



ABH March Committee Meetings

Tuesday, March 8
ACCS, 2:30 p.m.

Friday, March 11
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.
Children's Services,
10 a.m.

Monday, March 14
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 15
OTP, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 16
Quality & Outcomes,
10 a.m.

Thursday, March 17
RRS/TSS, 10 a.m.

Friday, March 18
MIDP/DUIL/SOA,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 22
Sr. Leadership Commit-
tee on DEI&J, 12 p.m.

Friday, March 25
CBHI, 10 a.m.

ABH Celebrates Black History Month

ABH is proud to observe Black History Month as we recognize and celebrate the many achievements, contributions and advancements of Black Americans. At the same time, we recognize the need to address systemic racism. ABH is determined to work to eliminate behavioral health disparities that are embedded in systemic racism.

We would like to share some resources that your organizations may find helpful:

- [Health Equity and Racial Justice Toolkit for Integrated Care Settings](#)
- [Racial Equity Tools](#) – A library of materials to foster conversation that can advance inclusion, racial equity and social justice.
- [Perception Is Everything: The Impact of Implicit Bias in Mental Health & Addictions](#) – A video presentation led by Victor Armstrong, Sr., MSW, director of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Service during NatCon At Home.
- Strategies to Support Wellbeing and Retention of Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color Staff – [recording](#) and [presentation](#).

NatCon22

Registration for the National Council's annual conference, NatCon22, is now open! NatCon22 will take place from April 11-13, 2022 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

By registering for NatCon22, you can also experience Hill Day 2022 and a Mental Health First Aid Summit (for instructors/trainers only). The NatCon 22 landing page is [here](#).

ABH Member Discount

Verified ABH members can access a \$50 discount registering for NatCon22 with "MAMember22". The code can be entered into the "discount code" box on the top of the page where the full conference registration type is selected

ABH Preliminary Analysis of Governor's FY23 Budget

On January 26 the Baker-Polito Administration released their recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, totaling \$48.5 billion. This proposal constitutes a 2.6% decrease over projected FY22 spending. The Administration relied on a consensus tax revenue forecast of \$36.915 billion, which anticipates a 2.7% growth in total collections over revised FY22 tax estimates. House 2 includes a \$748 million increase to the Stabilization Fund, which will bring the balance to an all-time high of \$6.64 billion by the end of FY23. The fund currently has a balance of \$4.64 billion.

The FY 23 H2 budget includes the following highlights:

- **\$115 million in new behavioral health supports**, including the following Behavioral Health Roadmap related components:
 - ◆ Establishment of a new 24/7 Behavioral Health Helpline;
 - ◆ Launch of a Behavioral Health Urgent Care program;
 - ◆ Establishment of Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs);
 - ◆ Permanent Medicaid rate increases for outpatient behavioral health clinic services; and,
 - ◆ Expansion of hospital emergency department diversion programs, including an intensive program for children.
- Relevant outside sections include the establishment of a behavioral health surcharge to support behavioral health access and crisis services, and an extension of the Substance Use Disorder Trust Fund from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2028.
- **The Department of Mental Health** is funded at \$986M.
 - ◆ The Adult Community Services line item (5046-0000) is funded at \$514M, a \$6.3M decrease below FY22 spending and \$4.3M increase above the FY22 GAA.
 - ◆ The Children's Services line item (5042-5000) is funded at \$111.8M, which is approximately \$6.7M over projected FY22 spending.
 - ◆ Consistent with FY22 projected spending, the DCHD Rental Subsidies for DMH Clients is funded at \$12.5 million.
- **The Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)** programmatic accounts are consolidated and funded at \$182M. This represents a decrease of \$23.9M from projected final FY22 spending, likely reflecting standard practice of eliminating programmatic earmarks.
- **MassHealth** is funded at \$17.811B. -\$1.857B (-\$9.4%) gross/\$273M (4%) net change compared to FY22 spending. This proposal supports expanding home – and community-based services using enhanced ARPA funding, continued restructuring of the care delivery system through the 1115 waiver, and expanding access to behavioral health through implementation of the Behavioral Health Roadmap.
- For the **Department of Children and Families (DCF)**: The Children and Families Services line item (4800-0038) is funded at approximately \$318M, approximately \$11.2M above projected FY22 spending. The Congregate Care account (4800-0041) is funded at \$337M.
- **The Chapter 257 rate reserve** (1599-6903) is funded at \$230M. Numerous behavioral health services will have rate reviews this year pursuant to Chapter 257 and increases are funded through this account.

