



### ABH March Committee Meetings

Tuesday, March 1  
**CSS**, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 2  
**e-Health**, 9:30 a.m.  
(Framingham Public  
Library)

Friday, March 4  
**Children's Policy**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 8  
**CBFS**, 3 p.m.

Thursday, March 10  
**SOAP**, 10 a.m.

Friday, March 11  
**Children's Services**, 10 a.m.  
(Worcester Youth Guidance  
Center)

**Corporate Compliance**,  
10 a.m.

Monday, March 14  
**Billing**, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 15  
**Methadone**, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 17  
**Human Resources**, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 18  
**Quality and Outcomes**,  
9:30 a.m. (Advocates, Inc.)  
**DAE/SOA**, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 21  
**In-Home Therapy**, 2 p.m.  
(Framingham Public  
Library)

Friday, March 25  
**PDT/PH**, 10 a.m.

All meetings are at ABH unless  
otherwise noted. For more  
information, call  
508-647-8385.

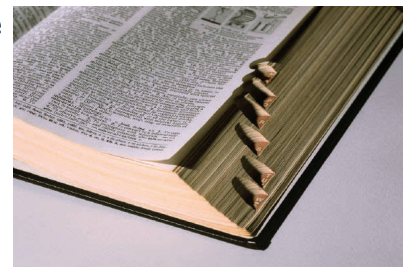
## Budget Process: Step One

On January 26, Governor Patrick released his FY 2011 budget proposal (sometimes called H1 after the assigned bill number). Of interest to ABH members, the Governor's budget proposal:

- Appropriates \$30.5 billion in overall spending for FY 12
- Includes \$627.3 million in revenue initiatives
- Includes \$570 million in program cuts
- Increases funding for MassHealth by \$100 million for increased caseload
- Reduces overall EOHHS spending by \$91 million
- Cuts the Department of Mental Health by \$21.4 million
- Level funds the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
- Reduces funding for the Department of Children and Families by \$5.1 million

## A Change in Terminology

We know, last year we changed our name. What more could we want? Well, ABH is pleased to announce that it has officially adopted a new approach regarding how it will speak about substance abuse. Specifically, the ABH Board of Directors recently voted to no longer use the term *substance abuse*; instead, ABH will use the word *addiction*.



Why?, you ask. Well, there have always been a myriad of terms used to describe the illness of addiction and the people it affects. The lack of a common language has fostered fragmentation within the workforce, caused confusion, and has allowed for the ongoing perpetuation of stigma about the disease and the people who are affected by it. So, ABH is taking a stand and hopes you will join in our efforts to eliminate *substance abuse* from our collective discourse, and to instead speak of the problem of *addiction*, and our need to treat *people with substance use disorders*.

# Discuss Payment Reform with the Senate President

## **ABH Association Meeting Featuring Therese Murray, President Massachusetts Senate**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2011 from 11:30-2:00 p.m.  
Best Western Royal Plaza. Marlborough**

**OVERVIEW:** In her 2010 inaugural address, Senate President Therese Murray announced that she intends for the Senate to "lead the way on health care payment reform."

- What does this mean for a state where health care is its largest economic driver?
- What changes are in store for Massachusetts?
- What does this mean for behavioral health?

Come join ABH to hear more about Senate President Murray's plans, where the state is headed, and how behavioral health providers can be prepared.

**Fee:** \$50, lunch included

**To register,** click [here](#).

**Questions?** Contact Jessica Hammond at [JHammond@abhmass.org](mailto:JHammond@abhmass.org) or via phone at 508-647-8385 x. 16.

## Breakfast with DMH

Like pancakes? Well, we can't promise they'll be served at these breakfasts, but that doesn't mean you should skip this opportunity. The Department of Mental Health is hosting its annual series of Citizens Legislative Breakfasts in the coming months.



These breakfasts provide an opportunity for providers to meet with their legislators and thank them for their support and underscore the importance of behavioral health services. It also provides an opportunity for consumers and family members to share their success stories.

Details (Registration and refreshments are from 9:30-10:00, the program runs from 10:00-11:00 a.m.)

**Northeast-Suburban Area:** Tuesday, February 8 and Tuesday, March 15  
Great Hall, State House

**Metro-Southeast Area:** Wednesday, February 16 and Tuesday, March 8  
Great Hall State House

**Central-West Area:**

Friday, March 18, Worcester Technical High School (adjacent to Worcester State Hospital)

Friday, April 8, Springfield Technical Community College

## ABH Member Survey

**We promise it's  
short!!**

In an effort to better represent you, ABH is conducting a *simple, five question* survey to give us a better idea of the number of clients you serve, etc. This information will help us represent you more effectively before Congress and the state Legislature and will help us identify, track and act on emerging trends.

The survey is available at the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/abhmembersurvey>.

