



ABH October Committee Meetings

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

Friday, October 2
Children's CEO, 10 a.m.

Monday, October 5
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, October 6
ATS/CSS*, 10 a.m.

Thursday, October 8
SOAP, 10 a.m.

Friday, October 9
Corporate Compliance, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, October 14
Outpatient, 10 a.m.

Thursday, October 15
BHCP Executive, 10 a.m.

Friday, October 23
PDT/PHP, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, October 27
PWUP Sr. Leadership, 12 p.m.

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.

ALL Committee Meetings above will be conducted virtually.

Now Accepting Nominations for ABH's 2020 Virtual Salute to Excellence Awards!



DREAM...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE

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 want to hear about this work, and honor these efforts.

Do you know someone who should be recognized for their outstanding work in the behavioral healthcare field?

If your answer is YES, then you should nominate them for recognition at **ABH's Virtual Salute to Excellence** on Friday, October 16, 2020.

Learn more about the awards [here](#). Also, turn to page two for award categories!

Nominating is easy! Just click here to access the online [nomination form](#).

The deadline for submitting nominations is **Friday, September 11, 2020**. To be considered, nominees must be employed by an ABH member organization.

Registration details can be found [here](#)!

Salute to Excellence Award Categories

Award Categories: Provider Recognition Award (Individuals or Groups)

Nominees show evidence of personal commitment to quality and innovation in their work performance and carry out that commitment in a manner deserving of special recognition. Examples of Provider Recognition award categories are below:

- **Excellence in Outcomes:** Integration, utilization and management of client outcomes for quality improvement
- **Excellence in Best Practices:** Planning, implementation and ongoing integration of best practices
- **Excellence in Program Leadership:** Program director/staff who exemplify outstanding leadership qualities
- **Excellence in Administration and Finance:** Exceptional management of program/agency/corporate finances and/or operations
- **Excellence in Care Integration:** Promoting the integration of Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder and Primary Care to improve the health and care experience for individuals served
- **Excellence in Innovative Practice:** Planning and incorporation of creative and original behavioral health practices
- **Excellence in (_____):** The nominator may choose to create a category

Questions? Contact Meg Socha at msocha@abhmass.org.

Telehealth

MassHealth has published this bulletin to consolidate and re-state [telehealth](#) policy for its managed care entities. The bulletin makes clear that MassHealth Managed care plans and PACE organizations are required to maintain telehealth flexibility as set forth in [All Provider Bulletin 298](#) through December 31, 2020.

In addition, following the recent formal [extension of the COVID PHE and ensuing policy waivers to October 2020](#) by Secretary Alex M. Azar II of the Department of Health and Human Services, in an announcement by the United States President on August 3, 2020, the [Executive Order on Improving Rural Health and Telehealth Access](#) was published in the White House list of presidential actions. The stated purpose of the Executive Order is to: "...increase access to, improve the quality of, and improve the financial economics of rural healthcare, including by increasing access to high-quality care through telehealth.," and required the following actions within the next 30 days:

- The Secretary of HHS (Secretary) will announce a new model to test innovative payment mechanisms. The goal is to ensure that providers serving rural clients and patients are able to provide both the necessary level and quality of care. The evolving model being tested will provide flexibility for Medicare providers to establish predictable financial payments, and encourage the movement into high-quality, value-based care.
- The Secretary will also work with the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and implement a strategy to improve the physical and communications healthcare infrastructure available to rural Americans.

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>

HHS Provider Relief Fund Application Deadline Extended to September 13, 2020

As you may know, [HHS has extended the application deadline](#) for Provider Relief Funds until **Sunday, September 13**. We strongly encourage you to apply.

Please note that **now there is only ONE PORTAL open to ALL eligible providers**, regardless of billing. The Portal is referred to on the HHS website as the Provider Relief Fund Phase 2 General Distribution.

If you billed Medicare fee-for-service in 2019 and received ANY relief monies, but have not yet received ~2% of patient care revenues, we encourage you to check your application status via the CARES Provider Relief line at (866) 569-3522, and to REAPPLY to the Phase 2 portal open now.

[HHS has opened](#) the Medicaid/CHIP (Phase 2) portal to include additional eligible providers who received funding through the Medicare (Phase 1) General Distribution.

All providers must [make an application to the Phase 2 portal](#) by **Sunday, September 13**, including providers who previously submitted an application to the Medicare portal, but who have not yet received ~2% of revenues from patient care.

Bottom line: All eligible providers, including Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care or CHIP or Medicare billing providers may now make an application to the Phase 2 General Distribution portal. **You may need to reapply to the portal to receive funds.** [See this FAQ](#) for additional information.

To help you navigate the portal process, the National Council has updated their step-by-step "[Rules of the Road](#)" guide to include processes for all eligible providers. In addition, HHS has shared a step-by-step resource to help with this process – [see here](#).

ABH SUD Committee Mergers: ATS/CSS Committee and RRS/TSS Committee

ABH has officially restructured a few of its SUD committees so as to establish an ATS/CSS Committee and an RRS/TSS Committee, in order to align around access issues and themes.

Committee Chairs

The ATS/CSS Committee will continue to be chaired by its current ATS Chair, Lisa Blanchard, Spectrum Health Systems.

The RRS/TSS Committee will have Co-Chairs, Eileen Maguire of Hope House, and Jess Nieuwenhuizen, of BPHC TSS Services.

Linked [here is a list of the merged committee meeting dates](#) for your convenience. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Connie Peters at cpeters@abhmass.org.

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EOHHS FAQs for Residential and Congregate Program Surveillance Testing

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services released the following FAQ document in response to the Residential and Congregate Care Programs: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Surveillance Testing Guidance issued on August 14, 2020: [Residential Congregate Care Program Surveillance Testing FAQ](#). The FAQ document addresses such areas as:

- General questions;
- Contract submission and completion;
- Baseline testing; and
- Surveillance (ongoing) testing.

If you should have any questions that remain unanswered, please forward to Carmel Craig, Vice President for Youth and Adult Mental Health Services at ccraig@abhmass.org.



Interesting Reads

- [When Things Aren't OK With a Child's Mental Health.](#) *The New York Times*
- [Opinion: In the shadow of Covid-19, mental health help can't come soon enough.](#) CNN.com
- [Contact Tracers in Massachusetts Might Order Milk or Help With Rent. Here's Why.](#) *Kaiser Health News.*