



ABH November Committee Meetings

ABH will be resuming our normal committee meeting schedule, unless otherwise noted by ABH staff. See below for the November Committee meeting dates:

Wednesday, November 4
eHealth, 10am

Monday, November 9
Billing, 10am

Friday, November 13
Children's Services, 10am
Corporate Compliance, 10am

Tuesday, November 17
OTP, 10am

Wednesday, November 18
Quality & Outcomes, 10am

Thursday, November 19
BH CP Exec, 10am
HR, 10am
RRS/TSS, 10am

Friday, November 20
MIDP/SOA, 10am

Register for ABH's Salute to Excellence!

Please join us at this year's virtual Salute to Excellence!

Friday, October 16th from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

ABH's [Salute to Excellence](#) has traditionally been a celebratory day when we recognize individuals and groups, often clinical and direct care staff, who have made outstanding contributions to community-based behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts.

This year, ABH members have shown tremendous dedication, creativity, and innovation in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, particularly those working on the front lines to ensure the Commonwealth's most vulnerable have continued to receive services. We believe it is more important than ever to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the efforts of our behavioral health providers.

This year's Salute will be co-hosted live from the studio by ABH President/CEO Lydia Conley and Chairman Bruce Bird, Ph.D. We hope you will register to join us in congratulating our 2020 Salute to Excellence Awardees and hearing from special guests including Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Suders and Deputy Secretary Daniel Tsai, along with other surprise guests.

Registration is free!!

As always, we will have our popular annual raffles. This year's raffle will include a 55-inch TV, an Apple watch, and other great prizes. **Please note:** You must be pre-registered and online at the time of the raffle selection to win. Raffle winners will be drawn periodically throughout the Salute to Excellence event. You must **register by midnight on Wednesday, October 14th** to be eligible for the raffle.

Prior to the event date, ABH will share more information on how to attend our virtual Salute to Excellence. We hope to see you there! If you have any special accommodation requests, please note your needs in the above form. If you have any trouble logging in or registering, please contact Meg Socha at msocha@abhmass.org.

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.

DMH and BSAS Indoor Visitation Guidance for Residential Programs effective 10/1/20

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) have released indoor visitation guidance effective October 1, 2020 for its residential programs. Programs may allow indoor visitation, if certain precautions are followed:

- The Program where the resident lives must not have any confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in residents or staff in the past 14 days.
- Hand hygiene must be performed upon entering the Program, before the visit occurs.
- Face masks or face coverings must be worn by visitors and staff at all times. BSAS patients/residents must wear face masks or face coverings with limited exceptions. DMH residents will be encouraged to wear face coverings during an indoor visit if they can tolerate it and can do so safely.
- A visitor must remain at least 6 feet from the resident and staff member(s) to the maximum extent feasible.

Participating programs must designate space where the visitation is to occur that:

- allows visitation to occur in a way that ensures social distancing from other residents and staff;
- minimizes visitor impact on the program space and routine of other residents; and
- ensures that ventilation systems operate properly, have been serviced in accordance with manufacturer recommendations, including cleaning of filters, and increases circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.

A schedule for frequent cleaning and disinfection of the designated indoor visitation space, including cleaning high-touch surfaces must be developed and implemented by the program.

Indoor visits will be limited to 2 visitors per resident at a time. All visitors must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to visiting with a resident.

For further information, here is the [DMH indoor visitation guidance](#) and the [BSAS indoor visitation guidance](#).

Behavioral Health Training Opportunity

You are invited to the **Interrupting Racism Levels 1 & 2: Amplifying Awareness and Interpersonal Engagement - (678) training** scheduled on October 14, 2020 and October 15th, 2020. This is a 2-day training and both days must be attended to earn credit.

Description: Day 1 lays the foundation for a common understanding of the breadth and depth of racism and its impact on all aspects of society. Experiencing the History of Racism Timeline in community increases awareness and commitment to racial equity. Day 2 teaches skills for respectful and equitable interactions to improve employee and client experiences.

Presented by: Deborah Cohen M.Ed. and Angelica Castro

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Location:** Zoom

Fee: \$25

12.0 hours of Continuing Education Credits have been applied for. Please see the 'Continuing Education' tab on the event page for full detail.

