



## ABH April Committee Meetings

Friday, April 2  
**Children's CEO**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 6  
**ATS/CSS**, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 8  
**SOAP**, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 9  
**Corporate Compliance**,  
10 a.m.

Monday, April 12  
**Billing**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 13  
**ACCS**, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14  
**Outpatient**, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 15  
**BH CP Exec**, 10 a.m.  
**COE/RRS**, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20  
**OTP**, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 23  
**PDT/PHP**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 27  
**PWUP**, 12 p.m.

## EOHHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Ambulatory Services

On February 24, 2021, EOHHS Secretary Marylou Sudders held a stakeholder call to discuss **Massachusetts' Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform**: Ensuring the right treatment when and where people need it. You can find the Behavioral Health Roadmap slide deck from Secretary Sudders' presentation [here](#).

EOHHS is hosting a virtual Q&A sessions regarding the release of their Massachusetts Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform to respond to feedback and engage with partners.

- Monday, March 15, 2-3PM

To register for the March 15 Q&A session, click the following link. MassHealth also indicated that the Q&A session recordings and slide decks will be available at this link. To access the aforementioned resources, visit [www.mass.gov/BHRoadmap](http://www.mass.gov/BHRoadmap).

### ABH Resources and Process

For those who would like to review earlier information on the Ambulatory Treatment System Design, please visit the ABH's [State Behavioral Health Initiatives](#) page, located in our Members-Only Portal.

Here you will find a number of resources including [ABH Refresher on Ambulatory Behavioral Health Treatment System Design, January 2021](#). There is also a captioned version and the slide deck available for those interested. ABH will soon be in touch with next steps in our process responding to the Roadmap.

In the meantime, please feel free to send questions to [bhroadmap@abhmass.org](mailto:bhroadmap@abhmass.org).

## ABH OTP Contact Chart

ABH has updated its Opioid Treatment Provider (OTP) Contact Chart, which is available [here](#). The chart provides each OTP clinic's location, dosing hours, clinic hours, last dose contact information, and how to contact the Intake Coordinator and the Program Director. This resource is helpful to any program staff that provides services to individuals on methadone for treatment of their opioid use disorder.

# COVID-19 Prevention Protocols Post-Vaccination in Congregate Care Settings

EOHHS has produced a communication to families regarding COVID-19 Prevention Protocols Post-Vaccination in Congregate Care Settings. This document addresses COVID-19 safety protocols required when visiting loved ones in congregate care settings, COVID-19 testing, and screening. ABH's preliminary review identified no substantive changes. The document can be found [here](#).

## Completion of Provider Organized Vaccination Clinics in Congregate Care / Shelter Settings by March 31

As the Commonwealth moves forward with the COVID-19 vaccination process, and more residents become eligible, and in light of the continued inadequate supply of vaccine, the Administration must streamline the vaccine distribution process. In support of these efforts, provider organized COVID-19 vaccine clinics for Congregate Care and Shelters will be completed by March 31, 2021.

Your state agency points of contact will continue to work with you over the next several weeks to ensure that final dose vaccine allocations can be appropriately prioritized prior to March 31st, when allocation for provider organized vaccine clinics for Congregate Care and Shelter settings will be completed.

## 21st Century Cures Act - Information Blocking Webinar



ASSOCIATION  
FOR BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTHCARE

**Monday March 22**

**1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**



Please join the Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) and eHana on **Monday, March 22nd from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** for a webinar providing an overview of the Information Blocking provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act and the potential impact on the behavioral healthcare provider community.

Participants will learn about key aspects of the new regulations, which take effect April 5th, 2021, and will become conversant with the core concepts of the new Information Blocking rules governing access to Electronic Health Information (EHI) by patients and their designees.

eHana CEO Jacob Buckley-Fortin will lead the webinar and will cover:

- Background and history behind the new 21st Century Cures Act regulations
- Key facts, definitions, and timelines around the new rules
- Actions providers should in preparation for the rules
- The impact on Health IT implementations and vendor strategy
- What to watch for in the coming years

**There is no cost to participants for this webinar.** Registration is required - see link below.

[Register Here!](#)

Should you have any questions, please contact Meg Socha at [msocha@abhmass.org](mailto:msocha@abhmass.org).

