



ABH March Committee Meetings

Tuesday, March 5
CSS/TSS, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 6
E-Health, 10 a.m.

Friday, March 8
Corporate Compliance,
10 a.m.
Children's Services, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 11
Billing, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 12
ACCS, 2:30 p.m.

Friday, March 15
DAE/SOA, 10 a.m. (ABH)

Thursday, March 19
OTP, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

Wednesday, March 20
BHCP Exec., 10 a.m.
Quality & Outcomes,
10 a.m.

Thursday, March 21
Human Resources, 10 a.m.

Friday, March 22
PDT/PH, 10 a.m.

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

Governor Baker's FY 2020 Budget Proposal

On January 22, Governor Baker released his Fiscal Year 2020 Budget proposal (referred to as House I or H1), totaling \$42.7 billion. The budget is modeled on a projected tax revenue forecast of \$29.9 billion, representing 2.7% growth and assuming that the state income tax will drop to 5.0%, effective January 1, 2020, from its current rate of 5.05%. ABH continues to gather further information on how the proposed budget would impact existing services.

The FY House I budget includes the following highlights:

- The Adult Community Services line item (5046-0000) is approximately level funded from FY19. The Governor has recommended a decrease of \$2.8 million in the Children's Services line item (5042-5000) from projected final FY19 spending.
- The Governor proposed the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services be funded at \$148,671,349. This is a decrease of nearly \$7 million from projected final FY19 spending. This decrease is largely due to the exclusion of program-specific earmarks in line-item 4512-0205 which are typically added by the Legislature.
- MassHealth is funded at \$16.539 billion. MassHealth covers 1.9 million Massachusetts residents, and the Administration projects that caseload growth will slow in FY20 to .6% over FY19 due to eligibility system improvements. House I proposes maintaining existing program benefits and eligibility in FY20.
- \$20.5 million in funding in the Chapter 257 rate reserve for rates adjusted in the upcoming year.
- House I proposes a new line item (1599-0105) for costs associated with the delivery of medication assisted treatment in County Correctional facilities. This new account is funded at \$10 million in FY20.
- House I includes a new tax on e-cigarettes and vapor products.
- The Governor is also proposing to tax opioid manufacturers, however drugs used for medication assisted treatment would be exempt.

Please feel free to reach out to Vic DiGravio (vdigravio@abhmass.org) or Mandy Gilman (agilman@abhmass.org) should you have any specific questions.

MA Behavioral Health Innovation Awards

Has your organization filled an unmet need in the children's behavioral health care delivery system? Have you come up with an innovative solution to a problem facing children's behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts? If so, keep reading.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, the C.F. Adams Charitable Trust, and the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health are funding the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Innovation Awards. The Awards recognize nonprofit children's behavioral health or social service organizations' efforts to fill an unmet need or gap in the children's behavioral health care delivery system or efforts to "respond to a 'wicked' problem facing the children's behavioral health field through the creation of an innovative program or practice." Three finalists will present their innovation at the [Children's Behavioral Health Knowledge Center Symposium](#) on May 10, 2019. The winner will receive a \$10,000 grant to continue their innovative work and two finalists will receive an award of \$5,000 each. To view the application and learn more, click [here](#).

The focus areas for the 2019 award are as follows:

1. Delivering behavioral health care services to children in school settings
2. Accessing children's behavioral health care services
3. Innovations related to the "who" is delivering the intervention. This could mean use of community members, family members, peers, etc. to provide an intervention or service.

Applications must be submitted online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cbhinnovate2019> no later than Friday, March 15th at 12:00 pm (NOON).

This opportunity is open to all Massachusetts children's behavioral health providers.

NatCon19—\$200 Discount

NatCon19 is fast approaching! The National Council for Behavioral Health's annual conference is set for March 25th – 27th in Nashville, TN. As a reminder, staff from ABH member organizations are once again able to receive a \$200 discount when registering for the conference. Just use the special ABH members code which is 19memberMA. ABH members using this code will receive a \$200 discount from the registration rate of \$1,025.

Please click on the following link to learn more about the conference and to register to attend: <https://www.eventscribe.com/2019/NatCon19/>.

We look forward to seeing you in Nashville!

Proposed Rates for Family Stabilization Services

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has published proposed rate regulations for 101 CMR 414.00: Rates for Family Stabilization Services. The proposed rate regulations can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/12/27/proposed-reg-101-cmr-414-fs.pdf>.

Rate models can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/01/03/foia-frc-models.pdf>.

ABH in the News

January 9, 2019

The Boston Globe

Vic DiGravio's comments on Fall River officials decision to block SSTAR addiction treatment center.

