



ABH November Committee Meetings

Wednesday, November 8
Human Resources,
10 a.m.

Friday, November 10
**Corporate
Compliance, 10 a.m.**
Children's Services,
10 a.m.

Monday, November 13
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, November 14
ACCS, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15
**Quality and
Outcomes, 10 a.m.**

Thursday, November 16
RSS/TSS, 10 a.m.

Friday, November 17
MIDP/DUIL/SOA,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, November 21
OTP, 9:30 a.m.

To learn more about
ABH's Committees, click
[here](#).

Salute to Excellence: Register Now!

Friday, October 20th, 2023 from 9:00am - 2:00pm
Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center

ABH's Salute to Excellence is a celebratory day when we recognize individuals and groups, with an emphasis on clinical and direct care staff, who have made outstanding contributions to community-based behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts. This year's celebration will take place at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center.

Introducing Our Keynote

We are very excited to announce Heather Abbott as this year's Salute to Excellence Keynote Speaker! On April 15, 2013, what is referred to as Marathon Monday in Boston, Heather Abbott of Newport, RI set out on an annual tradition with six friends. They would attend the Red Sox game, followed by a walk over to the finish line to watch the runners. Abbott would never have dreamed this day would change her life forever.

Abbott was struck by shrapnel from the second of the two bombs, severely injuring her left foot. Strangers Matt Chatham, former New England Patriots lineman, and his wife, Erin, carried her to safety.

Abbott has remained a model of strength and resilience and is determined to help other victims of limb loss. She is a certified Peer Counselor for the American Amputee Coalition and is helping other amputees adjust to their "new normal," as others helped her. As a sought after inspirational speaker, Abbott shares her journey of overcoming trauma and leaves audiences with both practical and creative advice on how to push through adversity.

Registration

Registration for ABH's 2023 Salute to Excellence is now open! Click [here](#) to register, and join us in congratulating this year's Salute to Excellence Award winners.

Questions: Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Meg Socha at msocha@abhmass.org.

State House Day: October 17

Help Us Fund Mental Health Clinics

Please Join Us!

State House Day

Tuesday, October 17 at 9 a.m.

Carrie Nation Restaurant, 11 Beacon Street, Boston

Too many vulnerable individuals, children, and families continue to wait months to access basic mental health treatment services. Reimbursement rates for mental health clinics fall far short to ensure access to services and to recruit and retain the clinicians needed to meet the demand for care.

ABH has filed legislation, S. 760/ H. 2006, to provide additional funding for mental health clinics. **These bills have a public hearing at the State House on Tuesday, October 17th.**

As part of that hearing, on Tuesday, October 17th providers from across the state will be going to the State House to meet with their legislators and ask them to support and pass this important legislation. We hope you will join us!

9 am.: Providers meet at Carrie Nation, 11 Beacon Street, Boston (steps from the State House)

9:45 am.: Providers will walk to the State House for meetings with legislators and attend the hearing.

Please fill out the [sign-up form](#) so that we can pre-schedule your meetings for you. Please register [ASAP](#) for scheduling purposes.

For more information, please contact Charlie Stefanini at Stefanini.Charles@gmail.com.



DMH Community Empowerment and Crisis Response Services Master Agreement

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) has issued a [Request for Application \(RFA\)](#), to procure a pool of qualified vendors from which DMH Area Directors and Central Office Division Heads can readily purchase services to address the immediate and long-term mental health needs of communities exposed to trauma. Services will be purchased on an as needed basis. The link to the Request for Application can be found [here](#).

The Trauma to be addressed can be caused by a specific event, such as an active shooter, a suicide, or fire, as well as by the accumulation of such events over time - harm that is long term and “slow moving”, such as the communal impact of gun violence, mass unemployment, the experience of racism, and generational poverty. While singular traumatic events often result in survivors requiring immediate aid, aid is also needed to address harms which gradually permeate communities, engendering desperation, hopelessness, anger, and fear. Through this RFA, DMH seeks to address both the immediate and cumulative impacts of trauma.

To ensure the availability of a large variety of vendors and services, applicants have the option of qualifying under this RFA for one or two categories of service. The two categories of Community Empowerment and Crisis Response Services are:

- Category 1: Critical Incident Response (CIR), and
- Category 2: Community Outreach, Resilience, and Empowerment (CORE).

Vendors can select to provide one or more of the service components comprising each Category, as opposed to having to qualify to provide all services in one Category.

The Deadline to submit Applications for the First Award Period is October 31, 2023, up to 3:00 p.m. Thereafter applications may be filed at any time up to March 31, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Funding Opportunity: Building Local Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) is seeking applications for a funding opportunity that aims to support communities in conducting planning and assessment activities that will inform the development of a community-based continuum of promising and evidence-based prevention and intervention services that will serve as a strong foundation for preventing youth from entering the juvenile justice system, diverting them from moving deeper into the system (i.e., detention and corrections) and ultimately providing them with the skills they need to lead productive, safe, healthy, and law-abiding lives. Applications are due October 10th. Learn more and apply [here](#).

MAP Updates

The Department of Public Health/Drug Control Program has published a **NEW** online MAP Policy Manual and an Advisory that allows non-MAP Certified staff to possess and administer prepackaged medications.

[New online policy manual.](#)

[Advisory.](#)

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Massachusetts Healthcare Workforce Study

As you know too well, workforce is a key challenge that impacts the ability to provide timely, quality health care. Recent ABH issue briefs have documented the impact of workforce crisis on access to outpatient services and to substance use disorder treatment and recovery beds and Opioid Treatment Program care. We anticipate that an upcoming brief on MassHealth and commercial children's behavioral health services will show similar challenges.

ABH is partnering with the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) on a statewide MA Healthcare Workforce Survey. CHIA is a state agency responsible for providing reliable and meaningful information on the Massachusetts health care system. This survey will collect new workforce information across ten different healthcare sectors to highlight the challenges provider organizations are facing, the strategies being pursued to address these challenges, and potential policy solutions.

It is crucial for behavioral health to be represented in the Commonwealth's data collection. The first phase will include mental health clinic and SUD 24/7 services. It will give us new valuable information to be able to advocate with the Healey Administration and the legislature for policies and programs on your behalf, such as pipeline, licensing, and payment reforms.

CEOs of organizations that deliver mental health clinic or SUD 24/7 services have received an invitation to take the online survey in an email titled **ACTION NEEDED: 2023 Massachusetts Healthcare Workforce Survey**. The survey asks about recruitment and retention challenges, staff vacancies, turnover, compensation, demographics and diversity, workforce strategies, and recommendations for impacting state policy. Participating providers will also receive a tailored benchmark report from CHIA that will allow you to compare your organization with others in the state. Thank you to those who have already submitted your response to the Massachusetts Workforce Survey!

Please read this [letter](#) from EOHHS Secretary Kate Walsh regarding the survey. You can also find out more about the survey on CHIA's website here:

<https://mahealthsurveys.gov/mhcw/> .

Interesting Reads

- [State funds Mass. hotline to reduce risk of fatal overdoses.](#) *WBUR News.*
- [Will Availability of Over-the-Counter Narcan Increase Access?](#) *Kaiser Health Policy.*
- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \\$200 Million To Support Youth Mental Health.](#) *HHS.gov.*
- [Peace Corps Sued Over Mental Health Policy.](#) *The New York Times.*
- [Officials Agree: Use Settlement Funds to Curb Youth Addiction. But the 'How' Gets Hairy.](#) *KFF Health News.*