



ABH February Committee Meetings

Wednesday, February 1
e-Health, 10 a.m.

Friday, February 3
**Children's Services
CEO**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, February 7
ATS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, February 8
Outpatient, 10 a.m.

Thursday, February 9
SOAP, 10 a.m.

Friday, February 10
CBHI, 10 a.m.
Corporate Compliance
10 a.m.

Monday, February 13
Billing, 10 a.m.

Friday, February 17
DAE/SOA, 10 a.m. (ABH)

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

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

Ready, Set, Action

The new legislative session is underway and it's time to start talking about the FY 18 budget. Below, please find some of our priorities for the coming fiscal year (for a complete list, additional details, and a fact sheet to use when talking with legislators, click [here](#).):

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

- ABH strongly supports the active role the Baker Administration has taken in examining the root causes of the Emergency Department Boarding Crisis.
- The current DMH community system does not have an excess capacity to accommodate new placements for individuals to transition out of hospital levels of care. ABH is requesting an additional \$10 million to fund new community placements for individuals moving into the community from DMH hospitals.
- ABH requests maintenance funding to preserve DMH programming for children and adolescents.
- ABH requests an additional \$1 million in increased funding for the DHCD Rental Subsidies for DMH clients (7004-9033).

Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

- ABH requests the legislature fund line item 4512-0200 at \$139,392,987. This amount will annualize funding for all current services covered by this line-item and the Substance Abuse Services Fund (1595-4510) and includes an additional \$8.7 million to fund vital new services to address the ongoing opioid crisis.
- \$6.2 million is needed to preserve and expand the successful Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program.
- ABH is requesting an additional \$1 million in funding for providers to maintain access to NARCAN at their programs.
- \$1.5 million to support the opening of 3 additional recovery centers across the state.

MassHealth

- Fund MassHealth at a maintenance level to preserve all existing behavioral health services.

If you have any questions, please contact Mandy Gilman at AGilman@ABHmass.org.

ABH/NAMI Event: Behavioral Healthcare & Criminal Justice: A discussion with Senate President Stan Rosenberg

Please join the Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) on January 10th for a discussion with Senate President Stan Rosenberg on Behavioral Healthcare and Criminal Justice.

State leaders established the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center-Massachusetts Criminal Justice Review in the summer of 2015, a project led by a bipartisan, inter-branch steering committee and working group to support the justice reinvestment initiative. The CSG-Justice Center is providing intensive technical assistance to Massachusetts to help collect and analyze data and develop appropriate criminal justice policy options for the state.

Senate President Stan Rosenberg has been a vocal supporter of criminal justice reform in Massachusetts and was instrumental in establishing this ground-breaking initiative. As he said recently, "Through collaboration between the working group and CSG, we will identify policies for Massachusetts to make smart reforms to reduce recidivism rates, lower costs, and invest in re-entry programs. We can be both tough on crime and smart on crime."

When: Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 12:00-2:00 p.m. (Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m.)

Where: Beechwood Hotel, 363 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA

Target Audience: CEOs and Senior Executives.

Cost: \$50 per person, includes Lunch.

Questions: Contact Kristen Archibald: karchibald@abhmass.org or 508.647.8385 x14

This event is for ABH and NAMI-Massachusetts Members Only.

[Register Now!](#)

Making Movies

As you well know, the mental health and addiction outpatient system continues to suffer as reimbursement rates for services are inadequate to cover the cost of providing these services.

ABH contracted with a video production firm to create three 2 ½ minute promotional videos on the importance of behavioral health outpatient in the continuum of mental health and addiction treatment services. Thank you to the ABH staff and clients who shared their stories in the video! While we weren't able to include everyone who helped us, please know that we appreciate each of you!

These videos are for your use in advocacy with public and private stakeholders. We will also use them in our collective advocacy. The videos are available on YouTube at the links below. If you'd like the files for other uses, please contact Mandy Gilman at AGilman@ABHmass.org. YouTube links:

[Outpatient System Crisis: Serving Individuals in Need](#)

[Outpatient System Crisis: The Battle Against Opioids](#)

[Outpatient System Crisis: Value of a Strong Outpatient System](#)



Happy New Year!

As we look forward to 2017, ABH would like to thank you for your support.

