



ABH December Committee Meetings

ABH has transitioned to resume to our normal Committee Meeting Schedule. Please see below for the December Committee meeting dates:

Tuesday, December 1
ATS/CSS, 10am

Friday, December 4
Children's CEO Leadership, 10am

Wednesday, December 9
Outpatient, 10am

Thursday, December 10
SOAP, 10am

Friday, December 11
Corporate Compliance, 10am

Monday, December 14
Billing, 10am

Tuesday, December 15
OTP, 9:30am

Thursday, December 17
BH CP Exec, 10am
COE/RRS, 1pm

Please note that the Children's Services CEO Leadership Committee, Senior Leadership Committee on Partnering with Underserved Populations, and ACCS Policy Committee are for CEOs and their direct reports only. To join one of these committees, please contact us directly.

Congratulations to ABH's 2020 Virtual Salute to Excellence Awardees!

Exceptional Leadership Award

Robert Hallion
Advocates, Inc.

Rebecca Phelps-Smith
The Brien Center

Excellence in Family Engagement and Support Award

Heather Hogan
BAMSI

Excellence in Innovative Practice Award

Lia Beltrame
Bay Cove Human Services

Excellence in Leadership and Empowerment Award

Yota Gikas
Italian Home for Children, Inc.

Excellence in Care Integration Award

Greater Lowell Behavioral Health Community Partner Team
Lowell Community Health Center, Inc. and Lowell House, Inc.

Excellence in Administration and Finance Award

Riverside IT Help Desk and Network Support Team
Riverside Community Care, Inc.

Excellence in Best Practices Award

Jeff Baxter, M.D.
Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.

See page 2 for more awardees!!

Congratulations to ABH's 2020 Virtual Salute to Excellence Awardees!

Outstanding Service Award
Norfolk Street Residential Team
Vinfen

Excellence in Perseverance Award
Wayside COVID Unit Team
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network

ABH's 2020 Salute to Excellence

Check out our first ever Virtual Salute to Excellence: <https://youtu.be/wlBymEGhxz0!>



DREAM...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE

Thank you to our Guest Speakers!

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker

Senator Karen E. Spilka,
President of the Massachusetts Senate

Assistant Secretary Daniel Tsai,
Executive Office of Health & Human Services

Commissioner Brooke Doyle,
Department of Mental Health

Director Deirdre Calvert, Department of
Public Health/Bureau of Substance Addiction Services

Representative Robert DeLeo,
Massachusetts Speaker of the House

Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of
Health & Human Services

Commissioner Linda Spears,
Department of Children and Families

Former Commissioner Joan Mikula,
Department of Mental Health

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Technology Sponsors

Advocates, Inc

The Home for Little Wanderers

Vinfen

Raffle Prize Sponsor

eHana

Wayside Youth and Family Support Network

The Brien Center

Netsmart

Awards Sponsor

Beacon Health Options

Spectrum Health Systems

ABH COVID-19 Landing Page

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

<https://www.abhmass.org/newsroom/announcements/guidance-on-covid-19.html>

Massachusetts Eviction Division Initiative

Massachusetts recently announced a new Eviction Diversion Initiative to help households as the eviction moratorium in Massachusetts expires. Part of MassHealth's work is reaching out to networks across the Commonwealth to reach more residents with new and expanded resources, including rental assistance and legal resources.

They are asking the healthcare provider network to help in their effort to reach households early – before an eviction takes place – to provide funding and mediation tools to work with landlords.

MassHealth has launched a new website that connects residents to their local Housing Consumer Education Center, answer frequently asked questions, and more at www.mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp.

Residents can also call 2-1-1, which features a language line and trained staff.

Time is of the essence – there is funding available NOW and the earlier households apply for aid, the quicker they will receive it.

Click the following links for access to public information flyers in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Khmer](#), [Portuguese](#), [Russian](#), and [Vietnamese](#). Please share this information widely.

They are also active on social media. Feel free to connect and share with their two accounts: [@MA_DHCD](#) and [@MassEOHED](#).

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder in Long-Term Care (MOUD in LTC) Toolkit

Two years ago, the ABH Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) Committee began working on an initiative with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) HealthCentrix Advisors regarding the provision of methadone in skilled nursing facilities.

We are very pleased to announce that the Medication for Opioid Use Disorder in Long-Term Care (MOUD in LTC) Toolkit has been posted on the mass.gov website and Abt Associates has been doing implementation training.

Check it out at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/medication-for-opioid-use-disorder-in-long-term-care-moud-in-ltc-toolkit>. This series of documents included in the toolkit serves to provide support to long-term care facilities (LTCFs) in providing care for residents diagnosed with an opioid use disorder (OUD) who are on medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD).

We would like to thank the ABH OTP Committee for all of their hard work! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Connie Peters at cpeters@abhmass.org.

DMH Commissioner Appointed

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the appointment of Brooke Doyle as Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health. ABH congratulates Commissioner Doyle and looks forward to continuing our collaborative relationship with her!

ABH STAFF

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House Committee on Ways and Means Releases FY 21 Budget, Senate Expected to Follow

On November 5, 2020, the House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM) released its recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget ([H.5150](#)). Totalling \$46 billion, this measure is an increase of approximately \$200 million increase over the Administration's spending proposal and 5.3% greater than the FY20 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

In developing H.5150, HWM relied on a revised projected tax revenue forecast of \$27.6 billion, a \$3.6 billion shortfall from initial projections. To pay for the proposal, HWM intends to access approximately \$1.55 billion from the Stabilization Fund (also known 'Rainy Day' fund), as well as rely on enhanced federal Medicaid reimbursement and federal coronavirus relief funding.

As the House of Representatives begins to debate the budget and consider the 777 amendments filed, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means is expected to release its budget proposal on November 12th and begin debate as soon as the week of November 17th.

For additional details, please ABH's Analysis of the HWM FY21 Budget.

EEC Update Regarding Governor's Executive Order

An [EEC Update](#) issued on November 3 notes that Governor's Executive Order effective on Friday, October 30 (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-54/download>) requires that everyone over the age of 5 wear a face mask or cloth face covering when in public, both indoors and outdoors and regardless of the ability to maintain 6 feet of distance. This includes playgrounds, grocery stores, walking down the street, on public and shared transportation including carpooling and ride shares, at athletic events, at gyms, etc.

The update clarifies that EEC licensed programs are exempted from the Executive Order and should continue to abide by and adhere to the Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety regarding mask use for adults and children. (Please page 19 of [The Playbook](#) for the current Minimum Requirements regarding mask use in child care). Schools are similarly exempted.

Programs should encourage families and staff to abide by these new requirements outside of child care to help keep facilities and our communities safe.

Interesting Reads

- [U.S. Officials: OxyContin Maker To Plead Guilty To 3 Criminal Charges](#). *WBUR CommonHealth*.
- [Viewpoint: Make mental health for minority children a priority](#). By [Leslie Suggs](#) and [Lydia Conley](#). *Boston Business Journal*.
- [A Reconfigured U.S. Supreme Court: Implications for Health Policy](#). Kaiser Family Foundation.