



ABH January Committee Meetings

Monday, January 9
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 10
ACCS, 2:30 p.m.

Friday, January 13
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.
Children's Services,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 17
OTP, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 18
Quality & Outcomes,
10 a.m.

Thursday, January 19
RSS/TSS, 10 a.m.

Friday, January 20
MIDP DUIL SOA,
10 a.m.

Friday, January 27
CBHI, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 31
PDT PHP, 10 a.m.
DEI&J, 12 p.m.

To learn more about
ABH's Committees,
click [here](#).

Massachusetts Student Loan Repayment Program

MA REPAY, the Massachusetts Student Loan Repayment Program, opens for applications today, **Monday, December 5, 2022** and will close **Monday, January 30, 2023**. The program, which includes three separate loan repayment initiatives, is open to qualifying employees with a range of credentials, including but not limited to, psychiatrists, mental health counselors, primary care physicians, nurses, substance use recovery coaches and case managers who work in community settings, broadly defined as community health centers, community mental health centers, psychiatric units in acute care hospitals and inpatient psychiatric hospitals.

Applicants can go to MA-Repay.massleague.org to see if they qualify.

This is the state's largest ever health and human service employee student loan repayment program. Please see the below resources to be sure that your organization and its employees are aware of key dates, eligibility, and award details.

[MA Repay Key Dates](#)

[MA Repay Overview](#)

[MA Repay Jobs and Awards](#)

[MA Repay Eligible Organizations](#)

[MA Repay Program FAQs](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to MA-Repay@massleague.org.

EOHHS Residential Siting Policy Change

The EOHHS policy on residential siting has been revised effective November 28, 2022. Siting for new community programs will no longer require pre-approval from EOHHS. EOHHS continues to support and endorse the current guiding principles for the siting and development of EOHHS programs and encourages agencies and providers to consult with the guidance when seeking to develop new community-based programs.

Click here to read the new [EOHHS Guidelines for Agency Home Site Placement](#).



A NOTE TO LET YOU KNOW

WE'VE MOVED!

The new ABH office:
1661 Worcester Road, Suite 206
Framingham, MA 01701

We've Moved!

We are happy to inform you that we moved to our new office location on Monday, November 28th.

Our new address is:

Association for Behavioral Healthcare
1661 Worcester Road, Suite 206
Framingham, MA 01701

We are easy to find, right off the MassPike, next to the Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center. Please update your records with our new address!

ABH staff telephone numbers and ABH's main office number have **not** changed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any ABH staff person. Our staff directory is on our [website](#), and the direct link is [here](#).



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Senator Elect Robyn Kennedy for State Senate, Senator Elect Pavel Payano, Senator Elect Liz Miranda for State Senate, Senator Elect Paul Mark & Senator Elect Jake Oliveira for State Senate on your election to the Massachusetts State Senate! We look forward to working with you next session on mental health and addiction treatment policy and funding issues.

A recent Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation report "Creating a Robust, Diverse, & Resilient Behavioral Health Workforce" recommends the establishment of a Behavioral Health Workforce Center to improve the supply, distribution, competency, and diversity of the workforce.

Read more [here](#).

NatCon 23 Registration Open - ABH Discount Code Available

Registration for the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's annual conference, NatCon23, is now open! NatCon23 will take place from May 1-3, 2023 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles California. NatCon23 is the largest conference in mental health and substance use treatment. This conference features three days of leadership-building, organization-boosting, and learning from the best minds in health care. The NatCon23 overview page is [here](#).

ABH Member Discount

Verified ABH members can access a \$50 discount registering for NatCon23: **MAMember23**. With this additional \$50 discount, ABH members will be saving \$275 on their NatCon23 registration fees.

To apply the discount code, take the following the steps below:

1. Go to the NatCon23 Registration site.
2. Enter your email address associated with your National Council Membership and your Last Name. This will populate the member pricing for your NatCon23 registration.
3. On the Registration page, enter discount Code MAMember23 and hit apply. A message will display that will say "MAMember23 Code applied. A \$50 discount will be reflected at checkout."
4. Click Next to continue with your registration. Complete and pay for your registration, and you will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to secure housing within the NatCon23 discounted room blocks.

Registering before December 19th offers the most affordable attendance option. The registration landing page is available [here](#).

DEI&J Resource

On November 15, the Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) and Wayside Equity Training Center (WETC) hosted a roundtable - Common Issues for Leaders in Equity Culture Change: Budgeting, Planning and Problem Solving. This was a follow up to the launch of our [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Toolkit: Organizational Culture Change](#).

ABH would like to thank everyone who participated in the roundtable. We are especially grateful for WETC's Guimel DeCarvalho, Vice President of People and Culture & Chief Diversity Officer, and Amy Hogarth, Director of Agency Training & Equity Culture, for leading the roundtable discussion. Participants were able to talk through the top questions and considerations in creating true system change around equity in their organizations.

Click [here](#) for the new addition to our DEI&J Toolkit and Resources - Addressing Common Issues for Leaders in Equity Culture Change: Budgeting, Planning and Problem Solving.

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Statewide Surveillance and Outbreak Testing Conclusion

All congregate care settings transitioned to Over-The-Counter (OTC) rapid antigen tests for surveillance and outbreak testing and can self-request OTC rapid tests through Color until December 29, 2022.

After December 31st, the Color program is ending and EOHHS will discontinue supplying regular testing supplies to provider-operated congregate care settings. To prepare for this transition,

- In mid-December, Color will automatically send a 3-month supply of OTC rapid tests to each enrolled provider-operated setting. Providers will receive a communication in the coming weeks from Color on how many tests they will receive and when to expect these deliveries.
- After December 31st, provider-operated organizations will be able to purchase OTC rapid tests, if needed, through the [statewide rapid test contract](#) at a discounted rate.
- A User Guide and instructions on how to order tests through the contract can be found [here](#). Organizations are encouraged to bulk purchase rapid tests at a discounted rate for their locations. When ordering tests through the contract, please allow at least a few weeks of lead time before receiving tests.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sreya Sudireddy, EOHHS Strategy Analyst, sreya.r.sudireddy@mass.gov, cell: 617-223-6696

Funding Opportunity

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), invites organizations to apply for grant funding to support one-year pilot projects integrating harm reduction strategies and public safety initiatives.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Interesting Reads

- [\\$130 million made available for health worker loan repayment.](#) *The Boston Globe.*
- [Addiction Treatment Proponents Urge Rural Clinicians to Pitch In by Prescribing Medication.](#) *Kaiser Health News.*
- [Teens and young adults are self-diagnosing mental illness on TikTok. What could go wrong?](#) *The Boston Globe.*
- [Crisis in emergency care will take a broad, systemic solution.](#) *The Boston Globe.*