



ABH June Committee Meetings

Friday, June 2
Children's Services CEO,
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 6
ATS, 10:00 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, June 7
e-Health, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, June 8
SOAP, 10:00 a.m.

Friday, June 9
CBHI, 10:00 a.m.
Corporate Compliance,
10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 12
Billing, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 14
Outpatient, 10:00 a.m.

Friday, June 16
DAE/SOA, 12:00 p.m. (ABH)

Tuesday, June 20
OTP, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

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

House FY 2018 Budget

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed its FY 2018 budget at the end of April, approving over \$40 billion in spending for FY 18.

Provisions included in the budget that are of interest to ABH members include:

- \$773,574,670 in funding for the Department of Mental Health (DMH). This represents an approximately \$6.5 million increase about projected FY17 spending.
- \$146,219,060 in funding for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS). This is almost \$6 million above projected FY17 spending and includes new funding for a number of ABH's budget priorities. The final House budget also included language mandating that "programs in substantial regulatory and contractual compliance" be funded at least FY 2017 levels.
- Legislative language to formally rename BSAS the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.
- \$39.7 million for the Chapter 257 rate reserve
- Language allowing the Baker Administration to impose a per employee assessment on employers to help fund MassHealth.
- The provider rate caps, moratoriums on mandated benefits, and the elimination of facility fees proposed by Governor Baker were not included in the HWM proposal.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee is expected to propose its budget this month.

Parity Toolkit

Health Law Advocates recently produced a new Mental Health Parity Law [toolkit](#) designed for consumers, providers, advocates and family members. Included in the toolkit is an overview of the parity laws and steps to take if an insurer denies coverage, an appeal template and other helpful resources.

MassHealth Human Services Transportation Survey

ABH continues to hear from our members that problems exist with the MassHealth Non-Emergency Transportation System. We are working with other consumer and provider advocacy groups to advocate for a more effective feedback loop for providers to report problems that exist with the system.

In the meantime, the EOHHS Transportation Office is conducting a survey of MassHealth members with regard to transportation. They are in the beginning stages of a procurement and would like to utilize the feedback from the surveys to adjust their new contracts with the RTAs and other vendors.

The survey is available here: <http://tiny.cc/HSTSurvey> and is open until **June 1, 2017**.

We would appreciate it if you were able to share the survey with any MassHealth members who use MassHealth transportation in order to gather feedback.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mandy Gilman at AGilman@ABHmass.org or at 508-647-8385, x. 16.

ABH Staffing Update

It is ABH's pleasure to announce that Megan Thompson has joined ABH as our new Director of Children's Behavioral Health and Member Services. Megan succeeds Kristen Archibald who left ABH earlier this year to join her husband in Europe where he is posted with the United States Air Force. Megan's primary responsibilities will include working on children's issues and coordinating membership services, including member events such as ABH's Annual Meeting and Salute to Excellence.

Megan, who has a MA in Health Communications from Emerson College, served as Communications Manager for the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network prior to joining ABH. Megan also served as a Senior Account Executive at Slowey/McManus Communications for five years from 2010 – 2015.

We are very excited to have Megan join us as part of our team at ABH. As part of her orientation in the coming weeks and months, Megan will be visiting with ABH members and external stakeholders to introduce herself to you. Megan can be reached by telephone at 508-647-8385, x-14 or by email at mthompson@abhmass.org.

Event: Moving Beyond Stigma

Moving Beyond Stigma is a day-long forum hosted by William James College (ABH is a co-sponsor)

Tuesday, May 23, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Back Bay Events Center in Boston

This event is free of charge! If you are seeking CEUs, there is a \$100 fee.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

The forum will cover institutional, public and personal stigma, elucidate the factors that influence negative perceptions of mental and substance use disorders, highlight the impact of stigma, and explore strategies for change. Panel discussions will include: community leaders sharing their personal journeys of stigma; first-responders; and business leaders. The forum will provide ample time for networking and interacting with individuals from various agencies and businesses that address stigma.

TAKE ACTION!

Recently, an amendment to the American Health Care Act was released, providing a concrete sign that Congress is again working on legislation that would gut federal investment in Medicaid and devastate Americans' mental health and addiction coverage and care.

Please take 2 minutes today and urge your legislators to oppose the revised American Health Care Act.