# 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>

## New Legislative Committee Chairs

Congratulations to the newly appointed committee chairs in the Massachusetts House and Massachusetts Senate.

The Senate Leadership team will remain the same for the coming session:

**Senate President:** Senator Karen Spilka

**Majority Leader:** Senator Cynthia Creem

**President Pro Tempore:** Senator William Brownsberger

**President Emerita:** Senator Harriette Chandler

Speaker Ronald Mariano also announced his new leadership team:

**Majority Leader:** Representative Claire Cronin

**Speaker Pro Tempore:** Representative Kate Hogan

**Assistant Majority Leader:** Representative Michael Moran

### Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery

**Senate Chair:** Senator Julian Cyr

**Vice Chair:** Senator John Keenan

**House Chair:** Representative Adrian Madaro

**Vice Chair:** Representative Michelle DuBois

For a full list of committees, click [here](#).

## Association for Behavioral Healthcare Statement on the Baker-Polito Administration's Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform

The Baker-Polito Administration's Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform provides a once in a generation opportunity to make substantial new investments in community mental health and substance use disorder treatment services and to make outpatient, urgent, and crisis care options accessible and understandable to individuals and families that need them. The Roadmap represents a commitment to ensuring that behavioral healthcare funding will be a priority for Massachusetts.

As the primary providers of publicly-funded behavioral healthcare in the Commonwealth, Association for Behavioral Healthcare members look forward to working with Governor Baker, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders, her team, and the Legislature to ensure that these critical innovations are adequately funded to ensure the long-term success of this vision.

## ABH STAFF

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# Licensure of Addiction Treatment Facilities

DPH/BSAS released proposed changes to 105 CMR 164: Licensure of Addiction Treatment Facilities for a second public review process, due to additional regulatory changes that had been added. You can view the proposed changes to 105 CMR 164 [here](#).

A Public Hearing was held on February 26th to receive oral testimony, and written testimony had to be submitted to the state by March 5, 2021. ABH provided oral testimony and submitted written testimony on behalf of our members, which is available [here](#) for your review. ABH's testimony focused on several primary concerns, including the addition of new unfunded mandates and additional staffing requirements for some levels of bedded services that are not currently covered by the Chapter 257 rate setting process. ABH also requested clarification about how these proposed regulations relate to the state's initiative to redesign behavioral healthcare services, and requested that the new regulations be put on hold until after the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency has ended.

ABH wants to thank its members who also provided oral testimony and/or submitted written testimony to the state, as your participation is critical. If you have any questions regarding the ABH testimony, please feel free to contact Connie Peters at [cpeters@abhmass.org](mailto:cpeters@abhmass.org).

## Interesting Reads

- [WBUR Town Hall Recap: The Success And Challenges Of Vaccine Distribution.](#) *WBUR CommonHealth.*
- [Boston To Roll Out Mobile Vaccine Clinics.](#) *WBUR CommonHealth.*
- [As Addiction Deaths Surge, Profit-Driven Rehab Industry Faces 'Severe Ethical Crisis'.](#) *NPR.*
- [Double Jeopardy: COVID-19 and Behavioral Health Disparities for Black and Latino Communities in the U.S.](#) *SAMHSA.*
- [The Preventive Effect of Housing First on Health Care Utilization and Costs Among Chronically Homeless Individuals.](#) *Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation.*
- [Partly hidden by isolation, many of the nation's schoolchildren struggle with mental health.](#) *Washington Post.*
- [How mental health is colliding with COVID-19 for veterans.](#) *Washington Post.*