

## ABH August Committee Meetings

Tuesday, August 2  
**ATS**, 10 a.m.

Friday, August 5  
**Children's Services CEO**, 10 a.m.  
(Hampton Inn)

Monday, August 8  
**Billing**, 10 a.m.  
(Hampton Inn)

Thursday, August 11  
**SOAP**, 10 a.m.

Friday, August 12  
**CBHI**, 10 a.m.  
(Hampton Inn)  
**Corporate Compliance**, 10 a.m.  
(Hampton Inn)

All meetings are held at ABH unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 508-647-8385.

## Legislature Votes to Adopt FY 2017 Budget

On June 30, the Legislature voted to adopt the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. Below is a brief overview of key items that we have been tracking. For a more detailed analysis, contact Mandy Gilman at [AGilman@ABHmass.org](mailto:AGilman@ABHmass.org).

**Substance Abuse Services Fund: (Line Item 1595-4510):** The conference committee report contains \$1 million in funding for the fund. As you may recall, Governor Baker had requested \$5 million for this item to maintain existing services funding through this item. The conference report does not include language that was included in the Senate budget to allow the Baker Administration to deficit spend this item.

**Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) funding:** It appears that all of the BSAS line items are funded at levels that maintain existing services although we are seeking confirmation of this from the Administration. Despite significant earmarking, the main BSAS line item (4512-0200) includes enough funding to maintain all existing services.

**Department of Mental Health (DMH) funding:** It appears that all of the DMH line items are funded at levels that maintain existing services. We are working to confirm with DMH that this is the case.

**Chapter 257 Rate Reserve (Line Item 1599-6903):** This item is funded at \$3,245,575 which was the amount requested by Governor Baker and approved by both the House of Representatives and Senate.

## Press and Social Media

Do you coordinate press and social media for your organization? ABH is compiling an email distribution list of these individuals within our member organizations. This will enable ABH to share helpful information and help to make you more aware of our advocacy efforts. Please take a moment to send Mandy Gilman ([AGilman@ABHmass.org](mailto:AGilman@ABHmass.org)) the contact information of the person from your organization who should be included on the ABH Social Media and Press email distribution list.

# Do You Know a Movie Star?



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. Over the last few months, ABH has facilitated meetings with member CEOs and newspaper editorial boards across the state to discuss the challenges of operating outpatient programs as we continue to shine a media light on this issue.

As a follow up to this initiative, **ABH has 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.**

We will use these videos in advocacy with public and private stakeholders and anticipate they will also be available through the local Comcast on Demand television service. ABH members will also have access to the video for their use.

ABH needs to interview 16 individuals to appear in these videos and **we need your help in identifying people willing to participate.** We want to include outpatient clients, their family members, outpatient clinicians and CEOs or senior managers who can speak to the success and efficacy of outpatient services.

## We can't do this without your help!

**Who:** Outpatient Clients, Family Members, Clinicians & CEOs or Senior Managers who can speak to the positive results outpatient services have on individuals.

**When:** Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Individuals need only attend one day for an hour.

**Where:** Production will take place one day at a television production studio in Waltham and on a second date at a location TBD in the Metrowest area.

The three distinct videos will each frame the discussion in a different way:

- Importance of community-based outpatient services so individuals can live successfully in the community with minimum lengths of stay in hospitals and other inpatient levels of care.
- Importance of long-term outpatient support for individuals in recovery from opioid addiction
- How better, more consistent mental health services can help individuals at risk of suicide.

Please contact Mandy Gilman at [AGilman@ABHmass.org](mailto:AGilman@ABHmass.org) if you have questions or thoughts on the videos, or have individuals you can help us recruit to participate.

## Waiver Land



MassHealth recently posted its draft Section 1115 Demonstration Project (often called a waiver) amendment and extension request. The waiver extension and amendment request proposes restructuring toward Accountable Care Organization (ACO) models, strengthening integration with behavioral health and long term services, expanding MassHealth-covered services for Substance Use Disorders (SUD), and numerous other changes. Please find ABH's summary of the MassHealth Section 1115 amendment and extension request [here](#). ABH will be offering written comments prior to the July 17th comment deadline. The waiver request documents can be found at the MassHealth Innovations web site: [www.mass.gov/hhs/masshealth-innovations](http://www.mass.gov/hhs/masshealth-innovations).