Click [HERE](#) to get started!

While we are fortunate that the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation has opposed any changes to the ACA, it is important that they continue to hear from all of us as to the importance of preserving access to mental health and addiction treatment services in Massachusetts.

ABH Annual Meeting

May 9, 2017

12:00-2:00 p.m.

With Linda Rosenberg, President & CEO
National Council for Behavioral Health

Please join ABH for our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 9th from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Linda Rosenberg, MSW, President & CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health will be our Guest Speaker. Linda is a preeminent leader nationally in the field of behavioral healthcare. Under her dynamic leadership, The National Council has grown to over 2,500 members across the United States and has become a driving force in Washington, DC on public policy issues impacting individuals living with mental health and addiction disorders.

Linda will brief ABH members on the latest developments in Congress relating to the financing of behavioral healthcare. This will include Medicaid, Medicare and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Linda will also discuss other national trends around the delivery of community-based behavioral healthcare.

This event is for ABH members only.

Where: Beechwood Hotel (363 Plantation St, Worcester, MA 01605)

Target Audience: CEOs, Senior Staff, & Managers

Fee: \$50 per person or \$375 per table of eight. Includes Lunch.

Registration Questions: Contact Ellen Caliendo at ecaliendo@abhmass.org or at 508-380-9887

Register Now!

Ready Pay Update

Representatives of ADDP, ABH, and Providers Council met recently with EOHHS, DDS, and DMH in regards to the recent EOHHS announcement stating it planned to end the Ready Pay practice for providers holding contracts with DDS, DMH, and MCB. We are happy to report the meeting was very productive.

After listening to concerns raised by provider representatives, EOHHS assured us that no change away from current payment practice is imminent. ADDP, ABH, and the Providers Council and EOHHS committed to working together to research options to move forward in a way that meets the needs of providers and the Commonwealth. As a result, the implementation date for any changes to Ready Pay is under reconsideration and will not begin September 1, 2017 as stated in original EOHHS notice.

ABH STAFF

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Grants Galore

The Department of Mental Health recently posted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to select one or more community partners to apply for a SAMHSA Integrated Health grant. DMH is interested in seeking the grant to support innovation in integrated care for children and youth. The NOI can be found at the following link: <https://www.commbuys.com/bs0/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-17-1022-DMH08-8210B-15388&external=true&parentUrl=bid>.

In addition, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has announced a SAMHSA-HRSA Collaborative grant program focused on behavioral health workforce education and training. For more information, click [here](#). Grant applications are due June 12.

Free DMH-Funded Training: From Cells to City Streets—The Clinical Impact of Doing Time

Monday, May 8, 2017

Two sessions: 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. OR 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

UMMS South Street Campus (Amphitheater), 333 South Street, Shrewsbury, MA

Presenter: *Merrill Rotter, M.D., the Director of the Division of Law and Psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Senior Forensic Advisor to the Commissioner, New York State Office of Mental Health, and Medical Director of the EAC-NYC TASC Mental Health Diversion Programs.*

Description of Training: Patients with criminal justice histories may act in ways that reflect the enduring effects of incarceration rather than symptoms of mental illness or personality disorder. Among the most important of these effects are that they present challenges to engagement. Staff can benefit by understanding the “cultural” underpinnings of such behavior in order to engage more effectively.

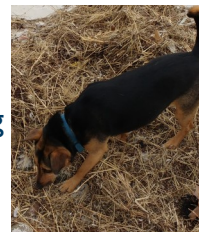
Registration: Please contact Dianne Williams at Dianne.Williams@umassmed.edu

Continuing Education Information: Applications for MaMHCA/MMCEP and NASW continuing education credits have been submitted. Please contact us ([508-856-8709](tel:508-856-8709)) for the status of LMHC and Social Worker CE certification.

Keeper's Korner

Keeper took an off-season visit to the beach recently, and brought along some serious beach reading:

- [Can Algorithms help Kick Addiction?](#) *CNN*
- [What Doesn't Kill You Can Maim: Unexpected Injuries From Opioids.](#) *Kaiser Health News/WBUR*
- [AG Warns of Addiction Treatment Scams.](#) *Worcester Business Journal*
- [Overcoming Opioids: The Quest for Less Addictive Drugs.](#) *The Associated Press*



Keeper sniffs some seaweed.