



ABH December Committee Meetings

Tuesday, December 3
ATS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, December 4
e-Health, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Thursday, December 5
Quality & Outcomes,
10 a.m.

Friday, December 6
**Children's CEO
Leadership**, 10 a.m.
PDT/PHP, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Monday, December 9
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, December 10
OTP, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)
ACCS, 2:30 p.m. (Beechwood
Hotel)

Wednesday, December 11
Outpatient, 10 a.m.

Thursday, December 12
SOAP, 10 a.m.

Friday, December 13
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.
CBHI, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, December 18
BHCP Exec., 10 a.m.

All meetings are held at the
Hampton Inn, Natick unless
otherwise noted. For more
information, call
508-647-8385.

Congratulations to ABH's 2019 Salute to Excellence Award Winners!

On Friday, October 18, ABH members from across the state gathered to recognize this year's Salute to Excellence Awardees. In addition to recognizing the amazing work of these individuals, attendees were able to hear Jordan Burnham from Minding Your Mind speak about his struggles as a young adult.



New Health Care Bill with focus on Behavioral Health

In October, Governor Baker unveiled a new piece of legislation that focuses on continued improvements to the health care system. The legislation (House Bill 4134), called “**An Act to improve health care by investing in VALUE,**” would require insurers and providers to prioritize investments in primary care and behavioral health within the cost growth benchmark, and would also make a number changes to the existing health care system.

ABH has [developed this summary](#) that is focused on the **relevant behavioral health portions** of the proposed bill. You can also access the full summary of the legislation distributed by EOHHS [here](#).

The Legislature has referred the bill to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. The committee will hold a public hearing on the legislation and will consider Governor Baker’s proposals for further action.

Highlights of the bill include:

- Requires payers and providers to increase spending on behavioral health and primary care by 30% over the next three years, including MassHealth and commercial insurers;
- Allows APRNs to prescribe and order and interpret tests independently;
- Requires MassHealth and the Division of Insurance to establish standardized forms and methodologies to credential providers;
- Requires insurers to cover behavioral health services, and evaluation and management services that are provided on the same day;
- Exempts mass spectrometers from statute outlawing the use of drug paraphernalia
- Defines and expands access to telemedicine by establishing a regulatory framework and prohibits payers from denying coverage based on the sole fact that the service is provided via telemedicine;
- Establishes and regulates the membership and operations of the board of registration of recovery coaches within DPH; and
- Joins the multi-state nurse licensure compact to establish immediate reciprocity with nurses licensed in other states that are a part of the compact.

The full legislation is also available on the Legislature’s website (copy and paste this link to access it <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4134>).

ABH will keep you updated as the process moves forward. Feel free to let Lydia Conley (Iconley@abhmass.org) or me (agilman@abhmass.org) know if you have any thoughts or questions about the bill.

FREE DSRIP Trainings for Supervisors

The Center for Health Impact, with the support of the DSRIP Statewide Investments Program, has created a two-day FREE workshop for supervisors of community health workers. Successful Supervision with Community Health Workers course “aims to build the capacity of supervisors to provide more responsive and informed supervision for the CHWs on their team, which has been identified as being a key factor in retention of CHWs.”

The trainings will take place in Greater Boston in December 2019 and in Worcester in January and February 2020. Click [here](#) for additional information and the application form.

Thank you to our
Salute to
Excellence
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The Brien Center for
Mental Health and
Substance Abuse
Services
Wayside Youth &
Family Support
Network

Registration is Open! 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.

We hope you will join ABH on **Tuesday, November 19th** at the Crowne Plaza in Natick for a training in collaboration with the **Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers** and the **Delta Center for a Thriving Safety Net** on telehealth with Dr. Manuel Castro, Medical Director, Behavioral Health Service Line and Jennifer Villafane, Director of Virtual Health at Atrium Health to learn about how to establish telehealth capability within your agency, common operational challenges to starting a telehealth practice, and key considerations including client privacy, program staffing, and handling risk.

Dr. Manuel Castro and Jennifer Villafane will describe 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.

Following the morning session and a break for lunch, we will be joined by Stephanie Jordan Brown, Acting Chief of Behavioral Health at MassHealth, who will provide the Massachusetts regulatory context for telehealth and then by a panel with representatives from Tufts, Beacon, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBCMA) who will discuss their plans' approaches, policies, and requirements for telehealth services.

When: Tuesday, November 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Where: Crowne Plaza • 1360 Worcester Rd. (Rte 9) • Natick, MA 01760

Target Audience: ABH CEOs and senior staff, clinic directors, and anyone involved in strategic planning for telehealth.

Cost: This event is being supported by the **Delta Center for a Thriving Safety Net**. Lunch is included.

CEUs: CEUs are being applied for.

[Register Here!](#)

Due to anticipated demand, this event is limited to 2 people per member organization. We will maintain a wait list.

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Thompson at mthompson@abhmass.org or 508-647-8385 x15.

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ABH Salary Survey

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), in partnership with Gallagher Surveys, has developed a salary and benefits survey that focuses specifically on mental health and substance use disorder providers. The project was developed with guidance from the ABH Human Resources Committee. This survey is a follow up to ABH's 2010, 2013, 2015 & 2017 surveys.

We are distributing the attached survey via email and **strongly** encourage your organization to participate in the survey. Strong participation will greatly increase the value of the data and ensure that you have access to comprehensive salary and benefits information. In 2017, **over 50% of the membership participated in the survey** and the data has also been vitally important to our continued advocacy.

The deadline for participation in the survey is November 15, 2019.

ABH will not see any of the raw data and the final report will not contain any identifying information. Any information that could be used to identify a provider organization will be kept strictly confidential. Survey data must be submitted to Gallagher Surveys. Directions on how to complete and submit the survey are included in the PDF attached to this email and available here: [2019ABH_BenefitsQuest_FINAL.pdf](#).

This is an expensive project. In order to help cover the costs we will be again selling the survey. A discount will be given to ABH members who participate in the salary survey. The cost to purchase the survey will be as follows:

- **\$350** for ABH members who participate in the survey
- **\$600** for ABH members who do not participate, but who wish to purchase the survey
- **\$900** for non-ABH members

We anticipate that this salary survey will be a great resource for behavioral health providers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mandy Gilman at 508-647-8385 x16 or agilman@abhmass.org.

Shatterproof ATLAS Initiative FAQ

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), the Recovery Homes Collaborative (RHC), and the Mass. Association of Behavioral Health Systems (MABHS) have been receiving questions about the Shatterproof ATLAS initiative. Please click this [link](#) to read the FAQ document that we have developed to answer the most commonly asked questions we have been receiving.

Current Events Corner

- [Kaiser Health News': 'What The Health?': All About Medicaid](#). Kaiser Health News.
- [The Real Cost Of The Opioid Epidemic: An Estimated \\$179 Billion In Just One Year](#). NPR.

