



## ABH January Committee Meetings

Tuesday, January 7  
**CSS/TSS**, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Thursday, January 9  
**Residential**, 10 a.m.  
**eHealth**, 10 a.m.

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

Monday, January 13  
**Billing**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 14  
**ACCS**, 2:30 p.m. (Beechwood Hotel)

Wednesday, January 15  
**Quality & Outcomes**, 10 a.m.  
**BHCP Executive**, 10 a.m.

Thursday, January 16  
**Human Resources**, 10 a.m.

Friday, January 17  
**DAE/SOA**, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Thursday, January 21  
**OTP**, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

Friday, January 24  
**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 Telehealth Training

On Tuesday, November 19, ABH, in collaboration with the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and the Delta Center for a Thriving Safety Net, hosted *Implementing Telehealth: Opportunities, Key Considerations and Best Practices for Behavioral Health*.

As the healthcare system moves towards integration of physical and behavioral healthcare, telehealth poses a great opportunity for behavioral health providers to deliver high quality services to their clients when, where, and how they need them. ABH's training featured Dr. Manuel Castro, Medical Director, Behavioral Health Service Line at Atrium Health and Jennifer Villafane, Director of Virtual Health at Atrium Health. Dr. Castro and Ms. Villafane described Atrium Health's journey in developing virtual care models for behavioral health services and lessons learned along the way around navigating state and federal regulations, licensure requirements and billing, and promoting utilization.

The training also included a discussion with Adam Stoler from MassHealth who provided the Massachusetts regulatory context for telehealth. We were then joined by a panel of payers who discussed their plans' approaches, policies, and requirements for telehealth services.

We hope that the training gave attendees some new tools and strategies to use as they explore implementing telehealth in your agency. As a reminder, meeting materials can be accessed [here](#).

If you attended, please take 5 minutes to complete [this brief survey](#). Please note: If you applied to receive CEUs, please be sure to respond to the survey as part of the CEU requirements. We will be emailing the CEU certificates in the coming weeks.



## eHana NatCon20 Scholarship for an ABH member

We are very excited to announce that ABH is again partnering with eHana to offer a competitive scholarship for one individual from an ABH member organization to attend NatCon20 in Austin, Texas, April 5-7, 2020. Details about the application process can be found [here](#).

After the success of the NatCon19 scholarship, eHana again plans to help an individual from an ABH member organization take advantage of the amazing community, continuing education opportunities, and invaluable networking that occur during the NatCon conference. eHana will sponsor conference registration fees and lodging at an adjacent hotel to the Conference Center for the individual selected to attend.

You may apply by submitting an essay (500 words or less) detailing how you and your organization would benefit from attending the conference and the topics you're looking forward to learn about. Application essays should be submitted to [scholarships@ehana.com](mailto:scholarships@ehana.com) by January 3, 2020 to be considered. The scholarship selection board will review the applications and will choose a recipient by January 15th, 2020. The winner will be announced on January 17th, 2020.

Please share this exciting opportunity with your colleagues. ABH is grateful to the team at eHana for partnering with us on this initiative.

## Save the Date! Medications for Opioid Use Disorder: Shifting the Paradigm: Creating a Balanced Correctional and Rehabilitative Approach

The SAMHSA-funded Opioid Response Network (ORN) is hosting a gathering of states and local municipalities interested in implementing Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) into their correctional facilities.

This free, 2.5-day meeting will highlight the Rhode Island Department of Corrections' model (one of the first to incorporate MAT system-wide), as well as other evidence-based delivery models from correction systems around the country.

The meeting will feature plenary sessions with leading behavioral health and corrections experts and workshops that focus on specific topics of interest, including: use of medication; models of delivery in correctional settings; diversion; and linkages to care and community support.

In addition to these learning opportunities, correctional department teams will have the opportunity to develop work plans for implementation back home.

The agenda is available [here](#).

**Dates:** Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020 through Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020

**Location:** Omni Providence Hotel • I W. Exchange St. • Providence, RI

**Questions?** Call Aaron Williams at 202 684-7462 or [aaronw@thenationalcouncil.org](mailto:aaronw@thenationalcouncil.org) OR Tonya Tavares at 401 863-6636 or [tonya\\_tavares@brown.edu](mailto:tonya_tavares@brown.edu).

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

**Fact Sheet: Final Rule to Update the Regulations Defining and Delimiting the Exemptions for Executive, Administrative, and Professional Employees**

The U.S. Department of Labor states “that the update to the standard salary level will maintain the traditional purposes of the salary level test and will help employers more readily identify exempt employees.”

