



ABH November Committee Meetings

Tuesday, November 7
CSS/TSS, 10 a.m. (ABH)

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

Monday, November 13
Billing, 10 a.m.
**Partnering with Under-
served Populations**,
1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14
CBFS, 2:30 p.m. (ABH)

Thursday, November 16
Human Resources,
10 a.m.

Friday, November 17
DAE/SOA, 10 a.m. (ABH)
Quality and Outcomes,
10 a.m.

Tuesday, November 21
OTP, 9:30 a.m. (ABH)

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

ABH Salute to Excellence Award Winners!

Please join us on **Friday, October 20**
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the *Boston Marriott Newton*
As we celebrate this year's ABH Salute to Excellence Award Winners:

Robert Dorwart, M.D. Award for Mental Health
Marsha Medalie, Riverside Community Care

Moe Armstrong Award for Peer Leadership
Zohreh King, North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Inc.

Elizabeth Funk Emerging Leader Award
Hillary Dubois Farquharson, High Point Treatment Center

Excellence in Administration & Finance
Jenny Schreiber, ServiceNet

Excellence in Best Practices
Project Turnabout, Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.

Excellence in Outcomes
Dr. Mary Anna Sullivan, Lahey Health Behavioral Services

Excellence in Program Leadership
Dr. John Nestor, Amesbury Psychological Center, Inc.
Melissa Porter, Center for Human Development, Inc.
Meri-Ellen Morgans, The Brien Center for Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Service

Haven't registered to attend this year's Salute to Excellence yet?
Register Today!

MassHealth Systems Transformation Webinar

A recording of ABH's webinar on MassHealth Systems Transformation is now available on our [website](#). The recording may be viewed with or without closed captioning.

To view the webinar, you will need to log in to ABH's members-only portion of the website. Once logged in, the webinar can be found on the [MassHealth Systems Transformation](#) webpage. If you do not yet have a login, you can register [here](#). *Please note:* Personal email addresses will not be recognized in our system. Emails must be associated with an ABH member organization.

If you have any difficulty logging in or viewing the webinar, please feel free to contact Megan Thompson at mthompson@abhmass.org or 508-647-8385 x14.

Thank you to the over 300 ABH members who tuned in to this webinar. We hope you will join ABH for future webinars on this topic and others.

ABH Webinar: Managing Complex Change in your Organization

Thursday, October 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register here.](#)

In today's competitive landscape, change is the only constant. With MassHealth Systems Transformation, Massachusetts providers are having to redesign how they provide services, how they bill and get paid, how they manage workflows and workforce, at the same time that they're negotiating complex relationships with other organizations.

Organizations that have the ability to manage change will have a significant advantage over their competition, but failure is all too common, and with even the best attempts, there is often significant disruption and frustration. This webinar, presented by Matt Hoffman, Managing Partner for Afia, a healthcare consulting company working with a number of ABH members, will introduce an adaptive model for leading and managing complex change within your organization. Using real-life examples, we will suggest the competencies that are needed to properly lead and manage change, creating a framework to ensure success in any major project or initiative that you will undertake in the future. We expect there will be time for Q&A.

This free webinar is exclusive to ABH Members.

Commonwealth v. Julie Eldred

ABH recently signed onto an Amicus Brief concerning a case in which a woman in Massachusetts had her probation revoked because she violated a District Court order to "remain drug free." The woman was placed on probation for a larceny charge, but after testing positive for the opioid fentanyl, she was incarcerated at MCI Framingham.

ABH and other groups and individuals, including The Massachusetts Medical Society, The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, and the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR) have filed the brief ascertaining that addiction is a brain disorder and therefore, the court's decision to incarcerate the woman in question for relapsing was inappropriate. To read a redacted copy of the Amicus Brief, click [here](#). Click [here](#) for a WBUR story on the case.

Get Your News Here!

ABH's President and CEO Vic DiGravio recently appeared on Comcast Newsmakers where he discussed Massachusetts' community-based mental health and addiction treatment organizations and the importance of ensuring cost-effective quality care.

