mailto:AGilman@ABHmass.org).

## Keeper's Korner

Keeper celebrates her seventh\* (\*estimated) birthday this month! To celebrate, she's going to do some reading:

- [Orphaned by America's Opioid Epidemic](#). *Washington Post*.
- [Proposals to Replace the Affordable Care Act](#). *Kaiser Family Foundation*.
- [The Mental Health Crisis in Trump's America](#). *New York Times*.
- [Inside a Killer Drug Epidemic: A Look at America's Opioid Crisis](#). *New York Times*



Excited for birthday treats!