Read more here: [https://www.dol.gov/w hd/overtime2019/overtime\\_FS.pdf](https://www.dol.gov/w hd/overtime2019/overtime_FS.pdf)

## Update:

### MassHealth Mental Health Center Annual Report

On August 6, 2019, MassHealth published Mental Health Center Bulletin 31: Mental Health Center Annual Report Submission Requirement. This bulletin reiterates the regulatory requirement that Mental Health Centers (Provider Type 26) submit an annual report no later than September 30 of each year.

MassHealth has incorporated provider feedback received subsequent to the publication of Bulletin 31, and has updated the Annual Report Form. The updated form can be found here: [Annual Report Form](#).

This updated form clarifies that clinics are not required to submit staff resumes/CVs. Providers are required to report educational and professional credentials for all staff via the Mental Health Center Staffing Pattern, and MassHealth may seek resumes/CVs if needed as follow up to the initial report submission. Providers must complete the [Staffing Pattern form](#) for each site. There are no updates to this form.

Additionally, where a provider has instituted uniform policies and procedures for all sites, the updated Annual Report Form now allows a provider to attest that their policies and procedures apply to all satellite sites. The clinical leadership at each site is expected to be familiar with these policies and procedures and be able to retrieve them readily for reviewers.

**If your agency has already submitted its FY19 report, no additional submission is required.**

Finally, as a reminder, MassHealth has informed ABH that annual report submissions will be accepted anytime up to December 31, 2019.

### EOHHS RFI

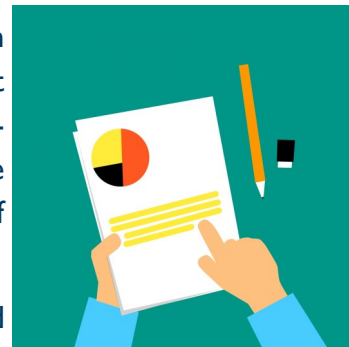
EOHHS and Secretary Sudders released a Request for Information (RFI) recently. They are seeking feedback from the behavioral health community on the EOHHS led project to establish a true system of ambulatory behavioral health treatment.

EOHHS has requested that organizations submit feedback to the RFI through the online survey function:

[https://umassmed.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8IXVSfwINFI7DSJ](https://umassmed.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8IXVSfwINFI7DSJ).

The RFI is due on or before December 20, 2019.

If you would like copy of the RFI in its entirety to help you prepare your response or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mandy Gilman at [AGilman@ABHmass.org](mailto:AGilman@ABHmass.org).



## ABH STAFF

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# Special Interest Groups

The National Council for Behavioral Health is launching an exciting new series of Special Interest Groups, which are designed to unite National Council members around areas of expressed interest throughout 2020.

The pilot phase is launching next month and will include the following groups: LGBTQ+, Children and Families, Older Adults, and Intellectual and Developmental Disorders, with the potential for more in the future.

How will these groups work? Each group will be facilitated by a National Council staff member and will offer knowledge-boosting opportunities, including:

- Regularly published content designed to educate and inspire.
- Webinars offering clinical or practice insights specific to each group.
- Check-ins with subject matter experts to further the conversation.
- A special networking opportunity at NatCon20 with your peers.
- A platform for sharing your thought leadership, insights and ideas.

This is more than just a National Council member benefit (All ABH members are members of the National Council). It's an opportunity to stay on top of – and inform – trends, best practices and what's working in the field. And it's a chance to connect with like-minded people.

Interested in participating? Get started by attending an orientation webinar for each group. Mark your calendars for these Special Interest Group webinars:

- [Older Adults](#) – December 9 (2:30-3:30 p.m. ET)
- [Intellectual and Developmental Disorders](#) – December 10 (2-3 p.m. ET)
- [LGBTQ+](#) – December 11 (1-2 p.m. ET)
- [Children and Families](#) – December 13 (1-2 p.m. ET)

If you cannot attend a webinar but are interested in participating in one or more Special Interest Groups, please let the National Council know and they will add you to the "interested" list.

## BSAS RFR

DPH/BSAS has posted an RFR seeking applications to establish or expand mobile addiction services providing low barrier, low threshold clinical care and harm reduction services to individuals who are at high risk for overdose and other medical complications associated with substance use. The RFR is available [here](#).

## Current Events Corner

- [Mass. Has The First Jail In The Country That's Also A Licensed Methadone Treatment Provider.](#) WBUR CommonHealth.
- [Opioid Overdose Deaths In Mass. Continue To Trend Down.](#) WBUR CommonHealth.

