



ABH April Committee Meetings

Tuesday, April 4
ATS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, April 5
e-Health, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 7
Children's Services CEO,
10 a.m.

Monday, April 10
Billing, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 12
Outpatient, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 13
SOAP, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 14
CBHI, 10 a.m.
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 18
OTP, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

Thursday, April 20
**Recovery Committee for
Residential Services**,
10 a.m. (ABH)

Friday, April 21
DAE/SOA, 10 a.m. (ABH)

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

ABH Training. Up In Smoke: Are the Rules Changing for Employers Dealing with Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace?

This past November, Massachusetts voters approved the Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Initiative, making marijuana legal for recreational purposes under state law. For over four years now, Massachusetts law has permitted marijuana use for medical purposes, with a valid certification from a physician. These laws raise a host of questions and practical and legal challenges for employers, ranging from disability accommodation, to drug testing, to handling on-the-job impairment. Please join ABH for a training on March 9, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with Hirsch, Roberts, Weinstein LLP where we will discuss:

- The current legal landscape for marijuana usage, both under the Massachusetts and federal law;
- Recreational and medical marijuana's impact on drug-free workplace policies;
- Disability accommodations for addiction, including alcoholism;
- Whether and how to accommodate medical marijuana users;
- How employer drug testing policies are affected by the legalization of marijuana, and by OSHA's recent guidance regarding post-accident drug testing; and
- Practical measures for dealing with impairment in the workplace.

When: Thursday, March 9, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where: Hampton Inn, Natick

Target Audience: CEOs, Senior Staff, and HR Professionals

Cost: \$20 per person, includes coffee

Register Now!

Questions Regarding Registration? Please Contact Ellen Caliendo at ecaliendo@abhmass.org or 508.380.9887

Americares Builds Partnerships by Expanding Access to Free Resources for Behavioral Health Providers

Americares, a health-focused international relief and development organization, is the leading nonprofit provider of donated medications and supplies to the health care safety net in the U.S., providing over \$190 million worth of medications, vaccines, and supplies to its network of 1,000 partners in 2016. These donations help to address a broad range of health conditions and emergency responses, and target uninsured and underinsured populations. Americares leverages this core competency of providing access to medicine with programs that improve health outcomes, including prediabetes, hypertension, health literacy, and emergency response and recovery efforts.

The Americares Mental Health Initiative provides free psychotropic and primary care medications to a network of community mental health centers and other behavioral health providers. The program is committed to ship \$40 million worth of psychiatric medications to behavioral health organizations by December 2017. Nonadherence to medication is a challenge, and cost and availability are two of the leading factors. By providing donated medicines to behavioral healthcare centers, Americares aims to remove barriers to prescription filling and access.

In collaboration with the National Council for Behavioral Health, Americares recently conducted a national survey of behavioral health organizations. The survey gathered information on medications and other resources that are needed to better treat uninsured and underinsured patients with mental illness. This information is helping Americares build on the Mental Health Initiative through new programmatic and capacity-building opportunities for partners as well as to identify access to medication needs and gaps.

To become a partner of the Americares Mental Health Initiative, complete a brief online application for your center at usaccess.americares.org. Partnership is entirely free and will allow you to order cases of psychotropic, primary care, and over the counter medications, as well as hygiene products, to be dispensed to those patients who are uninsured or underinsured and fall at or below 300% of the federal poverty line. For more information, visit www.safetynetcenter.org or contact Kristina Meyers: kmeyers@americares.org, 203.658.9553.

Become a NAMI Basics Caregiver Teacher

NAMI-Massachusetts is sponsoring a FREE two-day Caregiver Teacher Training for parents and family caregivers of children who are experiencing behavioral health issues. “NAMI Basics teachers are uniquely qualified to lead a class because they too are parents who have an adolescent or younger child with mental health needs...After the training, certified caregiver teachers know how to deliver class content, how to encourage collective thought, and how to direct energy through positive outcomes.



