



ASSOCIATION
FOR BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE



We hope this message finds you well. As we embark on a new edition of our eUpdate, we're thrilled to welcome you to another round of engaging content and updates that matter. Thank you for being part of our community. Your feedback and suggestions are invaluable to us. Feel free to reach out and let us know what topics you'd like us to cover or if there's anything specific you'd like to see in future editions.

This Month's eUpdate

Every month, ABH compiles important information and resources to keep you updated and informed. Here is a glimpse of what you can expect in this month's eUpdate:

- [ABH Annual Meeting](#)
- [June Health Care Provider Cybersecurity Call](#)
- [New ABH Board Members](#)
- [Proposed ACCS Rates](#)
- [State Releases Opioid Related Overdose Report](#)
- [Support and Stabilization Rates RFR Deadline Extended](#)
- [Analysis of the Senate Ways and Means Budget](#)
- [July 2024 Committee Schedule](#)
- [Save the Date: NatCon25](#)
- [Interesting Reads](#)

ABH Annual Meeting

It was great to see so many of our members at our Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 14. Thanks to Mass. Health Policy Commission Executive Director David Seltz, who acknowledged ABH for sharing vacancy data and spoke about the need to invest more in behavioral healthcare.



June Health Care Provider Cybersecurity Call

Join the Massachusetts eHealth Institute (MeHI) and the MassCyberCenter on **June 13th at 10 a.m.** for their monthly health care provider cybersecurity call. As always, they will be joined by representatives of the Commonwealth Fusion Center who will provide updates on recent cyber threats and trends. The presentation topic for this call will be mitigating impacts of an attack and enhancing resilience.

These calls will continue to occur on the second Thursday of every month and will feature a discussion leader from MeHI and the MassCyberCenter, the Commonwealth Fusion Center, and additional guest speakers to provide updates on emerging threats and cover a monthly topic of interest from the group. You can register for the call now by visiting their [Zoom registration page](#).

This series was developed as an outcome of the 2020 Baseline Cybersecurity of Massachusetts Healthcare Provider Survey. The Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts, LeadingAge Massachusetts, Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Massachusetts Medical Society, and Massachusetts Senior Care Association partnered with MeHI and the MassCyberCenter to develop and circulate the survey.

New ABH Board Members

ABH would like to welcome three new members to the ABH Board of Directors:

- Vic DiGravio of Riverside Community Care;
- Kathee Jordan of Seven Hills Foundation; and,
- Chris Tuttle of Bridgewell

In addition, we would like to thank Ken Bates for his tireless work as the Chair of the ABH Board of Directors for the past two years.

Proposed ACCS Rate

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has posted proposed rates for 101 CMR 426.00: Rates for Certain Adult Community Mental Health Services. These rates apply to Adult Community Clinical Services (ACCS). Links to the relevant documents can be found here:

- [Notice of Public Hearing](#)
- [Proposed Regulation](#)

The public hearing for the proposed rates will be held on **Friday, June 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** This hearing will be conducted remotely. To join the hearing online, go directly to [EHS Public Hearings Meeting Room](#). Alternatively, go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID 935 397 8200 and passcode 800606. You can find the link to testify at the public hearing [here](#).

Written comments regarding the proposed ACCS rates must be submitted to EOHHS by **Friday, June 14th at 5:00 p.m.**

Outgoing Board Chair
Ken Bates,
President & CEO
Open Sky
Community Services

Thanks
KEN!

State Releases Opioid Related Overdose Report

The Department of Public Health released the latest Opioid Related Overdose Report on June 12, 2024. The report shows that overdose related deaths in Massachusetts decreased by 10% in 2023, but American Indian, and non-Hispanic black men and women continue to be disproportionately impacted. The state's most rural areas continue to record the highest rates of opioid related overdose deaths. Fentanyl was present in 90% of fatal opioid-related overdoses where toxicology reports were available.

The press release can be found [here](#) and additional detailed information can be found at mass.gov/lists/current-overdose-data.

Support and Stabilization RFR Deadline Extended

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has notified Support and Stabilization (S&S) bidders that the procurement calendar for the S&S RFR will be amended. This is due to the cancellation of the public hearing for the new S&S rates. As a result, the bid submission date will be extended **beyond July 12th**. The amendments to the S&S RFR procurement calendar will include:

- Bid submission due date will be approximately four weeks AFTER the new public hearing date; and
- All remaining due dates will be extended accordingly.

