



## ABH January Committee Meetings

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

Monday, January 11  
**Billing,** 10 a.m.

Friday, January 15  
**MIDP/SOA,** 10 a.m.

Wednesday, January 20  
**Quality & Outcomes,**  
10 a.m.

Thursday, January 21  
**BH CP Exec.,** 10 a.m.  
**Human Resources,**  
10 a.m.  
**RSS/TSS,** 10 a.m.

Friday, January 22  
**CBHI,** 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 26  
**PWUP,** 12 p.m.

## FY21 Senate Ways and Means Budget

On Thursday, November 12, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (SWM) released their recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget (S.4), totaling \$45.98 billion, representing a \$2.41B increase over the FY20 budget.

Please see ABH's [Analysis of the FY21 Senate Ways and Means Budget](#) for more details. DMH and BSAS highlights are as follows (additional highlights are included in ABH's analysis):

**Department of Mental Health.** DMH is funded at approximately \$910.45 million. This sum represents a \$6.39 million increase over House 2, and \$8.45 million over projected final FY20 spending. The Adult Community Services line item (5046-0000) is funded at \$500.2 million, a \$775,725 increase over projected final FY20 spending. SWM restores funding to the DMH Children's Services line item (5042-5000) in the amount of \$94.53 million.

**Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.** BSAS is funded at \$176.6M, an increase of \$16.4M over the Governor's revised House 2. SWM included several ABH-MCAS priorities including \$3M for Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program, \$3.5M for 5 new recovery centers, \$2M for BSAS technical assistance, and \$1M for workforce development through the Mass. Rehab Commission. The SWM budget also provides additional funding for supportive case management services (\$1M), residential rehabilitation services (\$1M), and \$2.5M for providers for COVID-19 response. When compared to FY20 projected spending, BSAS funding represents a \$5.7M decrease. ABH understands that these decreases are likely due elimination of \$4M earmarks and reduced service utilization.

## Forum on Behavioral Health Workforce Development

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation (BCBSMA) is co-sponsoring a virtual *Forum on Behavioral Health Workforce Development*, which will be held on December 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, hosted by William James College.

This event will focus on innovative approaches to building and sustaining a culturally diverse behavioral health workforce. If you have not had a chance to register, please [click here](#) to sign up by **Friday, December 4th**. Click the following links to access the [save the date](#) and [meeting agenda](#).

# Urging Withdrawal of Executive Order 13950

Below please find a letter sent to President Trump from more than 100 community-based human services organizations in Massachusetts, including ABH, urging the withdrawal of Executive Order 13950, Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping. To access the letter on the ABH public-facing website, [click here](#).

*We write to convey our concerns with, and opposition to, Executive Order 13950, Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping. The community-based human services sector in Massachusetts includes many federal subcontractors covered under your executive order. As written, we believe your order creates confusion and uncertainty, leads to non-meritorious investigations, and hinders the ability of employers to implement critical programs to promote diversity and combat discrimination in the workplace. We urge you to withdraw your Executive Order and work with the human services and nonprofit communities on an approach that supports appropriate workplace training programs.*

*While the Executive Order notes that it is “appropriate and beneficial” to provide training to employees on creating an inclusive workplace, we believe your order will diminish the amount of training that takes place. It seeks to identify specific concepts that will be prohibited, but the description of these concepts leaves considerable ambiguity as to what content would not be permitted in diversity and inclusiveness training. Further, there is a great deal of subjectivity around how certain content will be perceived by different individuals – for example, the definition of “divisive concepts” is unclear. Because the ultimate threat of debarment is a possible consequence, we fear this may have a chilling effect on organizations providing training. This may prevent organizations from hosting valuable diversity and inclusion trainings that foster inclusive workplaces and help with talent recruitment and retention.*

*The order also establishes a hotline at the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) to receive complaints from employees about such trainings. Community-based human services organizations are concerned that this will invite non-meritorious complaints from employees who may be disgruntled about a range of different matters. Because of the ambiguity and subjective nature of the key terms contained in the order, it is unclear what type of training material would be compliant or in violation of the order. Even if a company is ultimately found in compliance, it will undergo a review from OFCCP, which represents an administrative burden to many of our limited financed organizations. The Massachusetts community-based human services sector is committed to maintaining a diverse and inclusive workforce and providing our employees with the necessary training to reinforce this goal. A recent report on the state’s human services sector indicates we’re twice as likely to employ Black workers and 1.5 times as likely to employ Latinx workers than all Massachusetts companies.*

