



ABH January Committee Meetings

Wednesday, January 3
eHealth, 10 a.m.

Monday, January 8
Billing, 10 a.m.

Friday, January 12
Children's Services,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 16
OTP, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 17
**Quality and
Outcomes**, 10 a.m.

Thursday, January 18
RRS/TSS, 10 a.m.

Friday, January 19
MIDP/DUIL/SOA,
10 a.m.

Friday, January 26
CBHI, 10 a.m.

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

SUPPORT H.2006/S.760

FUND MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS FAIRLY



Fund Clinics Fairly Bill: The Road So Far

As ABH members know too well, thousands of vulnerable children, families and adults continue to wait months to access basic mental health treatment services. Reimbursement rates for mental health clinics fall far short to ensure access to help and to recruit and retain the clinicians needed to meet current needs. ABH filed S. 760/ H. 2006 to provide additional funding for mental health clinics.

In October, ABH held a State House Day and email campaign in support of the bill on the same day that the Legislature's Joint Committee on Health Care Financing held a hearing on our bill. A recording of the hearing is available [here](#). The portion relating to our bill begins at 7:19. Thank you to our members who testified, to those who participated in our State House Day, and to those who emailed their legislators on the importance of funding clinics fairly.

Action Alert: We Need Your Help

The October hearing was on the Senate version of our bill (S. 760). On Monday, December 4, the Legislature's Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse is held a hearing on the House version of our legislation (H. 2006) to increase mental health clinic funding. Since our Day on the Hill, our campaign has sent more than 1,200 emails into the State House pushing for legislation to increase reimbursement rates to mental health clinics!!! Please share this link with your team and urge them to take action today!

<https://www.votervoice.net/ABHMA/Campaigns/108444/Respond>.

ABH 2023 Salary Survey Report

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), in partnership with Gallagher Surveys, developed a salary and benefits survey that focused specifically on mental health and substance use disorder providers. The final product included extensive input and guidance from the ABH Human Resources Committee, the ABH Human Resources Salary Survey Subcommittee, and the ABH Senior Leadership Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice. Thank you to the committee members who worked to develop and refine the survey and to the staff who developed and reported data that made this survey possible.

The results are now in and available for purchase. We anticipate that these results will be a great resource for members.

Survey Cost

As with past surveys, a significant discount will be given to ABH members who participated in the salary survey. The cost to purchase the survey is as follows:

- \$400 for ABH members who participated in the survey
- \$1400 for ABH members who did not participate, but who wish to purchase the survey

This survey is not available to non-members.

Purchasing Information

To purchase the Salary Survey results:

Please complete this [Salary Survey Purchasing Request Online Form](#). You will need to use your ABH Members-Only Portal Login credentials to access this form. If you do not have your credentials or need them for the first time, please contact Meg Socha at msocha@abhmass.org.

We are also requiring members to review and sign [this ABH Salary Survey Nondisclosure Agreement](#) and Agreement to Pay. You may either upload it via the [Salary Survey Purchasing Request Online Form](#) or return it via email to Meg Socha at msocha@abhmass.org. You can expect the 2023 Salary Survey Report within 2 business days after we receive a signed agreement.

Important Note about Demographic Data

In consultation with the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Senior Leadership Committee, this year's salary survey again asked for staff demographic data. The final report includes baseline demographic data. Please note that the salary data is not tied to the demographics. These data are included for informational purposes only.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Meg Socha at msocha@abhmass.org.

Changes are coming to the eUpdate!

After many years with the same look, the eupdate is getting a makeover! Come January 2024, you will see a new format for the eupdate. It is our hope that the new eupdate will be easier to access, more user friendly. Plus, it will be fancier! A new year, a new eupdate!



DOI Releases final Telehealth Regulations

The Division of Insurance (DOI) has released final telehealth regulations (211 CMR 52.00: [Managed Care Consumer Protections and Accreditation of Carriers](#)). These regulations apply to MA-based, fully-insured health insurance plans regulated by DOI. They do NOT apply to MassHealth or Medicare.