The RFR will be amended with the revised dates after EOHHS announces the date for the new public hearing.

The update notice regarding the changes to the procurement calendar can be found [here](#).

Analysis of the Senate Ways and Means Budget Proposal

On Tuesday, May 7, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (SWM) released its recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25). The Committee recommends \$57.9 billion in spending, a \$1.8 billion increase over the FY24 final state budget.

The SWM budget proposal includes the following highlights:

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

- The Adult Community Services line item (5046-0000) is funded at \$622.3 million. This is consistent with the Governor's proposal, is \$3 million over the House budget, and is \$25.6 million increase compared to the FY24 final budget.
- The Children's Services line item (5042-5000) is funded at 130.5 million, including \$3.9 million for the Massachusetts Child Psychiatric Access Program (MCPAP) and MCPAP for Moms to address mental health needs of pregnant and postpartum women. This is consistent with the Governor's proposal, is \$460K below the House budget, and is an approximately \$9.9 million increase compared to the FY24 final budget.
- The Behavioral Health Outreach, Access, and Support Trust Fund line item (1595-4512) is recapitalized at \$20 million to support targeted behavioral health initiatives.

Department of Public Health (DPH)/Bureau of Substance Addiction Services

- The Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) line item (4512-0200) is funded at \$197.9 million. This is approximately \$4.8 million over the Governor's proposal, and \$3.5 million over the House final budget. It is a \$18.7 million decrease compared to the FY24 final budget.

MassHealth

- MassHealth is funded at approximately \$20.3 billion. This is consistent with the Governor's proposal and the House budget. It is a \$505.5 million increase compared to FY24 final budget.

Chapter 257 Rate Reserve (1599-6903)

- The Chapter 257 rate reserve is funded at \$390 million. This is consistent with the Governor's proposal and the House budget. It is a \$217 million increase compared to the FY24 final budget.
 - It should be noted that when H.2 was released the Administration messaged that an additional \$95 million supported by an off-budget reserve would bring the total FY25 investment to \$485 million. The FY22 Economic Development Bond bill increased the Bureau of Labor Statistics benchmark from the 50th to the 53rd percentile and included \$125 million on a reserve to fund this increase in FY24 and FY25. The messaging was that H.2 assumed \$95 million of this reserve will be used to offset the projected Chapter 257 need in FY25.

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 any vetoes and recommendations for amendment.

Please feel free to reach out to [Liz Ganz](#) with any questions.

July 2024 Committee Schedule

Friday, July 12
Corporate Compliance, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, July 16
OTP, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, July 22
ACCS Services, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31
Psychiatric Day Treatment, 1 p.m.

ABH's Committees are the "grassroots" of our organization. To learn more about ABH's Committees, [click here](#).

Save the Date: NatCon25



May 5-7, 2025
Philadelphia, PA

NatCon25 is more than just an event. It's an opportunity to invest in yourself, your team and your organization alongside thousands of health care leaders.

NatCon25, the largest conference in mental health and substance use, offers three days of nonstop learning, networking and entertainment.

You'll get to:

- Explore the trends and innovations shaping our field.
- Share experiences with colleagues who've "been there, done that."
- Grow your learning portfolio and expand your skills by earning continuing education credits.
- Hear from and network with representatives from federal agencies.
- Take a break to rejuvenate and reconnect.

Don't miss the biggest event in behavioral health care in 2025 — join us and 5,000+ health care professionals in downtown Philadelphia from May 5-7!

Interesting Reads

- [Mass. overdoes deaths dropped 11% in 2023, according to CDC data. WBUR.](#)
- [Federal Panel Prescribes New Mental Health Strategy to Curb Maternal Deaths. Kaiser Health News.](#)
- [Psychoactive Drugs are Having a Moment. The FDA will Soon Weigh In. Kaiser Health News.](#)
- [Americans see disparities in mental and physical care, survey finds. Washington Post.](#)
- [California pays people with addiction to stay clean -- with feds' blessing. Washington Post.](#)

ABH Staff

[Click here](#) to learn more about ABH staff, and to access and download a staff directory.

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A note about "Remove my Email" – Clicking "Remove my Email or Manage Preferences" and following up with "Unsubscribe" will remove you from all ABH communications. If you would like to be removed for an individual

