



ABH March Committee Meetings

Tuesday, March 6
CSS/TSS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Friday, March 9
Children's Services,
10 a.m.
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.

Monday, March 12
Billing, 10 a.m.
PWUP, 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 13
CBFS, 2:30 p.m. (ABH)

Thursday, March 15
Human Resources,
10 a.m.

Friday, March 16
DAE/SOA, 10 a.m. (ABH)
Quality & Outcomes, 10
a.m.

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

Friday, March 23
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's FY 19 Budget

Governor Charlie Baker proposed his Fiscal Year 2019 Budget on January 24 (referred to as House 2), totaling \$40.905 billion. The administration, the House and the Senate had previously agreed on a consensus revenue forecast of \$27.594 billion, which represents a 3.5% growth in state tax revenue over adjusted FY18 projected revenue of \$26.661 billion. The projected consensus revenue estimate assumes another income tax cut will go into effect on January 1, 2019, lowering the state's personal income tax from 5.10% to 5.05%, which saves taxpayers \$84 million.

House 2 relies on only \$95 million in nonrecurring revenue sources and stabilization fund growth of \$96 million.

The FY19 budget includes the following highlights:

- A \$93.7 million increase at the Department of Mental Health, including \$62.3 million for the new Adult Community Clinical Services (ACCS) program.
- An increase of \$30 million in funding for addiction treatment services funded through the Substance Use Disorder Federal Reinvestment Fund, authorized by the current federal Medicaid 1115 Waiver.
- A new line item, funded at \$5 million, to identify and implement effective, comprehensive addiction prevention and intervention programs and tools, develop information systems to identify and track students who may be at risk, and provide grants for school-based coordinated support of students in need.
- Holds MassHealth spending to a 0.5 percent net spending growth, based on an estimated population growth of 1.2%, approximately 22,000 people.
- Funds DCF \$20 million over projected FY18 spending.
- Includes approximately \$38 million in the Chapter 257 reserve for services that need biennial rate reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact Vic DiGravio at VDiGravio@abhmass.org.

NatCon18 Early Bird Discount

Connect with Your Colleagues – NatCon18 is set for April 23 – 25 in Washington, D.C. at the National Harbor: Connect with the people and organizations that are driving the future of health care with innovations and revolutionary ideas. [NatCon18](#) celebrates the diversity of our community as we're reminded of the aspirations that unite us. And ABH members receive **\$200 off** with code 18MemberMA. **Register before February 9 to take advantage of the Early Bird Registration discount!**

Join your colleagues from across the state at ABH's Massachusetts Reception on the Monday night of the conference.

Make your voice heard on Capitol Hill: Visit our elected officials as part of Massachusetts' Hill Day delegation.

Experience the insight of unequalled speakers: NatCon18 brings you the most thought-provoking speakers to enlighten, inspire and challenge you.

Meet the innovators of today and tomorrow at the Solutions Pavilion: Overflowing with more than 350 organizations, get the solutions you need to tackle today's challenges.

Dig deep into the issues you care most about: Hear from innovators in practice improvement, finance, technology, public policy, integrated care, marketing and workforce development.

Earn continuing education credits: Fulfill your licensing requirements at the same time you enrich yourself or your staff.

It's all at [NatCon18](#), the National Council Conference. [Register today](#) and use code **18MemberMA for **\$200 off registration.****

\$10,000 Grant Opportunity

The Children's Behavioral Health Knowledge Center recently announced the opportunity to apply for the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Innovation Award funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation and the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health. The Award recognizes a nonprofit children's behavioral health or social service organization's efforts to fill an unmet need or gap in the children's behavioral health care delivery system. Specifically, they are looking for ways in which organizations have found solutions to one of the following problems:

- Delivering behavioral health care services to children in school settings;
- Accessing children's behavioral health care services; OR
- Recruiting and retaining children's behavioral health care staff members.

The winner will receive a **\$10,000 grant** to continue their innovative work. The grant can be used for any of the following purposes: hiring a consultant grant writer or fundraiser; training or coaching activities; strategic planning activities through the services of a consultant; production of marketing or outreach materials; and/or evaluation activities to generate research evidence/support for the innovation.

This opportunity is open to all Massachusetts children's behavioral health providers. Applications are due by March 14, 2018. To view the application and learn more, click [here](#).

