



May 1, 2014

**To:** ABH Members  
**Fr:** Vic DiGravio, President/CEO  
Mandy Gilman, Director of Public Policy & Research  
**Re:** **FY 2015 House Budget Success!**

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THANK YOU for your advocacy and support during the House of Representatives FY2015 budget debate which ended last night. Due to your advocacy, the importance of state funding for mental health and addiction treatment services was front and center during the House's consideration.

ABH commends Speaker Robert DeLeo, House Ways and Means Chair Brian Dempsey and our House legislative champions for their support.

**The Final House Budget Includes:**

1. Legislative language requiring MassHealth managed care organizations to publically disclose the terms of their subcontracts with their behavioral health carve-outs. This is ABH's top legislative priority.
2. An additional \$5 million in funding for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) adult community services line item.
  - a. In total, the House authorized an increase of \$7.5 million for DMH community services to create new adult community placements for individuals currently stuck in DMH continuing care facilities, while still providing the Department the funding to maintain existing services
3. An earmark of \$8 million in the MassHealth line item for PCC plan rate for rate increases for mental health and addiction treatment services.
4. Increased Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) funding to place addiction specialists in selected courts, expanding detox and clinical support stabilization services, and create a voluntary training and accreditation program for alcohol and drug free housing.
5. The House included \$1 million for expanded access to Narcan for first-responders and bystanders, also including sufficient funding to maintain all existing BSAS-funded services.
6. An earmark of \$3.1 million for the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project (MCPAP) and language allowing the DMH Commissioner to assess health insurance companies whose members use MCPAP services

### **Actions Requested**

**Call your State Representative NOW and say THANK YOU for your support of Mental Health and Addiction Treatment funding.**

**If you are unsure who your legislators are or need their contact information, click [here](#).**

Thank you again for all your advocacy. The House budget is a significant step forward for community-based mental health and addiction treatment.