We kindly ask that you complete this survey by **Monday, February 14, 2011**.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in helping us complete this survey. If you have any questions, please contact [Stephanie Hirst](#).

## Accord Reached

You may have heard ABH talk about Chapter 257, which is intended to remedy replace the Purchase of Service contracting system with a transparent rate-setting system in an effort to remedy the fact that human service contracts are historically underfunded.

Due to a number of bumps in the road — namely that the Commonwealth was not meeting the benchmarks for establishing rates and that certain services were procured in such a way that was inconsistent with the new law — the state and *The Collaborative* (ABH, the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers and the Providers' Council) have agreed to amend Chapter 257 by extending the implementation timetable by 15 months. At the same time, there will be no procurements until a rate is set for that service.



## Procurement Update

As a result of the agreement mentioned above, the Department of Mental Health has announced that it has withdrawn its Statewide Individual and Family Flexible Support Services Request for Response (originally issued on December 2, 2010). The Department of Mental Health anticipates that it will issue a new Request for Response in the future. Updates will be posted on [Comm-Pass](#).

## Family Stabilization Rate Hearing

The Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (DHCFP) has proposed 114.4 CMR 14.00: Rates for Family Stabilization Services. A copy of the proposed rates and hearing notice can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

DCHFP will hold a public hearing on the proposal on **Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** and ABH strongly urges members to attend the hearing and present both written and oral testimony. ABH plans to testify.

## Chairing the Way

Senate President Therese Murray and House Speaker Robert DeLeo have named the committee chairs for the 2011-2012 session. ABH is very pleased that **Representative Liz Malia** will once again Chair the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee for the House and **Senator John Keenan** will Chair the Committee for the Senate. We are thrilled that we will have the opportunity to work with both of them and are confident that they will provide outstanding leadership.

## ABH STAFF

**Vicker V. DiGravio III**  
President/CEO  
508.647.8385, x11  
[vdigravio@abhmass.org](mailto:vdigravio@abhmass.org)

**Sara Hartman**  
Vice President for  
Mental Health  
508.647.8385, x13  
[shartman@abhmass.org](mailto:shartman@abhmass.org)

**Constance Peters**  
Vice President for  
Addiction Services  
508.647.8385, x15  
[cpeters@abhmass.org](mailto:cpeters@abhmass.org)

**Stephanie Hirst**  
Vice President for Public  
Policy and Research  
508.647.8385, x14  
[shirst@abhmass.org](mailto:shirst@abhmass.org)

**Jessica Hammond**  
Director of Special Initiatives  
508.647.8385, x16  
[jhammond@abhmass.org](mailto:jhammond@abhmass.org)

**Rosemary Santini**  
Administrative Assistant  
508.647.8385, x10  
[rsantini@abhmass.org](mailto:rsantini@abhmass.org)

**Ellen Caliendo**  
Business Manager  
508.380.9887  
[ecaliendo@abhmass.org](mailto:ecaliendo@abhmass.org)

# Rates!

ABH recently learned that the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) will be providing a second round of ramp-up funding for Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) CSA providers. Supplemental funding for CSAs has been a top priority for ABH over the past seven months. We have repeatedly made the case for additional ramp-up monies to both MassHealth and the MCEs as a way to help ensure the financial viability of the CSA network. Money will be allocated to CSAs based on certain FY10 performance criteria established by MBHP for this purpose.

In addition, MBHP will announce a series of temporary rate initiatives to increase access and continuity of care in the mental health outpatient system. The initiative will include rate increases for specific outpatient and emergency services and performance bonuses for certain outpatient services. The adjustments will be effective February 1, 2011. MBHP will issue specific details about the rate increases and how the performance bonuses will be structured and administered. Due to the ongoing procurement for management of the MassHealth Primary Care Clinician (PCC) program, the new rates will remain in effect until June 30, 2011 which is also the date that MBHP's current contract with MassHealth is set to expire.

As you know, ABH has worked very hard in recent years to educate state policy makers and MassHealth payers as to the inadequacy of outpatient reimbursement rates and their impact on access to services for consumers. We are pleased that MBHP has recognized that outpatient rates need to be increased to ensure access and continuity of care in the mental health outpatient system.

# Grant Opportunity

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced new Health Center Planning Grants. These grants are being offered in order "to expand the safety net on a national basis by targeting planning and developmental efforts in areas not currently served by a funded health center and/or in areas of unmet need." For more information, visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Click on Find Grant Opportunities and search for HRSA-11-021: Health Center Planning Grants. There you will find the application, eligibility requirements, review criteria, etc. The first phase of the application is due by March 18, 2011.

# Become a Certified Peer Specialist

Interested in becoming a Certified Peer Specialist? Know someone who would make a great one? The Transformation Center will be holding spring classes starting in March in both Holyoke and Framingham. For more information, including the application, information about the self-assessment, and training dates click [here](#).