

## Now is the Time to Say Thank You!

ABH is thankful your continued advocacy for behavioral health services. It truly made a difference in our work at the State House during the Senate budget debate. BUT, we have one more request, please call:

**Senate Ways and Means Chairwoman Karen Spilka:** 617-722-1640

**Senator Jennifer Flanagan:** 617-722-1230

**Senator John Keenan:** 617-722-1494

**And say THANK YOU for their support of the substance abuse fund (amendment #585) during Senate budget debate last week.**

The Senate adopted a redraft of amendment EHS #585 to include \$2 million in line item 1595-4510 for the substance abuse services fund. The amendment also includes language allowing EOHHS to spend up to \$10 million in deficit as needed to fund all existing services.

**EOHHS has assured ABH they are confident they can maintain existing services with this funding and language.**

The Senate President and House Speaker will now make appointments to a conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate spending bills and produce a final legislative budget known as a conference committee report.

The conference committee report will be voted either up or down (no amendments are permitted) by each chamber, and if approved, sent to the Governor who will have ten days to review the budget and return his vetoes and recommendations for amendment.

If you have any questions about the budget, please feel free to contact Mandy Gilman at [AGilman@ABHmass.org](mailto:AGilman@ABHmass.org).

### ABH July Committee Meetings

Friday, July 8  
**Corporate Compliance**, 10 a.m.  
(Hampton Inn)  
**Children's Services**,  
10 a.m. (Hampton Inn)

Friday, July 15  
**DAE/SOA**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, July 19  
**OTP**, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 21  
**Recovery for  
Residential Services**,  
10 a.m.

Friday, July 29  
**PDT/PH**, 10 a.m.

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

# ABH Annual Meeting

ABH held its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 10. Commissioner Joan Mikula of the Department of Mental Health and Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH, of the Department of Public Health spoke to ABH members from across the state and ABH members had the opportunity to ask both commissioners questions.



Commissioner Joan Mikula, Department of Mental Health, speaks to ABH members.



Commissioner Monica Bharel, Department of Public Health, speaks at the ABH Annual Meeting.



## MCPAP for Moms

In the past, you may have heard us discuss MCPAP, the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project, a program where pediatricians can access psychiatric consultations. Today, we want to let you know about MCPAP for Moms, a program that enables providers to call for a perinatal psychiatric consultation for pregnant and/or nursing mothers. MCPAP for Moms, which is funded by the Department of Mental Health and administered by the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) provides “real-time, perinatal psychiatric consultation and care coordination for obstetric, pediatric, primary care and psychiatric providers to effectively prevent, identify, and manage depression and other mental health concerns in pregnant and postpartum women.” Providers can call with medication questions, regardless of the diagnosis, but can also get assistance finding support groups and other resources for pregnant and nursing moms.



For more information, visit [www.mcpapformoms.com](http://www.mcpapformoms.com).

## Hot Topic of the Month:

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts recently released a useful report title “Sharing Behavioral Health Information in Massachusetts: Obstacles and Potential Solutions”.

## Free Medicine and Supplies for Behavioral Health Provider Organizations

Please join us on June 14, 2016 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for a webinar with AmeriCares, a global health and emergency response organization. Its U.S. Program is the leading provider of donated medicine, vaccines, medical supplies, and hygiene products to the U.S. health care safety net. AmeriCares product donations are complemented with educational resources and targeted initiatives that build capacity in health organizations across the country. The program has a network of more than 900 partners in all 50 states that serve over 5 million patients per year. AmeriCares is licensed as a wholesaler to distribute pharmaceutical products and medical supplies in all 50 states, and all donated products are provided at no cost for distribution to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured patients.

Last year, AmeriCares launched an innovative Mental Health Initiative (MHI) to provide psychotropic and primary care medications, as well as medical supplies and personal care products, to a network of nonprofit and public behavioral health providers. MHI partners placing orders with AmeriCares received an average of over \$360,000 worth of aid in the first year and a half of the Initiative. AmeriCares is pleased to invite community-based behavioral health organizations in Massachusetts to apply to receive donated products by creating an account at [usaccess.americares.org](http://usaccess.americares.org).

