

## ABH Budget Priorities for FY 19

### ABH April Committee Meetings

Tuesday, April 3  
**ATS**, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, April 4  
**e-Health**, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 6  
**Children's Services  
CEO**, 10 a.m.

Monday, April 9  
**Billing**, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 12  
**SOAP**, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 13  
**Corporate Compliance**,  
10 a.m.  
**CBHI**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 17  
**OTP**, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, April 18  
**Outpatient**, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 19  
**Recovery Committee  
for Residential Services**,  
10 a.m.

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

ABH recently submitted its FY 19 budget requests to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means for their consideration. Below (and continued on page 2) is an outline of ABH's requests. **Please feel free to use this information when you contact your legislators about the budget—now is the time!** Current contact information for members of the House and Senate is available [here](#).

ABH strongly supports the philosophy of Community First – that whenever possible, individuals should live and be served in community settings, with minimum lengths of stay in acute and continuing care hospitals and maximum diversion from inpatient care. The overwhelming majority of individuals living with a behavioral health disorder receive most or all of their care in their own communities. The Commonwealth's capacity to meet those individuals' needs depends upon a robust and responsive community-based system of care.

### Department of Mental Health (DMH)

- ABH requests the Legislature include the Governor's proposed increase of \$93.7 million for adult community services at DMH (5046-0000), including \$62.3 million for the new Adult Community Clinical Services (ACCS) program.
- This proposed funding is a critical component of the Department's efforts to redesign and strengthen the community system that serves the most vulnerable individuals in Massachusetts living with a mental illness. The new ACCS system of care will provide more intensive clinical and peer supports to DMH clients.
- ABH also requests the Legislature fund DMH children's services at \$90,196,538, the levels recommended in House 2. This funding level ensures children with mental health needs have access to important community-based wrap-around services that are not funded by commercial insurance.
- ABH also requests the Legislature fund the DHCD Rental Subsidies for DMH clients' line item (7004-9033) at the level recommended by the Governor, approximately \$5.5 million. Access to stable housing is an essential component of recovery and individuals in DMH community placements need these subsidies to live successfully in the community.

Please see page 2 for our BSAS budget request.

# FY 19 Budget Requests, continued

Continued from page 1.

## Bureau of Substance Addiction Services

- ABH requests that the Legislature fund the main BSAS line item (4512-0200) at \$143,075,888. This annualizes funding for all services covered by this line item and includes an additional \$7 million to preserve and expand access to the Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program and an additional \$3.5 million for five new recovery centers.
- MA-ATR only costs about \$231.00 per individual per month. It saves the state money in healthcare, incarceration and social costs by empowering individuals to progress in their recovery, obtain employment, reduce criminal recidivism and find renewed hope and meaning in their lives.
- Currently BSAS funds 10 recovery centers that are based principally on volunteer work by peers who support one another and who are involved in a participatory process to help build a recovery community. An additional \$3.5 million will support the opening of five new recovery centers.
- ABH also requests an increase in funding for the jail diversion residential treatment program line item (4512-0202) by \$8 million to \$9.94 million. This new funding would allow BSAS to replicate the Reflections-Court Alternative Program (CAP) in New Bedford in four other areas of the state.

## All Politics is Local

While we're on the topic of the state budget and legislative engagement, we wanted to remind you that ABH will recognize all member organizations that host at least 5 legislative site visits before May 2018 at our Annual Meeting. The ABH member that hosts the most site visits will be crowned our *All Politics is Local* Champion.

### Let ABH know about your Site Visits!

- Post a picture of the Legislator on Facebook and Twitter and tag @abhmass with #AllPoliticsIsLocal & #mapoli.
- Email Mandy Gilman ([agilman@abhmass.org](mailto:agilman@abhmass.org)) if your organization doesn't have twitter, be sure to share a photo so ABH can tweet about your site visit.
- Site visits hosted from July 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018 will qualify for the contest.
- Be sure to tag your legislators and thank them publically on social media for their visit!

### Why a site visit?

- Hosting a site visit to one of your programs is one of the most effective ways to develop or strengthen relationships with your legislators.
- Site visits help your elected representatives more clearly understand the work of your organization, including the services you provide and the population(s) you serve; provide the opportunity to establish a working relationship with your legislators; highlight your organization's successes and educate legislators about the challenges your organization faces in meeting your mission; and, allow you to demonstrate the contributions your organization makes to your community by showcasing the services you provide, the individuals you serve, and the people you employ.