# **ABH Training: Prove It: Creating and Implementing an Outcomes Management Framework**

**Tuesday, July 19, 12:30-3:30 p.m. (Please note new event date)**

Hampton Inn (319 Speen Street, Natick)

Please join ABH on July 19th for an important workshop as community-based organizations face changing demands and payment reform. The shift from volume to value is a difficult one and requires planning, execution and culture change in order to truly measure, utilize and understand outcomes and impact. The participants in the workshop will benefit from an overview of the existing environment and changes occurring and then will get a deep dive, hands on experience on how to implement an outcomes measurement framework and drive culture change, with special attention paid on the planning and engagement aspect of the framework.

This workshop will use an interactive presentation with small break-out sessions to work on a logic model and measurement plan as time permits. The workshop will be led and facilitated by Christy L. Winter, LMSW. Christy is a licensed master's level social worker and currently the Manager of Clinical Informatics and Outcomes at Quali-facts. She is responsible for assisting customers with performance management including outcomes measurement and management, analyzing and benchmarking performance data, and providing guidance for product development. She has over 13 years of program evaluation, practice-based research, outcomes measurement, and quality improvement experience in the provider setting.

**Target audience:** Senior Executives and Quality Outcomes Staff

**Cost:** \$20 per person

**Contact:** Kristen Archibald ([KArchibald@abhmass.org](mailto:KArchibald@abhmass.org))

## **Important Notes:**

- Only one representative per organization can register for this training.
- Registration Maximum is 35 attendees.
- A waitlist will be maintained as needed (email Kristen at [karchibald@abhmass.org](mailto:karchibald@abhmass.org) to be placed on the waitlist).
- This event is for ABH Members Only.
- Event Check-in begins at 12:00 p.m.

**Register NOW!**

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

**SAVE  
the  
DATE**

**ABH Salute  
to  
Excellence**

Friday,  
October 21, 2016

9:00 a.m. to  
2:00 p.m.

Westin-Waltham  
Hotel

## ABH STAFF

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## Joint Response against Stigma

ABH and other stakeholders issued a statement on Friday, July 1 in response to the recent Boston Globe Spotlight team [story on mental health in Massachusetts](#). ABH is working with our colleagues to help the Globe better understand the negative impact of presenting their story in such a sensationalistic way:

*We are deeply concerned that the initial Spotlight series story on Massachusetts' mental health care system has done long-term damage by perpetuating the false impression that individuals with mental health conditions are inherently violent.*

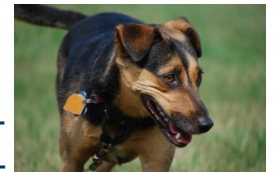
*The facts show that they are not any more prone to violence than any other group, and while we acknowledge the tragic incidents reported by the Globe, we strongly believe that the Globe series, by linking mental illness and violence in such a sensationalistic way, will increase the stigma that has long plagued individuals with mental health conditions and their families.*

*As individuals in recovery, family members, service providers and legal advocates, we know that recovery is possible and access to a broad range of services is essential to meeting the needs of individuals living with a mental illness. We also know that tens of thousands of people living with a mental illness in Massachusetts lead full and productive lives every day. It's unfortunate that the initial Spotlight report did nothing to highlight these individuals.*

*As advocates for restoring and revitalizing the Commonwealth's mental health system, we call for greater investment of resources targeted to significant gaps in early intervention, treatment services and recovery supports for individuals, families and their communities. Massachusetts has time tested talent and service and program successes that can serve as essential building blocks in this critically needed reform.*

## Keeper's Korner

Keeper is working on getting in shape for summer with lots of running, but she's still making time to read some great stuff for her e-update faithful.



- [“Know Your Rights: Parity for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits”](#) A brochure from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) containing “examples of common limits that are placed on mental health and substance use disorder benefits and services that are now subject to parity, educates consumers about how to find information about their health plan benefits and coverage, as well as their right to appeal a claim if denied.”
- A new Health and Human Services webpage for the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force: [www.hhs.gov/parity](http://www.hhs.gov/parity). This contains up-to-date news and information about parity. You can also comment directly to the Task Force.
- [Editorial: MassHealth Reform Must Make Behavioral Health a Priority](#). *The Boston Globe* (cites ABH's survey on the crisis in outpatient services).
- [Our View: Fix the Medicaid Mental Health Disparity](#). *The Herald News*.
- [In States, Some Resistance to New Opioid Limits](#). *Stateline/The Pew Charitable Trusts*.