



ABH May Committee Meetings

Monday, May 10
Billing, 10 a.m.

Friday, May 14
Children's Services,
10 a.m.
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 18
OTP, 9:30 a.m.
ACCS, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19
Quality & Outcomes,
10 a.m.
eHealth, 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 20
BH CP Exec., 10 a.m.
RSS/TSS, 10 a.m.

Friday, May 21
MIDP/SOA, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 25
PWUP, 12 p.m.

Friday, May 28
CBHI, 10 a.m.

RFP Released for the 2021 Cycle 3 MassHealth Provider Access Improvement Grant Program (PAIGP)

The MassHealth Provider Access Improvement Grant Program ([PAIGP](#)) has announced the release of its Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2021 grant cycle. All currently-enrolled MassHealth Fee-for-Service providers, dentists, and other healthcare providers who work in a setting that is not a hospital or owned by a hospital or hospital system can apply at [PAIGP.org](#).

PAIGP aims to help eligible MassHealth providers increase access to healthcare and improve outcomes for patients with disabilities or for whom English is not a primary language, through the purchase of medical diagnostic equipment, communication devices, and other resources. PAIGP will award grants of up to \$75,000, totaling over \$2 million for this grant cycle ending September 2021.

Proposals are due no later than Wednesday, April 14, 2021. All proposals must be submitted online. PAIGP offered an Informational Webinar on March 17th to support the application process. You can access that webinar recording [here](#). Visit [PAIGP.org](#) to sign up for email updates and webinars and to APPLY!

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) oversees PAIGP, which is funded via [MassHealth's Section 1115 Demonstration](#). Health Resources in Action (HRiA) is the managing vendor for the Grant Program.

Primer on the Dual Eligible Population in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute (MMPI) and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation have released a new primer on the dual eligible population in Massachusetts. One in five MassHealth enrollees is eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare. The primer includes a detailed issue brief, "an in-depth comparative assessment of the integrated care programs available to dual eligible members," a data chart pack and a set of profiles of dual eligible members.

Click [here](#) for the primer.

Join Us for NatCon21

We are proud advocates and members of the National Council for Behavioral Health, and we would like to invite you to join us at NatCon21 live from May 3-5 and on-demand for the remainder of the month. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we can expect the unexpected. With this in mind – and with attendee health and safety a top priority – National Council has decided to bring the [NatCon experience](#) to you virtually this year. By bringing [NatCon21](#) to your digital doorstep, it will be easier than ever to attend the biggest event in mental health and addiction care! Everything you need will be just a few clicks away.

As a NatCon21 attendee, you will get to:

- *Learn at your own pace* – take advantage of our live and on-demand [sessions](#).
- *Challenge your thinking* – hear from hundreds of [leaders](#) in health care and beyond.
- *Raise your voice* – contribute to timely discussions on topics that matter to you.
- *Invest in yourself* – earn [CEs and CMEs](#) from the comfort of your couch.
- *Maximize your impact* – discover new tools in our virtual [Solutions Pavilion](#).
- *Expand your network* – [connect](#) with 6,000+ health care colleagues online.

Register Today!

- To register, please visit their online registration website [here](#).
- This year, due to the pandemic and the virtual nature of the conference, registration rates have been discounted 30% from traditional NatCon pricing. You will not need to enter a code to receive this automatic discount!
- Prior to registering, reference National Council's membership map page, which can be found by selecting your state [online here](#). Your organization name as listed on the MA membership page is how you should search for your organization during the registration process. This will ensure that you will get the membership rate and the 30% discount.

Registering 3 or more attendees? Receive a \$50 discount on your third and subsequent registrations! This year the group registration site will allow one of your team members to register all your organization's attendees and check out with one combined invoice.

To access the group registration:

- Select the blue "Register a Group" button on the [attendee registration site](#).
- Enter your information as the main contact for the group, and begin to register your attendees
- Once you have registered two individuals at the full conference rate, a \$50 discounted full conference rate will appear for your subsequent attendees. You will need to select the discounted rate as you continue to register your third and additional attendees.

If you have any questions about registration, please email Conference@TheNationalCouncil.org for assistance.

Are you receiving our emails?

We know that emails sometimes end up getting bounced back or filtered into spam folders. If it seems like you have not been receiving emails from ABH or think you might have dropped off our email lists, contact Meg Socha at msocha@ABHmass.org and she will make sure that you are on our mailing list!



