



ABH June Committee Meetings

Tuesday, June 7
ATS/CSS, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 8
Outpatient, 10 a.m.
HR, 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 9
SOAP, 10 a.m.

Friday, June 10
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.

Monday, June 13
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 14
ACCS, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 16
COE RSS, 1 p.m.

Friday, June 17
Children's CEO, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 21
OTP, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 22
MAP Subcommittee,
10 a.m.

Thursday, June 23
BH CP, 10 a.m.

Friday, June 24
PDT/PHP, 10
a.m.

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

House Budget Passed

On April 27, the Massachusetts House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass a \$49.7B fiscal 2023 budget, adding nearly \$130M in spending to the original House Committee on Ways and Means proposed budget. Some highlights from the amendment process include:

- \$3M in technical assistance and training to increase the number of providers delivering culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse substance use services in communities of color, a Massachusetts Coalition on Addiction Service request;
- Prior appropriations from FY22 continued into FY23 for the procurement of Recovery Centers and outpatient/mobile services for deaf/hard of hearing and blind individuals with substance use disorders, a Massachusetts Coalition on Addiction Service request;
- Requiring the Health Policy Commission to conduct an analysis and issue a report on behavioral health boarding in hospitals; and
- Requiring the Department of Public Health to annually examine and report on the prescribing and treatment history, including court-ordered treatment or treatment within the criminal legal system, of individuals who suffered fatal overdoses in the Commonwealth.

Other highlights from the House budget:

- The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is funded at \$992M.
 - The Adult Community Services line item (5046-0000) is funded at \$514M, consistent with H.2 and \$6.3M lower than projected FY22 spending.
 - The Children's Services line item (5042-5000) is funded at \$111.8M, consistent with H.2. and approximately \$6.7M over projected FY22 spending.
 - DCHD Rental Subsidies for DMH Clients is level funded at \$12.5 million, consistent with FY22 projected spend and ABH's requested funding amount.
- BSAS programmatic accounts are consolidated and funded at \$196M. This level of funding represents an increase of \$14M over H.2.

As a reminder, ABH's complete analysis of the original House Ways and Means budget can be found [here](#)

Next Steps:

Senate Ways and Means will release their budget in mid-May, with debate to follow. After each chamber has approved its version of the budget, the Senate President and House Speaker will make appointments to a conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate spending bills and produce a final legislative budget known as a conference committee report. The conference committee report will be voted either up or down (no amendments are permitted) by each chamber, and if approved, sent to the Governor who will have ten days to review the budget and return his vetoes and recommendations for amendment..

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](#).

ABH Annual Meeting

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) will be hosting our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. We will be hosting a Policy Forum, followed by a brief Annual Business Meeting. These two convenings will require two separate registrations.

Policy Forum: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

We are excited to announce that we will be joined by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation who will kick off this portion of our meeting with a presentation that gives a macro overview of behavioral health policy, leveraging the Foundation's recent publication, "Racism and Racial Inequities in Health: A Data-Informed Primer on Health Disparities in Massachusetts". Attendees will learn about the impact of COVID-19 on behavioral health needs and significantly differential data in terms of need and access. This presentation will be followed by two reactor panels: one comprised of persons-served, and another of key thought leaders and stakeholders.

Business Meeting: 2:45-3:30

This keynote address will be followed by a short ABH business meeting. The invitation for that meeting will be sent to designated ABH voting representatives only.

To register for the policy forum, click [here](#).

Accommodations: Closed captioning will be available for both meetings.

Questions: Please contact Meg Socha at msocha@abhmass.org with any questions.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! This year's theme is "Back to Basics" and the goal is to provide foundational knowledge about mental health & mental health conditions and information about what people can do if their mental health is a cause for concern." To download the toolkit, click [here](#).

Hill Day at Home 2022

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing is hosting Hill Day at Home on June 8, 2022. Hill Day at Home is your opportunity to urge lawmakers to support mental health and substance use treatment initiatives. This year's Hill Day will be virtual and includes a virtual policy institute, all at no cost. For more information, click [here](#).

