



ABH May Committee Meetings

Tuesday, May 2
CSS/TSS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Monday, May 8
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 9
CBFS, 2:30 p.m. (Child & Family Services, Worcester)

Friday, May 12
Children's Services,
10 a.m.
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 16
OTP, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

Thursday, May 18
Human Resources,
10 a.m.

Friday, May 19
DAE/SOA, 10 a.m. (ABH)
Quality & Outcomes,
10 a.m.

Friday, May 26
PDT/PH, 10 a.m. (ABH)

All meetings are held at the Hampton Inn, Natick unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 508-647-8385.

ABH Annual Meeting

May 9, 2017

12:00-2:00 p.m.

With Linda Rosenberg, President & CEO
National Council for Behavioral Health

Please join ABH for our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 9th from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Linda Rosenberg, MSW, President & CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health will be our Guest Speaker. Linda is a preeminent leader nationally in the field of behavioral healthcare. Under her dynamic leadership, The National Council has grown to over 2,500 members across the United States and has become a driving force in Washington, DC on public policy issues impacting individuals living with mental health and addiction disorders.

Linda will brief ABH members on the latest developments in Congress relating to the financing of behavioral healthcare. This will include Medicaid, Medicare and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Linda will also discuss other national trends around the delivery of community-based behavioral healthcare.

This event is for ABH members only.

Where: Beechwood Hotel (363 Plantation St, Worcester, MA 01605)

Target Audience: CEOs, Senior Staff, & Managers

Fee: \$50 per person or \$375 per table of eight. Includes Lunch.

Registration Questions: Contact Ellen Caliendo at ecaliendo@abhmass.org or at 508-380-9887

Register Now!

ABH Training: MassHealth Transportation

The Human Services Transportation (HST) Office provides demand response and program-based transportation for multiple state agencies including MassHealth, Department of Developmental Services, Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Rehab Commission, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, and the Department of Mental Health through contracts with Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs).

The RTAs provide trips for non-emergency medical transportation, verify eligibility and contract with more than 300 local transportation vendors to deliver safe and cost effective services. As the MassHealth transportation (PT-I) program is a valued resource for insuring client access to treatment, it is important for ABH members to understand this process and how to assist clients with accessing this service.

Attendees will receive an overview of the HST Office and its services, the correct use of the PT-I transportation request form, and learn about the challenges encountered providing statewide transportation services to multiple agencies.

Presenters:

- Shama Small-Borsellino, Director, Human Services Transportation Office
- Anthony Ta, Policy & Program Development Manager
- Rebecca Badgley, Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART)

When: Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Where: Hampton Inn (251 W Central St Suite 21, Natick, MA 01760)

Target Audience: Any provider staff that helps obtain MassHealth transportation for their patients/clients

Cost: \$20 per person, includes coffee.

Registration Questions: Contact Ellen Caliendo at ecaliendo@abhmass.org or at 508-380-9887

Register Now!

Event: Moving Beyond Stigma

Moving Beyond Stigma is a day-long forum hosted by William James College (ABH is a co-sponsor)

Tuesday, May 23, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Back Bay Events Center in Boston

This event is free of charge! If you are seeking CEUs, there is a \$100 fee.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

The forum will cover institutional, public and personal stigma, elucidate the factors that influence negative perceptions of mental and substance use disorders, highlight the impact of stigma, and explore strategies for change. Panel discussions will include: community leaders sharing their personal journeys of stigma; first-responders; and business leaders. The forum will provide ample time for networking and interacting with individuals from various agencies and businesses that address stigma.

All Politics is Local!

Join our next monthly advocacy call:

Thursday, April 20
9:00 a.m.

Call Number:
1-800-867-0549
Access code:
#6478316

Hear updates on the legislative & budget process and how you can help support the mental health and addiction treatment advocacy agenda.

Questions?
Contact
[Mandy Gilman](#)

Client Resources

It's **Massachusetts Healthcare Decision Month** and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) is highlighting the power of having conversations with your clients about their health care goals, preferences and trade-offs.

BCBSMA knows that these are difficult conversations, but also that they are important for everyone, regardless of their age or health. BCBSMA wants to help you and your clients understand their choices and act on them when the time comes.

In 2016, BCBSMA expanded its hospice benefits to a 12 month prognosis and no requirement to forgo curative care. Their hope is that more of your clients benefit longer from the comprehensive care that hospice provides when facing advanced illnesses.

Resources about advance care planning

BCBSMA can help you find the words for these discussions. Go to bluecross-ma.com/training&events and search for "serious illness: how to talk with your patients."

If you'd like to give your clients more information, before or during their visit, go to www.bluecrossma.com/advancedillnesscare/

When I have this discussion, what billing codes do I use?

Please bill using CPT codes 99499 and 99497- Advance Care Planning Evaluation and Management Services.

Questions?

If you have ideas about how BCBSMA can better serve its members facing serious and advancing illnesses, email anna.gosline@bcbsma.com.

Expedited External Review Requests

The Office of Patient Protection (OPP) recently issued a revised memorandum regarding expedited external review requests. It clarifies that, in certain cases, a patient may request an expedited external review without a certification signed by a healthcare professional. More specifically, if the request "includes a final adverse determination that concerns an admission, availability of care, continued stay, or health care service for which the claimant received emergency services, but has not been discharged from a facility," then the request meets the requirement for expedited review.

The OPP process applies to fully insured health plans issued in Massachusetts and to health insurance plans offered through the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector. This process does **not** apply to self-funded/self-insured employer health plans, Medicare, MassHealth, or federal employee plans.

Both the memorandum and the External Review Form will soon be available [here](#). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Steven Belec, Director of the Office of Patient Protection at Steven.Belec@state.ma.us or at 617-979-1413.

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The ACA: Working for Massachusetts

Many ABH organizations responded to the recent request by Senator Warren's office to assist in illustrating the importance of the Affordable Care Act and the positive effects health care access has had across the Commonwealth. Senator Warren's office recently released a 180 page report highlighting the positive impact of the ACA in Massachusetts. According to a press release from Senator Warren's office, "

The report presents constituent views on a number of benefits for Massachusetts resulting from the implementation of the ACA and Medicaid expansion, along with the state's own comprehensive health care reforms, including: increased access to care and preventative health services for children; improved health care for women; guaranteed and enhanced care for individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions; better integration of mental health services; and additional support for opioid and other substance disorder services in Massachusetts.

To read the press release issued by Senator Warren's office, click [here](#). Click [here](#) to read the final report. Many ABH members are prominently featured in the report and we thank you for your contributions!

Inpatient Report

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the agencies it oversees have been working for over a year on a set of recommendations and systematic policy changes to address the Emergency Department Boarding Crisis. As a part of this work, the Department of Mental Health released an RFI late last year asking for input on acute psychiatric inpatient services for special populations. ABH submitted comments at that time.

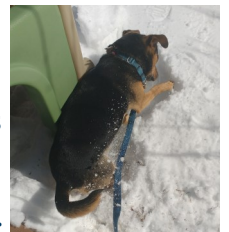
The final DMH report created from this outside stakeholder input is available [here](#).

ABH will continue to keep you updated as more details of the overarching initiative are available.

Keeper's Korner

Keeper is SO ready for spring that she'll dig her way there if she has to; in the meantime, she's reading to pass her free time:

- [Gov. Baker To Work With White House On Opioid Addiction.](#) *WBUR*
- [Opinions: Who is to Blame for the Opioid Epidemic?](#) *Washington Post*
- [Senator to Investigate Opioid Makers' Role in Drug Crisis.](#) *Washington Post*



Keeper is digging her way to spring.