This webinar is open to ABH member organizations only.

**To register, click [here](#).**

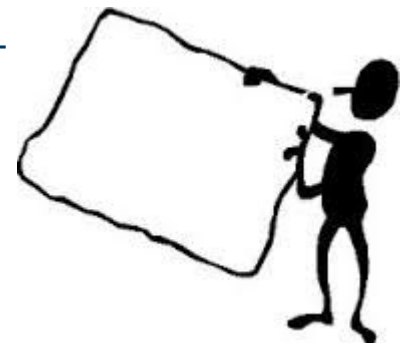
Questions? Contact Kristen Archibald at 508.647.8385 x14 or [karchibald@abhmass.org](mailto:karchibald@abhmass.org)

## Chapter 257 Update

Staff from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services recently gave a presentation to the Chapter 257 Provider-Consumer Advisory Council (PCAC) concerning ongoing implementation of *Chapter 257*.

The presentation includes updates on rate-setting activities under *Chapter 257* in accordance with the legal settlement *The Collaborative* signed with EOHHS last year. It lists finalized regulations, publically proposed regulations, regulations that are in the “pipeline”, and rate reviews that are scheduled to be completed in FY 2017. The presentation also reviews FY 2016 rate increases.

For a copy of the presentation, click [here](#). If you have any questions about the presentation or about *Chapter 257*, please contact Vic DiGravio at [VDiGravio@ABHmass.org](mailto:VDiGravio@ABHmass.org).



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## SAMHSA NARCAN Grant

DPH/BSAS is applying for a SAMHSA Cooperative Agreement Grant to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths, and seeks to partner with agencies that offer a continuum of care for addiction treatment licensed and funded by BSAS including Acute Treatment Services, Clinical Stabilization Services, Transitional Support Services, Opioid Treatment Programs, and Residential Treatment Services.

This Cooperative Agreement will be funded for five years and BSAS plans to work with 2-3 partner agencies in the first year of the grant to implement broad pharmacy-access to naloxone. Additional partners will be included in subsequent years of the grant. A process for the selection of partners to participate in the first and second years will be determined at the time of award of the SAMHSA grant.

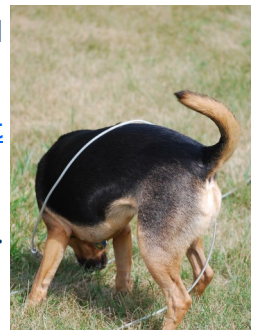
For the grant, BSAS will propose to focus on four major areas of effort:

1. Implementing an innovative model for naloxone access for individuals in addiction treatment dispensed from pharmacies and billed to their insurance;
2. Implementing agency-specific standing orders, or other strategy for staff training and naloxone access to equip programs for on-site emergency response in a wide range of agencies serving individuals who are at-risk of experiencing an opioid overdose;
3. Providing training and training materials on overdose prevention and response, including naloxone, through a variety of accessible venues and formats statewide; and,
4. Partnering with the Division of Insurance, the Board of Registration in Pharmacy, the DPH Drug Control Program and other stakeholders on policies that ease pharmacy-access to naloxone and implementation of models that remove barriers to access.

## Keeper's Korner

Keeper has been busy digging holes in the yard, but she has read some great stuff this month too:

- [Inadequate Reimbursements: Behavioral Health Needs Support for Outpatient Services](#). *Cape Cod Times*.
- [Long-Acting Opioid Treatment Could Be Available In A Month](#). *NPR*.
- [Schools Struggle to Cope with Rising Mental Health Needs](#). *The Boston Globe*.
- [Opioid Prescriptions Drop for First Time in Two Decades](#). *The New York Times*.
- [Congress Wakes Up to the Opioid Epidemic](#). *The New York Times*.
- [Opioid Epidemic Fueling Hospitalizations, Hospital Costs](#). *Kaiser Health News*.



Keeper loves to dig.