MassHealth Extends Postpartum Care

Effective April 1, 2022 MassHealth will extend its postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months of continuous coverage. MassHealth hopes that this will improve access to health care services and continuity of care following childbirth as well as address health disparities and advance health equity.

William James College Invitation to Beyond Compassion Fatigue: Helping Caregivers Recover from Pandemic Burnout and Reconstruct Organizational Life

Presenter: Lianna Chong, MA, MTS

May 21, 2022 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Online via Zoom

Program Summary: After two years of pandemic stress, many professional caregivers are beyond the point of burn-out. We face the task of helping those in human services recover from their fatigue, process the traumas of Covid-19, and reconstruct their organizations according to our new reality. This workshop engages participants in each aspect of recovery at the personal, group, and institutional levels. We will survey the research on compassion fatigue, burnout and secondary trauma, and explore effective resilience strategies for our current state.

The program is delivered in a highly interactive online format incorporating discussions, reflections, and experiential learning. Participants will reflect on their own experiences, share stories in small groups, and assess contextual factors within their organization.

Eligible participants are practitioners and supervisors with 2+ years of experience in human services (psychology, social work, nursing, therapy, etc.). *Please note that participants are encouraged to share from personal experiences and may be exposed to triggering material.*

Number of Credits: 6 Fees: \$175.00

[Click here for more information or to register for this continuing education program.](#)

RFP Released: Middlesex County Restoration Center Pilot Program

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for a vendor to establish a Middlesex County Restoration Center Pilot Program was posted late last week on UMass Chan's public facing procurement website, here: <https://bids.sciquest.com/apps/Router/PublicEvent?CustomerOrg=UMass>. Prospective bidders may need to scroll down to get to this procurement. The procurement includes a number of formal documents that can be downloaded separately or together.

The Restoration Center pilot program is intended to provide an entry point into appropriate Behavioral Health Services to individuals, 18 years old or older, who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, especially as a diversion from criminal legal system involvement or ED utilization. The Commonwealth's long-term goal is to develop a successful Restoration Center model that multiple vendors can replicate across the state in future years.

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

MassHealth Releases ACO RFR

MassHealth has released its Request for Responses (RFR) for its Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Program. You can find the RFR on [COMMBUYS](#). MassHealth is anticipating that its 1115 Waiver will be extended. This extension will continue the focus on accountable care delivery systems. According to MassHealth, “Under the new contracts, ACOs will further improve quality of care, reduce total cost of care, and make demonstrable progress towards improved member and provider experience....[and] enhance expectations for primary care and behavioral health delivery, increase focus on children, youth, and families, and create incentives to improve health equity.”

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order 2022-17 and Associated Advisory Expire on April 30, 2022

The MA Drug Control Program has issued a notice to remind all MAP-Registered Community Programs that COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order 2022-17 and associated advisory, posted [here](#), will expire on April 30, 2022. As of May 1, 2022, it is no longer permissible for unlicensed staff of MAP Community programs who are not MAP-Certified to possess and administer prepackaged medications to individuals in MAP-Registered Community Programs. Medications must be administered by licensed health care providers and MAP-Certified staff after April 30, 2022.

Interesting Reads

- [Mass. addiction treatment faces a staffing 'crisis.' Rep. Clark says this program will help.](#) *WBUR.*
- [Reflecting on systemic racism in medicine 20 years after release of 'Unequal Treatment' report.](#) *WBUR CommonHealth.*
- [Teen overdose deaths are up. A new study says pediatricians need training to help.](#) *WBUR CommonHealth.*
- [Tracking Social Determinants of Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#) *Kaiser Family Foundation.*
- [How stress can damage your brain and body.](#) *Washington Post.*
- [Why American Teens Are So Sad.](#) *The Atlantic.*
- [Brain scans may reveal a lot about mental illness, but not until studies get bigger.](#) *NPR.*
- [Drug overdose deaths are at a record high. Here's what the White House plans to do.](#) *NPR.*
- [Building a Resilient Future: Addressing Youth Mental Health.](#) *Psychiatric Times.*