See his interview with Jenny Johnson [here](#).



Policy Team in Action

The ABH policy team has been working to ensure that the interests of ABH's member organizations are represented before the Massachusetts Legislature. Recently, ABH submitted testimony in opposition to H. 3593, *An Act to Prevent Oversaturation of Clinical or Educational Programs in Low Income Neighborhoods under the Dover Amendment without Local Approval*. ABH argued that the legislation would be discriminatory against individuals with a recognized medical illness, thereby violating the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)*. The legislation would deny treatment facilities the benefit of having municipalities make zoning decisions without regard to the disabilities of clients who are disabled within the meaning of the ADA.

To read ABH's testimony in its entirety, click [here](#).

ABH also testified in favor of S. 525/H. 486, *An Act to Require Health Care Coverage for the Emergency Psychiatric Services*. This legislation requires commercial insurers to cover emergency psychiatric services, called Emergency Service Programs (ESPs), a benefit the Commonwealth currently funds for all MassHealth members. The state has determined the ESP service is vitally important to the behavioral health continuum of care and ABH believes it is imperative all insured individuals have access to the same benefits.

To read ABH's testimony in its entirety, click [here](#).

If you have any questions about ABH's testimony, feel free to contact Mandy Gilman at AGilman@ABHmass.org.

Graham-Cassidy Vote Pulled from Schedule

As you may have heard, the Senate will not be voting on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. Republicans in Congress have once again abandoned their attempts to decimate Medicaid and repeal the Affordable Care Act.

THANK YOU for your advocacy and support!

ABH and the National Council will continue to keep you updated on any further information at the federal level. As you may know, Republican leadership in the Senate have until September 30th to pass legislation with only 50 votes through the annual budget reconciliation process. Once this deadline passes, the filibuster in the Senate requires 60 votes to enact this legislation. This deadline had helped fuel the momentum of those opposed to the ACA for another attempt at repeal.

Although the threat of repeal has subsided again, we do expect Republican Congressional leadership to continue to attempt to change the structure and financing of federal health care moving forward.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mandy Gilman at AGilman@abhmass.org.

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A Peek in the Personnel File

Beacon Health Options recently announced that CEO Tim Murphy will be stepping down from that position on October 23rd. Tim will be succeeded as CEO by Russell C. Petrella. This announcement follows a major restructuring of Beacon's corporate organization. ABH is working with Beacon to schedule an opportunity for Rich Lynch, new Market President in the Northeast for Beacon, to meet with ABH members.



We will provide you with more details about that meeting as they are finalized.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye



A public hearing for proposed rate amendments for Youth Intermediate-Term Stabilization services (Including Group Home 1:3, Group Home 1:4, Pre-independent Living, STARR, Youth Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Continuum, Follow Along and Stepping Out services) has been scheduled for Friday, October 13, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, 100 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA.

Written comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 20th, 2017.

The proposed amendments update rates for Youth Intermediate-term Stabilization services to include an increase by a cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 2.72% for January 2018 through December 2019. This proposed amended regulation is planned to go into effect no sooner than January 1, 2018.

Click [here](#) for a red-lined version of the proposed amendments. The hearing notice is available [here](#).

Keeper's Korner

Keeper is ready for fall weather! Blankets! Snuggling! And reading:

- [UPDATED MassHealth: The Basics](#). Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts
- [Billions of Dollars Lost to the Opioid Epidemic in Mass](#). *WBUR Common-Health*.
- [Opioid-addicted Zebrafish Attempt to get a Hit 2,000 Times in 50 minutes, Study Says](#). *Washington Post*.
- [FDA Warns on Mixing Opioid Addiction Treatments, Other Meds](#). *Washington Post*.
- [Medicaid Covers All That? It's The Backstop Of America's Ailing Health System](#). *Kaiser Health News*.
- [We Can't Fight the Opioid Crisis without Adequate Healthcare](#). Senator Elizabeth Warren, *Boston Globe Opinion*

