



## ABH November Committee Meetings

Monday, November 5  
**Billing**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, November 6  
**CSS/TSS**, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, November 7  
**eHealth**, 10 a.m.

Friday, November 9  
**Children's Services**, 10 a.m.  
**Corporate Compliance**,  
10 a.m.

Tuesday, November 13  
**ACCS**, 2:30 p.m. (Beechwood  
Hotel)

Wednesday, November 14  
**Quality and Outcomes**,  
10 a.m.

Thursday, November 15  
**Human Resources**, 10 a.m.

Friday, November 16  
**DAE/SOA**, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, November 21  
**BHCP Executive Cttee**,  
10 a.m.

Friday, November 30  
**PDT/PH**, 10 a.m. (ABH)

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

**ABH's  
Salute to  
Excellence!**

Recognizing leadership in community-based  
behavioral healthcare

*DREAM...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE*

Please join us in celebrating the outstanding contributions and accomplishments of community-based behavioral healthcare providers from across the Commonwealth at our Annual Salute to Excellence.

**Friday, October 19 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**(Check-In, Breakfast, and Exhibitor Fair begin at 8:00 a.m., program begins at 9:00 a.m.)**

**Boston Marriott Newton**

**Keynote:**

**Gary Mendell, Founder and CEO of Shatterproof**  
**See Page 2 for this year's Award Winners!!**

**REGISTER TODAY**

Questions? Contact Megan Thompson at [MThompson@ABHmass.org](mailto:MThompson@ABHmass.org).

# Congratulations to ABH's 2018 Salute to Excellence Award Winners!

Carl B. Cutchins Award for Children's Behavioral Health

**Tyrone J. Williams, M.D.**

Riverside Community Care, Inc.

Francis O'Brien Award for Addiction Services

**Jennifer Michaels, M.D.**

The Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Elizabeth Funk Emerging Leader Award

**Bethany Connolly**

YOU, Inc.

Special Recognition Award

**Anne Pelletier Parker**

Advocates, Inc.

Excellence in Administration & Finance

**Marta B. Reese**

Bay State Community Services, Inc.

**Catherine Pietrzak**

Lahey Health Behavioral Services

Excellence in Best Practices

**Faith Frazier**

BAMSI

**Felicia Heywood**

The Home for Little Wanderers

Excellence in Outcomes

**Ariane Krumholz**

Clinical and Support Options, Inc

Excellence in Program Leadership

**Heather Ness**

Vinfen

We hope you will join us on Friday, October 19th at the Boston Marriott Newton to recognize these deserving individuals. Click [here](#) to register.

Sponsor ABH's  
Salute to  
Excellence!

Serving as a  
sponsor for the  
Salute to  
Excellence is a  
great way to  
increase your  
company's visibility  
and recognition.

Sponsorship  
conveys your  
commitment to  
the field of  
behavioral  
healthcare. Your  
generous support  
also helps keep  
registration fees  
low for attendees.

Remaining  
sponsorship  
opportunities are  
listed [here](#).

## Changes to EEC's Background Checks

As a result of changes to the federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) will institute new background check requirements on October 1, 2018. These changes will be phased in for the next two years.

The EEC has developed a guide to help EEC-licensed programs. This guide can be found [here](#).

Included in the guide are the following:

- [Upcoming Changes to EECs Background Record Check Requirements](#)
- [October 1 FAQ for Program Administrators and Reviewers](#)
- [Background Record Check Regulations as of October 1, 2018](#)
- [Table of Background Record Check Requirements Changing on October 1 and Affected Parties](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Thompson at [MThompson@ABHmass.org](mailto:MThompson@ABHmass.org). You can also direct questions to the Department of Early Education and Care at [EECBRCupdates@mass.gov](mailto:EECBRCupdates@mass.gov).

## ABH Opposes Question 1

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) opposes Question 1, the state ballot referendum that proposes to establish mandated nurse staffing ratios in acute care hospitals, including psychiatric facilities.

The ABH Board voted to take this position because ABH opposes the blunt use of statewide referendum questions to impose staffing decisions on healthcare providers. Staffing decisions in health care facilities must be determined by each individual organization based on the unique needs of their patients and in accordance with the strong state licensure requirements already in place for different health care settings. Question 1 takes staffing decisions out of the hands of those who are best qualified to determine staffing levels in hospitals while establishing a dangerous precedent by which decisions about staffing and patient safety are determined by voters at the ballot box.

Additionally, ABH opposes Question 1 because of the impact it will have on the ability of ABH members to recruit and retain nursing staff for the many behavioral health services our members provide in community settings. ABH members already struggle to compete with better-resourced acute care hospitals in a challenging labor market for nurses. We believe that passage of Question 1 will only exacerbate this dynamic as hospitals will be forced to take whatever steps necessary to comply with the staffing levels mandated by the ballot question. Increased competition from hospitals in hiring nurses will make it significantly more difficult for our members to provide quality services in community settings while ensuring the safety of clients and staff.

## ABH STAFF

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## ABH Personnel Update

We are very happy to inform you that Connie Peters, our friend and colleague and ABH's Vice President for Addiction Services, underwent kidney transplant surgery in September after being on a transplant wait list for many years. The doctors were very pleased with the surgery and Connie is now recovering at home. We have spoken with Connie and she is doing well.

Should you want to send Connie a card during her leave, please send it to her attention c/o ABH, 251 West Central Street, Suite 21, Natick, MA 01760.

## New Addiction Treatment Law

An act for prevention and access to appropriate care and treatment of addiction, *Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2018*, was signed into law by Governor Baker in early August. Nicknamed the CARE Act, the new law expands access to medication assisted treatment in jails, prisons and emergency departments. It also makes changes to prescribing practices and expands access to Narcan.

Click [here](#) for a summary of the law for your use. ABH looks forward to working with the Administration and other stakeholders on implementation of this new law. Please feel free to contact Mandy Gilman at [AGilman@ABHmass.org](mailto:AGilman@ABHmass.org) if you have any comments or questions.

## Extreme Risk Guide Available

Governor Baker recently signed [Chapter 123 of the Acts of 2018](#) into law which allows a family member or a member of a household to file a petition for an "extreme risk protective order" if they feel that an individual who holds a license to carry firearms or a firearms identification card "poses a risk of bodily harm to themselves or others." If the order is granted, the individual would be required to surrender their license, or Firearms ID card as well as any firearms they possess.

In addition, under the new law, the Department of Mental Health is required to compile a resource guide of mental health and addiction services. The guide will be updated continuously and contains "crisis intervention, mental health, substance misuse, counseling services, interpreter services, civil commitment guidance, and other relevant services." This resource guide will be provided by the Trial Court to any individual who files such a petition or against whom a protective order is issued. The guide is available at: [www.mass.gov/handbook/extreme-risk-guide](http://www.mass.gov/handbook/extreme-risk-guide).

## Keeper's Korner

Keeper is enjoying the fall weather with some good reading material:

- [In Rare Bipartisan Accord, House and Senate Reach Compromise on Opioid Bill](#). *New York Times*.
- [VA Adding Opioid Antidote To Defibrillator Cabinets For Quicker Overdose Response](#). *NPR*.

