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June 30, 2014

To: ABH Members
Fr: Vic DiGravio, President/CEO
Re: **FY'15 Conference Committee Budget Passes Legislature & House Passes
Landmark Addiction Treatment Bill**

The Legislature affirmed their commitment to mental health and addiction treatment today as the House of Representatives passed their version of historic legislation expanding access to addiction treatment for both MassHealth members and individuals with commercial insurance and the Fiscal Year 2015 Conference Committee budget made historic investments in behavioral health coverage and transparency.

The House legislation includes a slightly different version of the mandated benefits required in the Senate bill. But both branches have now endorsed the principle that addiction treatment services should be covered by insurers. The mandated coverage of both Acute Treatment Services (ATS) and Clinical Stabilization Services (CSS) without prior authorization for both MassHealth and commercial insured individuals is a significant step for individuals who need access to addiction treatment. The House and Senate will now appoint a conference committee to iron out differences between the versions of the bill. We will keep you updated as the bill continues through the legislative process.

In addition, the Fiscal Year 2015 Conference Committee budget now goes to the Governor for his approval. The budget includes the following highlights.

- An increase of \$27.4 million in DMH funding over Fiscal Year 2014. The DMH appropriation is higher than was recommended by either the House or the Senate.
- Includes a new \$10 million line item to fund 100 new DMH community placements for individuals currently stuck in continuing care beds who are ready for discharge.
- Requirement that DMH increase the number of inpatient continuing care beds it operates to 671. DMH must continue to operate 45 inpatient beds at Taunton State Hospital and is also required to open the rest of the beds in Worcester.
- Earmarks \$3.1 million for the MCPAP Program and requires DMH to charge commercial payers whose members use MCPAP services.
- An increase of \$15 million in BSAS funding over Fiscal Year 2014. The BSAS appropriation is higher than was recommended by the House or the Senate.
- Funding for 32 new ATS beds and 32 new CSS beds.
- A new \$10 million line item to fund expanded addiction treatment services.
- A new \$1 million line item to fund access to Narcan for bystanders and first responders.
- A new line item funded at \$400,000 for MassHealth to pursue Medicaid state plan

amendments including health homes.

- An earmark of “\$8 million for providers in the MassHealth PCC Mental Health and Substance Abuse plan.”
- An \$8 million annualized salary reserve for low paid human service workers.
- An increase of \$37 million in funding for DCF.
- **Outside section language that requires MassHealth managed care organizations to publically disclose the terms of their subcontracts for the management and delivery of behavioral health services. This language has been ABH’s top legislative priority for the past three years.**

Thank you for contacting your legislators in support of this important bill and funding. Please let Vic DiGravio (vdigravio@abhmass.org) or Mandy Gilman (agilman@abhmass.org) know if you have any questions.