When your legislator is called upon to show leadership on mental health and/or addiction issues, he/she will draw upon their knowledge and impressions gleaned during their visit with you!

## Relocation of Shattuck Hospital

Recently, the state announced that all state operated services currently provided at Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain will be relocated in 2021 to a new site near Boston Medical Center.

Additional information and ongoing updates can be found [here](#).

## MassHealth Continuity of Care

As you know, MassHealth's new Accountable Care Organization (ACO) and Managed Care Organization (MCO) contracts became effective on March 1st. The plans are intended to improve accountability and integration of care for MassHealth members. MassHealth has repeatedly emphasized its commitment to working with providers, plans, and other stakeholders to ensure continuity of care for the many members who are moving to new plans.

MassHealth has issued a Continuity of Care—Supporting Member Transitions to New MassHealth Plan Options document “to explain how MassHealth is working with ACOs, MCOs, and providers to ease this transition to new plans. Please review this important document and follow the instructions within, as applicable.” The landing page is here: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/continuity-of-care>.

As always, ABH will keep you apprised of new information as it becomes available. We have posted this document along with many other resources relating to MassHealth Systems Transformation on the Members Only section of our website (login required, easy setup/reset): <https://www.abhmass.org/member/masshealth-systems-transformation.html>. In addition, we will be hosting Ask ABH conference calls about MassHealth Systems Transformation (Payment and Care Delivery Innovation) every Monday through April from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Please call 800-867-0549 and use access code 6478315 to participate.

## ABH Association Meeting

**"Office Hours" with EOHHS Assistant Secretary Dan Tsai  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.**

Please join ABH as we host EOHHS Assistant Secretary for MassHealth, Daniel Tsai, and members of his leadership team for "Office Hours" to discuss the implementation of MassHealth's Accountable Care initiative which "goes live" on March 1. Assistant Secretary Tsai has requested the opportunity to meet with ABH members to hear initial feedback from behavioral health providers after the March 1 implementation date. This event is a great opportunity to share your organization's experiences as a MassHealth provider with MassHealth leadership. The event will commence with very brief opening remarks from Assistant Secretary Tsai who will then open the program up to questions and comments from ABH members.

*Registration is limited to three staff per ABH member organization given anticipated interest in this event.*

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

Cost: **This event is free**

**[Register Now!](#)**

Questions regarding registration: **Contact Ellen Caliendo at [ecaliendo@ABHmass.org](mailto:ecaliendo@ABHmass.org) or at 508-380-9887.**

## ABH STAFF

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## Say Thanks

ABH's top legislative priority, House Bill 2193 and Senate Bill 582, would limit the ability of insurance companies to clawback payments for mental health and addiction services from providers. It would require MassHealth to reconcile retroactive eligibility issues between MassHealth MCOs without involving the provider.

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Financial Services released the legislation at the end of January with a favorable report. This is a vital step in the Legislative process. We will continue to advocate for the bill to become law and will keep you updated as the process moves forward. Find out more about the legislative process [here](#).

Thank you for your advocacy on this issue! We would also like to ask you help us say thank you to our legislative champions!

**Click [here](#) to say a quick thank you!**

We would especially like to thank both the lead sponsors of the legislation, Senator Michael Rodrigues and Representative James O'Day, and the committee chairs, Chairman Jamie Eldridge and Chairman Aaron Michlewitz for their unwavering support of this bill.

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

## ABH FY 2017 Annual Report

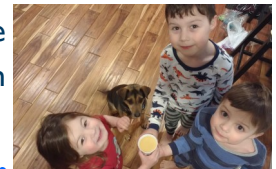
ABH is pleased to present to you the FY 2017 Annual Report for the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. and the Association for Behavioral Healthcare Foundation, Inc. The report is available on ABH's website at: <https://www.abhmass.org/publications-reports/annual-reports/2086-abh-fy-2017-annual-report.html>.

We hope you will take a few minutes to review the report and reflect on the many accomplishments we achieved working together in FY 17. We are grateful for your

## Keeper's Korner

Keeper rang in her eighth birthday\* (approximated) with some doggie ice cream and a new bone. She made sure to leave enough time to get some reading done:

- [Ten ERs In Colorado Tried To Curtail Opioids And Did Better Than Expected.](#) *Kaiser Health News.*
- [A Look At The Narrow Point Of Intersection Between Mental Health And Gun Violence.](#) *NPR.*
- [FDA to Broaden Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction.](#) *CNN.*



Ice cream and pajamas. Is there anything better?