*Additionally, it notes that nearly one in five workers in our sector is a person born outside the United States. It is critical that our sector continue providing programs that promote diversity and inclusion to ensure we can serve clients and consumers on behalf of the Commonwealth. It should be noted that Massachusetts, like other states, has a population that is increasingly diverse and it is important for our human services providers to offer services that are culturally competent to ensure the best opportunity for success with our clients and the people we serve.*

*In closing, we feel that your Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping does not help contractors in this regard – and in fact, we believe it creates several significant obstacles and impediments. We urge you to withdraw this executive order – and we are willing to work with you and your administration on an approach that addresses any concerns that have been raised while continuing to promote efforts to increase inclusive workplaces.*

*Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue, and we look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.*

# ABH COVID-19 Landing Page

ABH has created a COVID-19 resource page where we are collecting the guidance most relevant to ABH members:

<https://www.abhmass.org/newsroom/announcements/guidance-on-covid-19.html>

## BSAS Provider Call Series - COVID-19 Preparations for Congregate Care

You are invited to attend a call to ask questions, share best practices, and discuss COVID concerns in your BSAS licensed or funded congregate care facility with BSAS staff including Dr. Alex Walley.

This bimonthly call is scheduled for Monday, December 7th and will be every other Monday thereafter (next scheduled for December 21st) until further notice. In order to facilitate the discussion, please submit any questions you may have by close of business the previous Friday to Therese Fleisher at [Therese.M.Fleisher@mass.gov](mailto:Therese.M.Fleisher@mass.gov). There will be time to raise any questions or concerns you have not submitted as well.

Please see the call-in information below:

BSAS COVID 19 Congregate Care Call:

<https://statema.webex.com/statema/j.php?MTID=m1d1902cd1f18bad5ef3d3a0802e57662>

Monday, Dec 7, 2020 3:00 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Occurs every 14 days effective 12/7/2020 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 178 171 6853

Password: BSASI

d6295343b4b74feaa231ff67c3ff1de6\_20201207T200000Z

Join by video system

Dial [1781716853@statema.webex.com](tel:1781716853)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

+1-203-607-0564 US Toll

+1-866-692-3580 US Toll Free

Access code: 178 171 6853

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming call, please contact Therese Fleisher at [Therese.M.Fleisher@mass.gov](mailto:Therese.M.Fleisher@mass.gov).

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Boston Globe Magazine's 2020 [Top 100 Women-Led Businesses](#) including ABH members, SSTAR, and Lowell Community Health Center!

We are thrilled to see so many essential healthcare providers on this list getting the recognition they so deserve.

## ABH STAFF

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# Updated Approved Vendor List

MassHealth has posted its updated, HIPAA-compliant approved Vendor List to the web.

To access this updated list and a helpful list of "Questions You Should Ask Your Vendor/Clearinghouse/Billing Intermediary," please go to <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/vendor-list>.

Providers with questions about the approved vendor list process can contact MassHealth EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) at the MassHealth Customer Service Center at [edi@mahealth.net](mailto:edi@mahealth.net) or (800) 841-2900.

## Electronic Claims HIPAA File and Provider Online Service Center (POSC) Updates

In March 2021, MassHealth will implement minor modifications to the submission requirements related to operating physician, service facility location, and supervising physician information submitted on claims transactions. The changes will impact both 837 batch claims transactions and the Provider Online Service Center (POSC) Direct Data Entry (DDE) claims transactions.

In preparation for these modifications, MassHealth will conduct general information sessions for providers, trading partners, and vendors beginning in late January. Registration will begin earlier that month and can be completed at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/trading-partner-education> once available.

It is highly recommended that trading partners participate in the information sessions in January to understand the upcoming changes. If the changes require your organization to make modifications to the information submitted within your batch or DDE claims transactions, or updates to your operational processes, MassHealth strongly encourages you to identify the changes as quickly as possible. For more information, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/masshealth-technical-refresh>.

If you have questions, please email the MassHealth Customer Service Center at [providersupport@mahealth.net](mailto:providersupport@mahealth.net). If you are an LTSS provider, please contact LTSS Provider Service Center at (844) 368-5184 or [support@masshealthltss.com](mailto:support@masshealthltss.com).

## Interesting Reads

- [Take It From an Expert: Fauci's Hierarchy of Safety During COVID](#). Kaiser Health News.
- [Study Finds Stimulants Are Increasingly Involved In Overdoses Of Young People](#). WBUR CommonHealth.
- [MassHealth Enrollment Up, Private Insurance Down In Pandemic](#). WBUR CommonHealth.
- [Pandemic Takes Toll On Children's Mental Health](#). NPR.