



ABH June Committee Meetings

Wednesday, June 1
E-Health, 10 a.m. (Hampton Inn)

Friday, June 3
Children's Services CEO, 10 a.m. (Hampton Inn, Natick)

Friday, June 10
CBHI, 10 a.m. (Hampton Inn, Natick)
Corporate Compliance, 10 a.m.

Monday, June 13
Billing, 10 a.m. (Hampton Inn)

Thursday, June 14
CBFS, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 15
Outpatient, 10 a.m. (Hampton Inn, Natick)

Friday, June 17
DAE/SOA, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 21
OTP, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 23
DSM-5/ICD-10, 10 a.m. (Hampton Inn, Natick)

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

Budget Help Needed!

Take Action **TODAY** to support addiction funding in the Senate Budget!

Please call your Senator today and urge them to talk to Chairwoman Spilka in support of the **Substance Abuse Services Trust Fund (1595-4510)**!

The House version of the budget does not include enough funding to cover all existing addiction services. We are asking the Senate to fund the Substance Abuse Services Trust Fund (1595-4510) at \$5 million to preserve these services.

Click [here](#) to enter your zip code and get your State Senator's contact information.

Failure to fund the trust fund puts the following programs in jeopardy; recovery coaches in the emergency department, Opioid Urgent Care Centers, improvements to the BSAS Helpline, Recovery Centers, and peer to peer and parent support network funding.

The Senate Ways and Means budget will be released next week so take action now.

Please contact Mandy Gilman at agilman@abhmass.org if you have any questions or feedback from your Senator.

Editorial in Support of Outpatient Services

Click [here](#) for a link to an editorial that recently appeared in the *New Bedford Standard Times* regarding the crisis in access to outpatient services: ABH staff and members met with the paper's Editorial Board last week to highlight our concerns about the challenges providers face in maintaining access to vital outpatient services. We have a series of similar meetings scheduled with other newspapers across the state in the coming weeks.

Free Art

It's not often that folks try and give you amazing stuff for free. But, sometimes, things that seem too good to be true actually are true. The Foundation for Art provides free art to hospitals in the hopes of helping facilitate to a healing environment. Over the past three years, Lahey Health Behavioral Services has received 59 murals to hang in their clinics and other sites. Over the past year alone, they have received 32 pieces of art. Pretty amazing, right?



Intrigued? Want to learn more? Visit their website: <http://www.hospitalart.org/index.php/art-for-your-facility.html>.

RFR Roundup

The Department of Public Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (DPH/BSAS) just posted an RFR seeking proposals from qualified treatment providers to provide residential alcohol, opioid, and other drug (AOD) treatment services for adolescents ages 13-17 years.



The Bureau plans to award approximately one contract for a 15 bed facility located in the Western Region of the Commonwealth to ensure comprehensive AOD Residential Treatment Services for youth enrolled from communities across Massachusetts. Residential services under this procurement will be gender specific and will be tailored toward male /male gender identified clients. You can access the RFR [here](#).

The deadline for submission of forms is June 9, 2016 and the anticipated contract start date is August 1, 2016.

Association for Behavioral Healthcare opposes referendum to legalize marijuana

At its April Board Meeting, the ABH Board of Directors voted to oppose the proposed ballot referendum question that would legalize marijuana in Massachusetts. Below is the official statement from ABH announcing our opposition to the ballot question:

The Board of Directors of the Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), a statewide association of organizations providing mental health and addiction treatment, has voted to oppose the ballot referendum question that would legalize marijuana in Massachusetts.

In addition to opposing the ballot measure, ABH's Board urges public officials to address addiction as a public health concern by expanding access to treatment as an alternative to prosecution and incarceration. Additionally, ABH urges public officials to continue to review the efficacy of drug laws which disproportionately impact communities of color and individuals from lower socio-economic groups.

ABH represents more than eighty community-based mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations across Massachusetts. Our members are the primary providers of publicly-funded behavioral healthcare services in the Commonwealth, serving approximately 81,000 Massachusetts residents daily, 1.5 million annually, and employing over 46,500 people.