ABH COVID-19 Landing Page

ABH has created a COVID-19 resource page where we are collecting the guidance most relevant to ABH members:

<https://www.abhmass.org/newsroom/announcements/guidance-on-covid-19.html>

BSAS RFR Posting for Family Supportive Housing (MCAS FY21 Funding Request)

The Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) is seeking proposals from qualified and experienced substance use providers to provide family supportive housing services to families in early recovery. The targeted service population for this service is pregnant and parenting women and men in recovery from substance use disorders, with their children. Eligible clients must demonstrate capacity and commitment to actively engage and fully benefit from recovery-based supportive housing services by having at least 3-6 months of recovery time at point of admission.

BSAS intends to fund approximately six programs. This procurement is jointly funded utilizing available state and federal funding including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response Grant funding (SOR) and all associated priorities, limitations and requirements apply to sub-awardees of the grant. Family Supportive Housing Program includes funding for both the cost of housing as well the delivery of supportive services.

Interested providers can access the RFR [here](#). This document and other additional information regarding this procurement is available on the COMMBuys website [here](#).

Substance Abuse Block Grant RFI

BSAS has released an RFI seeking recommendations on how to use recently released COVID emergency relief funds in order to improve the Commonwealth's SUD prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support services systems in the context of COVID-19. Comments are due April 16. The RFI can be found [here](#).

Section 35 RFR

BSAS has released an RFR for substance use treatment for civilly committed clients. This procurement is only open to vendors that held a BSAS Substance Use Treatment for Civilly Committed Clients contract in FY21. The vendor will only be allowed to continue the programming that is already contracted in FY21. The RFR is due April 16 and can be found [here](#).

BSAS RFR for Collaborative and Transitional Models (CTM)

The Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) is seeking applications from vendors to implement service delivery models that offer low barrier access to evidence-based treatment, including FDA-approved medications, for individuals with opioid use disorders (OUD) and/or stimulant use disorders. The RFR is due May 4, 2021 and can be found [here](#).

ABH STAFF

Lydia Conley

President/CEO

lconley@abhmass.org

Constance Peters

Vice President for
Addiction Services

cpeters@abhmass.org

Carmel Craig

Vice President for Youth and
Adult Mental Health Services

ccraig@abhmass.org

Megan Thompson

Director of Payment & Care
Delivery Innovations

mthompson@abhmass.org

Abigail Kim

Director of Public Policy &
Strategic Initiatives

akim@abhmass.org

Megan Socha

Member Engagement and
Event Coordinator

msocha@abhmass.org

Ellen Caliendo

Business Manager
508.380.9887

ecaliendo@abhmass.org

Updated MassHealth Telehealth Policy

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has issued MassHealth [All Provider Bulletin 314 - Updated MassHealth Telehealth Policy](#). This bulletin, which supersedes All Provider Bulletin 303 as of March 31, 2021, maintains the telehealth policy set forth in All Provider Bulletin 303 and extends that policy 90 days beyond the final date of the Massachusetts Public Health Emergency. The final date of the public health emergency has not been determined.

The MassHealth telehealth policy will help ensure members retain access to covered services, promote social distancing, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 both before and after the expiration of that state of emergency, enabling members to remain in their homes to reduce exposure and transmission, to the extent possible, and to preserve health system capacity. Providers and members should choose the most appropriate mode of service delivery (in-person or via telehealth) considering relevant clinical, social, epidemiological, or other factors.

Intensive Certificate Program in Family Systems Therapy - Free Scholarship Opportunities

The Child, Youth and Family Division (CYF) of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and MassHealth, along with the CBH Knowledge Center have announced the opportunity for any provider who serves families through CYF DMH or through the CBHI In-Home Therapy (IHT) service to apply for a scholarship slot in the Intensive Certificate Program in Family Systems Therapy provided by Therapy Training Boston. This course supports beginning and intermediate level clinicians to become more skilled, self-aware and confident family-centered clinicians and supervisors. It teaches family systems ideas and practices, addressing complex family and individual needs through approaches that are practical, empowering and collaborative for both families and providers.

The course provides 81 hours of training from July 2021 to June 2022, scheduled approximately once a month for a full day and includes a three-day retreat that spans three consecutive weekdays in October. At this point, classes and retreat are all scheduled to be online. There are 28 total slots available for this course – 14 for DMH and 14 for CBHI IHT. In order to enhance organizational capacity in this competency, DMH and MassHealth encourage two clinicians to attend from an agency; one of the trainees from each agency must be a supervisor. More information can be found [here](#).

Interesting Reads

- [Latinos grapple with opioid overdose rise as pandemic triggers surge in U.S. use.](#) NBC News.
- [Mass. Psychiatrists Concerned About Increase In Suicidal Thoughts, Attempts Among Adolescents.](#) WBUR CommonHealth.
- [Report: Mass. Health Care Costs Rose 4.3% In 2019.](#) WBUR CommonHealth.