ABH Association Meeting!!

Tuesday,
February 13

Improving Client Outcomes through Culturally Competent Care

Keynote:
Dr. Kenneth V. Hardy

12:00-3:00 p.m.
Beechwood Hotel
Worcester

Register [Here!](#)

Questions?
Contact [Ellen Caliendo](#) or call
508.380.9887.

Support Anti-Clawback Legislation

Senator Michael Rodrigues and Representative James O'Day have sponsored legislation which limits insurance clawbacks to six months (Senate Bill 5287 and House Bill 2193).

Contact your state legislators and ask them to support this legislation.

[CLICK HERE to send an email to your legislator!](#)

This bill establishes fair parameters around the health insurance practice of reverting payments (clawbacks) for which providers of behavioral health services had received previous authorization and been paid by health insurers.

The bill language is available by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions about the legislation or about contacting your legislator, contact ABH President/CEO Vic DiGravio at vdigravio@abhmass.org.

Your advocacy is very important! Thank you.

Free Webinar for ABH Members

MassHealth Systems Transformation: Impact on SUD Services
Tuesday, February 6th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST

MassHealth, the Massachusetts Medicaid program, is undergoing a significant transformation intended to generate payment and care delivery innovations. Currently, MassHealth Members are being notified of these changes and any changes to their PCP and health plan.

This webinar, presented by ABH's Vice President for Mental Health, Lydia Conley, will provide an overview of MassHealth Systems Transformation as it relates to the MassHealth managed care structure, including Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and the Primary Care Clinician Plan (PCC Plan). MassHealth Systems Transformation includes expansion of ASAM 3.1 services (Residential Recovery Services and Transitional Support Services) and coverage for Recovery Coaches and Recovery Support Navigators. MassHealth also intends to pay for a new level of care using ASAM 3.3 criteria.

The presentation will cover all known information to date around these changes, the timeline for implementation, and key information for SUD providers. We anticipate there will be time for Q&A following the presentation.

This free webinar is exclusive to ABH Members.

When: Tuesday, February 6th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Register [here](#).

Target Audience: ABH SUD Providers

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

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Behavioral Health Survey

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) is conducting a behavioral health survey on the availability of services for patients dually diagnosed with mental health and substance use disorders. The HPC is conducting this survey as part of the study required by section 57 of chapter 52 of the Massachusetts Acts of 2016, *An act relative to substance use, treatment, and prevention*. The statute requires the HPC to assess the sufficiency of dual diagnosis resources in the Commonwealth and to make recommendations to reduce barriers to care.

ABH strongly supports the purpose of this study and provided the HPC with feedback during survey development. We are urging our members to respond to the survey. Your contribution to the HPC's inventory of dual diagnosis care is an investment in improving access to care for patients throughout the Commonwealth.

Questions about the survey can be directed to dualdiagnosis@massmail.state.ma.us or dualdiagnosis@healthcentricadvisors.org. This online inventory survey will be open from January 31st, 2018 to February 21st, 2018. If you received an email from dualdiagnosis@healthcentricadvisors.org, please access the survey through that unique direct link if possible. If you did not receive an email with the survey link, you can access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPCdual> (note the "s" on https).

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

A public hearing for proposed rate amendments for **101 CMR 413.00: Payments for Youth Intermediate-Term Stabilization Services** (including IRTP, Caring Together and other services) is scheduled for **Friday, February 23, 2018** at 10:00 a.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, 100 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA.

The proposed amendments update rates for certain Youth Intermediate-term Stabilization Services to include an increase by a cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 2.39%. This proposed amended regulation is planned to go into effect no sooner than July 1, 2018.

Written comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, March 2nd, 2018**. Click [here](#) for the hearing notice. A redlined version of the proposed regulations is available [here](#). Supporting materials are available [here](#).

Keeper's Korner

Although Keeper is already dreaming of spring, she is still keeping up with her reading:

- [What's Next For 'Safe Injection' Sites In Philadelphia?](#) Kaiser Health News
- [Telemedicine For Addiction Treatment? Picture Remains Fuzzy.](#) Kaiser Health News
- [Suicide Emerges In Understanding The Opioid Epidemic.](#) WBUR.