New Website

ABH has
launched a **NEW**
WEBSITE!

www.ABHmass.org



P.S. – Don't forget
about the
Members-Only
portal

Contact Kristen
Archibald if you
have any
questions

(karchibald@abhmass.org or 508
.647.8385 x14)

Hill Day 2016

We hope you will consider joining your colleagues from across the state and the nation at Hill Day 2016.

What is Hill Day?

Hill Day is your opportunity to make sure the voices of mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations are heard in the halls of Congress in Washington, DC.

Monday, June 6th, starts bright and early with the **Public Policy Institute** where presentations and breakout sessions will help you prepare for your Hill visits, give you important background information on our policy requests, and give you the opportunity to meet and network with other attendees from Massachusetts.

Tuesday, June 7th is filled with **legislator meetings on Capitol Hill**. No need to worry about setting up meetings as ABH schedules visits with the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation on behalf of our members. We will visit Congressional offices in groups with ABH staff and other Hill Day veterans to discuss the importance of funding and support for mental health and addiction treatment programming.

ABH will supply meeting details before we visit each Congressional office. Your voice is vital to support legislation like the Behavioral Health IT Act, Mental Health First Aid and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.

How much does it cost?

Registration is free. The National Council will provide breakfast and lunch on June 6th and ABH hosts a dinner reception for our members that evening. You and your organization will be responsible for your hotel costs, transportation, and other meals while you are in DC.

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

Questions? Contact Mandy Gilman at ABH at agilman@abhmass.org or [508-647-8385 x16](tel:508-647-8385)

Register Today by clicking [HERE](#).



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Support Expanded Access to Addiction Treatment

S. 1502, sponsored by Senator Keenan, expands that access further by requiring both public and private insurance carriers to cover an additional 14 days of treatment (for a total of 28 days).

This includes the Transitional Support Services (TSS) level of care without prior authorization if the treating clinician deems the services are medically necessary.

Like *Chapter 258* before it, this legislation is not a mandate that all addiction treatment clients receive twenty eight days of community-based inpatient care; instead it gives individuals, their families and their treating provider the option if appropriate to serve individuals in a clinically-appropriate, Department of Public Health (DPH) licensed facility for up to 28 days.

For more information on this bill, contact Mandy Gilman at agilman@abhmass.org.

Federal Actions on Opioid Epidemic

President Obama and HHS recently announced a series of initiatives to address the nation's ongoing opioid epidemic (a National Council summary of the new initiatives is available [here](#)).

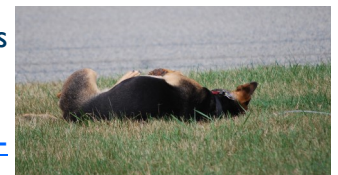
The proposal includes new SAMHSA rules that would double the number of patients that prescribers can provide with buprenorphine, from 100 to 200. The President's proposal made clear that lifting the caps was contingent upon prescribers offering additional treatment services and therapies in conjunction with medication-assisted treatment. HHS is currently accepting comments until May 31, 2016 on this new rule (see the new rule [here](#)).

SAMHSA also released a new pocket guide on medication-assisted treatment that may be of use to members. It is available for download [here](#).

Keeper's Korner

Keeper is battling her seasonal allergies, but she still manages to get some reading done in between sneezes:

- [A Dearth Of Hospital Beds For Patients In Psychiatric Crisis](#). *Kaiser Health News*.
- [For Police, a Playbook for Conflicts Involving Mental Illness](#). *The New York Times*.
- [Obama Announces New Moves to Fight Opioid and Heroin Abuse Epidemic](#). *CNN*
- [U.S. Suicide Rate Surges to a 30-Year High](#). *New York Times*.
- [Opioid-affected Families are Learning to Cope](#). *The Boston Globe*.
- [As Opioid Epidemic Worsens, Rethinking how Doctors are Taught to Treat Pain](#). *PBS News Hour*.



Rolling in the pollen.