Click [here](#) to register and read more about the training.

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>

Get Out the Vote!!

With Election Day right around the corner, the stage is set for the 2020 General Election. Early registration and mail-in voting deadlines are coming up – does your organization have a plan to help get others registered?

Like many other ABH and National Council members, you have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, serving your community in these most trying times. As Election Day nears, you have the unique opportunity to continue helping and serving your neighbors by ensuring they are registered and have a plan to vote this November.

For the last six months, ABH and National Council members have stood as strong pillars of their communities, from engaging in record-breaking advocacy at Hill Day to sharing best practices at NatCon At Home. Voter registration is just one more way you can continue to serve your clients and your community to ensure everyone's voice is heard on Election Day.

There are just a few simple steps to set up a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) drive:

- Download the National Council's [GOTV Toolkit](#).
- See below for information on voter registration in Massachusetts.
- Inform your clients about registering to vote. Add information to your website, call, mail and email your clients.
- [Track your progress](#) and tell the National Council about your success!

Don't forget to check out the [National Council's Personalized Voting Center](#) – you can find absentee ballot deadlines, information about your candidates and more.

Questions? Contact Policy2@TheNationalCouncil.org.

Massachusetts Voter Registration

The deadline to register to vote in the November 3 Presidential Election is **October 24**. The good news is that registering to vote is easy!

- Register on-line. If you have a Massachusetts driver's license or a state ID card, you can register to vote online by clicking [here](#). You can also use this link to update your address or change your party affiliation.
- If you don't have a MA driver's license or state ID, you can register by mail by downloading and filling out this [form](#). You can then mail it to your local voter election official (Town or City Clerk). Click [here](#) to find out where to send your registration form.
- You can also register in person at your [Town or City Clerk's office](#), at the Secretary of State's Office, at the RMV and at certain public assistance agencies.

Click [here](#) for more information about voter registration from the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office.

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Flu Vaccine

As we start to approach cold and flu season, remember that the Department of Public Health [requires](#) all licensed healthcare facilities (including clinics) to:

- Offer the flu vaccine to all staff (full-time, part-time, contracted employees, volunteers, house staff and students) free-of-charge
- Document flu vaccines that are administered both within and outside the facility or document if an individual declines the vaccine.
- Report compliance with the vaccine requirements to the Department of Public Health.

In addition, the Department of Public Health has [mandated](#) that “all children 6 months of age or older who are attending Massachusetts child care, pre-school, kindergarten, K-12, and colleges and universities” receive the flu vaccine by December 31, 2020. Exemptions are granted for medical and religious reasons and for students who are homeschooled or for college students who are fully remote.

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the flu vaccine will play an even more important role than usual. As was stated in the Department of Public Health’s release regarding the student flu vaccine mandate: “Every year, thousands of people of all ages are affected by influenza, leading to many hospitalizations and deaths,” said Dr. Larry Madoff, Medical Director, DPH’s Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. “It is more important now than ever to get a flu vaccine because flu symptoms are very similar to those of COVID-19 and preventing the flu will save lives and preserve healthcare resources.”

Personnel Update

Commissioner Joan Mikula will retire from the Department of Mental Health effective October 1, 2020. We take this opportunity to extend our deep appreciation to her for her 35 years of service at DMH, but more so, as an enthusiastic partner and committed advocate for mental health services in the Commonwealth. We wish Commissioner Mikula an enjoyable retirement! It is well-deserved!

EOHHS Secretary Marylou Sudders has appointed Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health Services Brooke Doyle to serve as Acting Commissioner. ABH looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with Acting Commissioner Doyle and the DMH team.

Interesting Reads

- [Health on Wheels: Tricked-Out RVs Deliver Addiction Treatment to Rural Communities.](#) *Kaiser Health News.*
- [Somerville Delays Plan To Open First Supervised Drug Use Clinic In Massachusetts.](#) *WBUR CommonHealth.*
- [As pandemic wears on, despair at epicenter of addiction crisis deepens.](#) *Boston Globe*