Details: Saturday, March 25 and Sunday March 26

9 am to 5 pm. Schrafft's Center in Charlestown

For more information on the training please contact Nancy Parker at 617-580-8541 or npar-ker@namimass.org. Teacher trainees must submit an application before being approved to attend a training event.

FY 2018

To read ABH's Fiscal Year 2018 budget testimony that was submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, click [here](#).



ABH Training. Department of Public Health: Mental Health Clinic Licensure Process

Please join us on March 30th when The Department of Public Health (DPH) Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification will give an overview of mental health clinic licensure and the survey process, followed by a question & answer session. DPH has recently resumed clinic licensure visits. This session will provide information on what providers can expect during a DPH inspection visit for the purpose of license renewal.

Presenters:

- Sherman Lohnes, JD, Director, Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification, DPH
- Steve Davis, Licensure Unit Manager, DPH
- Judy Bernice, Licensure Inspection Unit Manager, DPH

When: Thursday, March 30, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where: Hampton Inn, Natick

Target Audience: CEOs, VPs, Corporate Compliance Staff, and Clinic Directors.

Register Now!

Questions Regarding Registration? Please Contact Ellen Caliendo at ecaliendo@abhmass.org or 508.380.9887

Therapeutic Day Services Rate Testimony

ABH recently submitted testimony relative to the proposed rates for Department of Mental Health Therapeutic Day Services. The proposed rates would apply a 4.38 percent cost adjustment factor (CAF) to each model of service; however, ABH believes that the proposed rates do not adequately cover the cost of providing these services. ABH testified that the proposed rates will make it very difficult for providers of this service to maintain appropriate staffing levels needed to provide these important services. For more information or for a copy of the complete testimony, contact Vic DiGravio at VDiGravio@ABHmass.org.

ABH Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report

The Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report for Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. and Association for Behavioral Healthcare Foundation, Inc. is now available on ABH's website at <http://www.abhmass.org/publications-reports/annual-reports/1895-fy-2016.html>.

We hope you will take a few minutes to review the report and reflect on the many accomplishments we achieved working together in FY16. We are grateful for your ongoing support of ABH and the work we do.

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Legislative Committee Assignments

Senate President Stan Rosenberg and Speaker Robert DeLeo each announced their respective leadership teams in February, including Committee Chairmanships and assignments.

Senator Karen Spilka will continue to serve as the Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Representative Brian Dempsey will continue to serve as Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. These committees oversee the budget and finances of the Commonwealth.

Former House Chairwoman of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee Liz Malia was promoted to Assistant Vice Chair of House Ways and Means. Other assignments of interest:

Joint Committee of Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery

Senator Jennifer Flanagan, Senate Chair
Representative Denise Garlick, House Chair

Joint Committee on Marijuana Policy (new committee)

Senator Patricia Jehlen, Senate Chair
Representative Mark Cusack, House Chair

Joint Committee on Public Health

Senator Jason Lewis, Senate Chair
Representative Kate Hogan, House Chair

Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

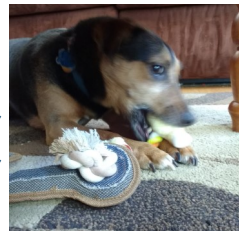
Senator Jim Welch, Senate Chair
Representative Jeffrey Sanchez, House Chair

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

Keeper's Korner

Keeper turned seven last month (no joke when you're a dog). After celebrating with her favorite humans, she buckled down to keep her brain sharp. Here's what she has been reading:

- [Another Big Health Insurer Loosens Rules For Covering Addiction Treatment.](#) NPR.
- [Overdose Deaths Likely Rise To New High In Mass.](#) WBUR.
- [Colleges Lag on Mental Health Care.](#) *The Boston Globe.*
- [ABH's Letter to the Editor in response](#) to "Colleges Lag on Mental Health Care."
- [The Hidden Link Between Autism and Addiction.](#) *The Atlantic.*
- [Are Women Increasingly at Risk of Addiction?](#) *The Washington Post.*
- [Mental Illness and Heart Disease are Often Found in the Same Patients.](#) *The Washington Post.*



Enjoying some birthday treats.