December 2023 Health Care Provider Cybersecurity Call

Join the Massachusetts eHealth Institute (MeHI) and the MassCyberCenter on December 14th at 10 am for their monthly health care provider cybersecurity call. As always, they will be joined by representatives of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Commonwealth Fusion Center who will provide updates on recent cyber threats and trends.

These calls will continue to occur on the second Thursday of every month and will feature a discussion leader from MeHI and the MassCyberCenter, DHS, the Commonwealth Fusion Center, and additional guest speakers to provide updates on emerging threats and cover a monthly topic of interest from the group. You can register for the call now by visiting their [Zoom registration page](#). If you have any questions on the series please email fathy@masstech.org.

2024 Massachusetts Loan Repayment Program (MLRP)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Health Care Workforce Center has announced the next round of applications for the Massachusetts Loan Repayment Program for Health Professionals (MLRP), a loan repayment program managed by the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (MLCHC). MLRP is for health care professionals who commit to working full time or part time for two years in an eligible organization (up to \$25,000 per year for two years). This program is funded through a combination of state and federal funds. The application for the Massachusetts State Loan Repayment Program (MLRP) is now open, as of December 6, 2023.

[Click here for the application, program details, as well as information on how to apply](#). Please pay close attention to eligibility guidelines before applying for this program as only eligible applicants will be considered for funding. Applications need to be post-marked no later than Friday, January 19, 2024 and be mailed directly to the address listed below:

ATTN: MLRP Workforce Program
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Inc.
40 Court Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Note: Only complete and eligible applications, submitted by mail will be reviewed. No other forms of submission will be accepted.

An informational webinar will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, December 13th at 12 PM to describe the program and answer any questions. Please use the link below to join the webinar: <https://massleague.zoom.us/j/5336813904?omn=86226242567>
Meeting ID: 533 681 3904

ABH STAFF

Lydia Conley
President/CEO
lconley@abhmass.org
857-371-2502

Carmel Craig
Vice President Mental Health
Services
ccraig@abhmass.org
857-371-2503

Jonna Hopwood
Vice President for Addiction
Treatment Services
jhopwood@abhmass.org
857-371-2506

Kristen Hackney
Senior Director of Behavioral
Health Policy Transformation
khackney@abhmass.org
857-245-9007

Megan Socha
Member Engagement and
Program Specialist
msocha@abhmass.org
857-371-2511

Ellen Caliendo
Business Manager
ecaliendo@abhmass.org
351-203-8316

EOHHS Public Hearing

Mass EOHHS announced public hearings on the recently released report of the "Community Policing & Behavioral Health Advisory Council". The report is available online at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ma-crisis-system-report/download>.

There remains two upcoming opportunities to testify, both in person in Roslindale and during a virtual hearing held next week. Information about the public hearing process can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/news/community-policing-and-behavioral-health-advisory-council-request-for-public-input>.

NatCon24

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing invites you to learn alongside 5,000+ health care professionals at NatCon24, the largest conference in mental health and substance use treatment, from April 15-17, at the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis, Missouri. Register before December 15 to lock in the lowest rate possible!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

- Enjoy three days of nonstop learning, [networking and entertainment](#).
- Discover best practices from the [best minds in behavioral health care](#).
- Add to your learning portfolio by earning [continuing education credits](#).
- Explore new services and solutions from [industry-leading exhibitors](#).
- Experience the energy onsite with [5,000+ health care colleagues](#).
- And so much more!

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



Interesting Reads

- [Career path crumbling for mental health clinicians](#). *Commonwealth Beacon* has published an opinion piece submitted by ABH on the urgent need to fund clinics fairly. *CommonWealth Beacon*, formerly known as *CommonWealth Magazine*, is widely read by civic and political leaders in Massachusetts.
- ['I landed on love': Families try a different approach to addiction](#). *WBUR*.
- [To help kids with mental health problems, keep them out of the ER](#). *AMA*.
- [88,000 people dropped from MassHealth in October](#). *WBUR*.
- [Medicaid 'Unwinding' Makes Other Public Assistance Harder to Get](#). *KFF Health News*.
- [Uncle Sam wants you to help stop insurers' bogus Medicare Advantage sales tactics](#). *NPR*.