Click [here](#) to read.



MassHealth Info

MassHealth has published a series of bulletins and transmittal letters that may impact you. Please click the links below to access the content of interest to you.

Provider Bulletins:

- All Provider Bulletin 281: Access to Behavioral Health Services Through Use of Telehealth Options
- All Provider Bulletin 280: Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services
- Managed Care Entity Bulletin 10: Access to Behavioral Health Services Through Use of Telehealth Options

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/2019-masshealth-provider-bulletins>

Transmittal Letters:

- Psychiatric Day Treatment-21: Revisions to the Psychiatric Day Treatment Program Regulations
- Psychologist-23: Revised Service Codes and Descriptions

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/2019-masshealth-transmittal-letters>

Draft Family & Medical Leave Regulations

Recently, the newly formed Department of Family & Medical Leave (DFML) announced [draft regulations](#) regarding the new Paid Family & Medical Leave Law in Massachusetts.

DFML plans to hold a series of listening sessions on this version of the regulations over the next few weeks. The listening sessions are listed [here](#).

DFML has indicated they will formally publish the comments on March 29, 2019 for public hearing. Stakeholders will have an additional opportunity to comment at this time. The final regulations will be effective July 1, 2019 when contributions begin.

ABH will collect feedback on these draft regulations. In the meantime, feel free to contact Mandy Gilman at agilman@abhmass.org with any thoughts or questions.

Proposed Rates for Community Mental Health Center Services

The Commonwealth has published proposed rates for community mental health center services (101 CMR 306). If adopted, the proposal would add approximately \$7.7 million over FY17 base spending. As a reminder, these new rates would apply to MassHealth Fee-For-Service only. Rates for psychiatry services are covered in the MassHealth Medicine regulation (101 CMR 317) and are not included in this proposed regulation. The proposed rates can be found [here](#).

ABH STAFF

Vicker V. DiGravio III
President/CEO
508.647.8385, x11
vdigravio@abhmass.org

Constance Peters
Vice President for
Addiction Services
508.647.8385, x13
cpeters@abhmass.org

Lydia Conley
Vice President for
Mental Health
508.647.8385, x15
lconley@abhmass.org

Mandy Gilman
Senior Director of Public
Policy & Research
508.647.8385, x16
agilman@abhmass.org

Megan Thompson
Director of Children's
Behavioral Health and
Member Services
508.647.8385, x14
mthompson@abhmass.org

Stuart Figueroa
Public Policy & Research
Specialist
508.647.8385, x17
sfigueroa@abhmass.org

Rosemary Santini
Administrative Assistant
508.647.8385, x10
rsantini@abhmass.org

Ellen Caliendo
Business Manager
508.380.9887
ecaliendo@abhmass.org

New Tool for Trauma-Informed Brief Intervention

The National Council for Behavioral Health, with funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, recently developed and released its [Conversation Guide for Delivering a Trauma-Informed Brief Intervention](#).

According to the National Council, "This resource offers communication tips for health care providers to deliver a brief intervention for substance use using a trauma-informed approach. Whether providers are well-versed in the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) process, or just looking for an effective way to address substance use concerns with patients, this guide provides practical examples to facilitate that conversation."

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Swanson at stephanies@thenationalcouncil.org.

MHA Guidelines for MAT

As you may know, the Massachusetts CARE Act (Chapter 2018 of the Acts of 2018) signed into law by the Governor last August requires acute care hospitals that provide emergency services and satellite emergency facilities to maintain the ability to induce Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for patients with opioid use disorders when it's appropriate before discharge while also connecting these individuals to treatment in the community.

To implement this requirement, the Massachusetts Hospital Association developed and just released their [Guidelines for Medication for Addiction Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder within the Emergency Department](#). Please note that Appendix IV and V are ABH documents. Feel free to share this document with your staff as you deem appropriate.

MHA and ABH are encouraging all Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) providers and local hospitals to create linkages to help get emergency room patients into continuing treatment.

According to MassHealth, the OTPs should be able to provide and bill for all three approved medications for the treatment of opioid addiction (methadone, buprenorphine/Suboxone and naltrexone/Vivitrol) starting in early spring. ABH will keep you informed of our progress on this front as it becomes available.

Keeper's Corner

Here's what's on Keeper's cold weather reading list:

- [Report: Many In Mass. Struggled To Get Access To Mental Health Care And Addiction Treatment Last Year](#). *WBUR CommonHealth*
- [Students With Addictions Immersed In The Sober Life At 'Recovery' High Schools](#). *Kaiser Health News*.
- [Baker Tax Plan Would Hit Firms That Make Opioid Drugs](#). *WBUR CommonHealth*