The ABH staff is ready to face the challenges awaiting us in the new year and looks forward to continuing to work with our members in 2017.

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ABH/PPLM Event: Sexual Health and Behavioral Health: Exploring the Intersection and Integration of Care

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) is excited to team up with Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts (PPLM) - the nation's leading sexual and reproductive health care provider and advocate - to host a two-hour workshop, Sexual Health and Behavioral Health: Exploring the Intersection and Integration of Care.

Planned Parenthood leaders will provide an overview of the organization's confidential care model offered across the Commonwealth. They will discuss a range of health care services including contraception, STI testing, HIV prevention, gynecological care, surgical and medical abortion, and emergency contraception, and how ABH members can partner with PPLM to bring these services to individuals receiving behavioral health services. The program will explore innovative care models including integration of sexual health care and education with behavioral health care, as well as structured referral relationships. In addition, PPLM will share its range of evidence-based education and training programs for youth, parents, and professionals.

When: Thursday, January 12, 2017, 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m.)

Where: Hampton Inn, 319 Speen Street, Natick, MA

Target Audience: CEOs and Senior Executives.

Cost: Free! No charge.

Questions: Contact Kristen Archibald: karchibald@abhmass.org or 508.647.8385 x14

This event is for ABH Members Only.

[Register Now!](#)

Cures Act Signed into Law!

Thank you for your advocacy in support of the 21st Century Cures Bill, which passed Congress in December and was signed into law by President Obama. The bill includes key provisions on substance use disorders, criminal justice reform and mental health, including \$1 billion dollars in grants for states to fight the opioid epidemic. Massachusetts will be eligible for \$20 million of this funding. The legislation also includes increased funding for disease research, addresses the nation's mental health system and alters the regulatory system for drugs and medical devices.

A full summary of the bill is available online [here](#).

Senator Ed Markey and the entire Massachusetts House delegation voted in favor of the bill.

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A Peek in the Personnel File

MassHealth recently announced the appointment of Stephanie Jordan Brown as the new Director of the Office of Behavioral Health at MassHealth. Many of you may know Stephanie from her time at MBHP where she served as Vice President of Transformation & Integration. We are excited to work with Stephanie in this critical role moving forward.



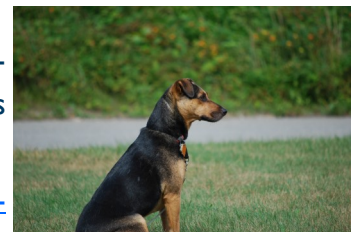
RFR Roundup

DPH/BSAS posted an RFR to fund ATS programs that are located in geographic areas that are in need of these services and have access and capacity to transition individuals to step down services and ongoing treatment and recovery support services. The RFR can be accessed [here](#). The deadline for submissions is Thursday, January 26th.

In addition, DPH/BSAS has reposted its RFR seeking proposals from vendors that have an operational licensed and BSAS contracted Clinical Stabilization Service (CSS) program that are interested in participating in the extended release injectable naltrexone (ERIN) CSS pilot program. The intent of this pilot is to increase capacity to initiate voluntary clients on extended release injectable naltrexone (ERIN) during their treatment episode at the CSS program and to ensure effective transitioning of these clients to community-based services to continue their medication assisted treatment and support services. Applications will now be accepted on a rolling basis through June 30, 2017. The RFR documents can be accessed [here](#).

Keeper's Korner

Keeper's New Year's Resolution is to keep (no pun intended) up her reading throughout the year. Here's what she has so far for the new year:



Serious work.

- [Community Matters: Exploring the Link Between Community Characteristics and Uninsurance in Massachusetts](#). Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation.
- [OD Help App Wins FDA's Competition to Help Fight Heroin Overdose](#). CNN.com.
- [An Addiction Crisis Along 'The Backbone of America'](#). *Washington Post*.
- [What's Behind the Rise in Cocaine-Linked Deaths?](#) *US News and World Report*.
- [As Opioid Epidemic Worsens, the Cost of Waking up from an Overdose Soars](#). CNBC
- [Opioid Treatment can Help, but most Addicts don't Finish](#). *The Boston Globe*.
- [Carrie Fisher's Openness about her Bipolar Disorder Motivated me to Talk about Mine](#). *Washington Post*.