ABH's complete analysis can be found [here](#).

ABH COVID-19 Landing Page

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

Click [here](#).

National Council Member-Only Benefit: Purchasing Access to COVID-19 Antigen Test Kits and NIOSH N95 Masks

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing has partnered with Winbrook, their trusted supplier, to offering iHealth® COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Kits (\$1,885 per case/180 total tests) and FDA-approved NIOSH N95 masks (\$525 per case/400 total masks).

To serve as many members as possible, the National Council is capping Antigen Rapid Test Kit orders at four cases (720 total tests) and NIOSH N95 mask orders at 10 cases (4,000 total masks).

To learn more about this members-only offering – including purchasing and shipping details – visit the National Council's [website](#).

After reading the details on the National Council website, if you have any questions about ordering, shipping or the products available to you, please contact [Winbrook](#). For questions about this PPE partnership, please contact the [National Council](#).

Extension of Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE)

On January 14, 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for another 90 days, effective January 16, 2022 - April 16, 2022. With the continuation of the PHE, federal flexibilities and waivers related to Medicare telehealth coverage remain in effect.

MassHealth Behavioral Health Urgent Care Program

MassHealth has recently updated the list of codes that are subject to the 15% rate enhancement for Mental Health Centers that are participating in the Behavioral Health Urgent Care program. Please find the codes [here](#). As you will see, the updated list includes E/M, collateral contact, and urgent outpatient codes.

2022 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act Report

The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and the Treasury recently released their *2022 Report to Congress on the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008*. In short, the report states that health plans and health insurers are “failing to deliver parity for mental health and substance use disorder benefits.” For more information on the report, click [here](#).

ABH Welcomes Jonna Hopwood as its new Vice President for Addiction Treatment Services



ABH is thrilled to announce that Jonna Hopwood has joined the ABH staff as its Vice President for Addiction Treatment Services. Jonna is an experienced clinician with more than 30 years of professional experience at a variety of community based organizations with a focus on the treatment of substance use and co-occurring disorders.

Most recently, she was the Compliance and Privacy Officer for Beth Israel Lahey Health Behavioral Services. Prior to that, she was the Director of Addiction Services at Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) where she served as the subject matter expert related to addiction and worked collaboratively with stakeholders including MassHealth, the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, and treatment providers, including ABH members, to ensure the ongoing implementation of evidence based treatments, to expand access to services, and to support care coordination and improved integration with primary care.

While, of course, she cannot replace recently-retired Connie Peters, Jonna is assuming much of Connie's portfolio. The position has been slightly reconfigured with its portfolio right-sized. ABH's Director of Public Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Abby Kim, will continue to staff our Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Committee as part of our larger strategy on insurance-based delivery system, as well as lead our work as coordinators of the Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services.

Jonna's depth of experience – and passion for community-based substance use disorder services – is a strong addition to the ABH team. Jonna can be reached by email at jhopwood@abhmass.org, and her direct line is 857-371-2506.

Interesting Reads

- [Which COVID test should you take, and how do you get reimbursed?](#) *WBUR*.
- [How to get your vaccination QR code onto your phone.](#) *WBUR*.
- [How technology is transforming mental health assessment and treatment.](#) *Brookings Institute*.
- [Experts Call The Pandemic A Collective Trauma. Why Don't We Talk About It That Way?](#) *NPR*.
- [Progressives pitch emergency response alternative.](#) *22News/WLLP.com*.
- [Addressing Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Correctional Settings.](#) *NCSL*.

ABH STAFF

Lydia Conley

President/CEO

lconley@abhmass.org
857-371-2502

Carmel Craig

Vice President for Child,
Youth and Adult Mental
Health Services

ccraig@abhmass.org
857-371-2503

Jonna Hopwood

Vice President for Addiction
Treatment Services

jhopwood@abhmass.org
857-371-2506

Megan Thompson

Senior Director of Payment &
Care Delivery Innovations

mthompson@abhmass.org
857-371-5201

Abigail Kim

Director of Public Policy &
Strategic Initiatives

akim@abhmass.org
857-371-2508

Megan Socha

Member Engagement and
Program Specialist

msocha@abhmass.org
857-371-2511

Ellen Caliendo

Business Manager

ecaliendo@abhmass.org
351-203-8316