



ABH August Committee Meetings

Tuesday, August 2
ATS
10 a.m.

Friday, August 5
Children's Policy
10 a.m.

Friday, August 19
DAE/SOA
10 a.m.

Please note that the **CSS Committee** meeting originally scheduled for July 5 has been moved to **Tuesday, July 26 at 10 a.m.**

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

Task Force Report: A Must Read

In February, Department of Mental Health Commissioner Barbara Leadholm created a Task Force on Staff and Client Safety following the tragic death of Stephanie Moulton, a staff member at a DMH-funded program. Vic DiGravio, ABH's President/CEO represented ABH on the Task Force.

Last week, the Task Force released its final report following a four month process in which the Task Force solicited input from a wide array of stakeholders and the general public. Many ABH member organizations and their staff provided valuable insights and testimony to the Task Force throughout this process. The final report includes seventeen recommendations for state government to undertake in an effort to strengthen the publicly-funded mental health system to ensure the safety of individuals being served, program staff and the general public.

These recommendations fall under six broad categories: **overarching Issues, including the need for new funding for public mental health services; staffing and coordination of care; access to information; access to services; training; and current practices**

To read the Task Force's final report, click [here](#).

Another Fiscal Year in the Books

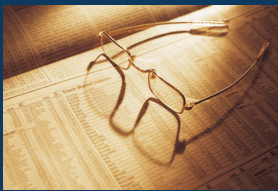
Last Friday, the Massachusetts Legislature approved the FY 2012 budget, which is now awaiting the Governor's signature. The budget contains an almost \$20 million increase in funding for the Department of Mental Health above projected FY 2011 spending. In addition, the budget for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services will meet federal Maintenance of Effort Requirements, which means that the state will not lose federal matching funding. The budget also transfers oversight authority for MassHealth addiction treatment benefits from the Department of Mental Health to the Department of Public Health.

To read ABH's analysis of the FY 2012 budget, click [here](#).

Cliff Notes

The Commonwealth recently released a Request for Response (RFR) for the Mass-Health PCC Plan's "Comprehensive Behavioral Health Program and Management Support Services, and Behavioral Health Specialty Programs."

For an extremely comprehensive summary of the RFR written by Sara Hartman, ABH's Vice President for Mental Health, click [here](#).



Can You Tell a Story by the Numbers?

Sometimes...though not always. Recently, ABH asked our members to complete a survey that would give us a better idea of the number of lives you touch on a daily basis and over the course of a year. We were quite impressed by the results. Though numbers don't tell the whole story, we think these paint a pretty good picture of the breadth of your reach.



Counting is hard work. Good thing Keeper is equally good at napping.

Number of clients served by ABH members on a given day: **81,231**

Number of served in a year by ABH members: **757,613**

Number of employees: **37,502**

Signed, Sealed and E-Certified



Recently, UNI/CARE Systems became fully certified as a Massachusetts Standardized Documentation Project (MSDP) approved vendor. UNI/CARE Systems now joins the ranks of eHana, iCentrix, MindLinc—Duke University, and Sequest Technologies as a fully certified vendor.

Qualification for MSDP Certification requires that the software interface captures all the necessary data fields in the proper order and in the proper format as structured in the certifier's standard-documentation forms. This will enable the user to (1) comply with federal and state standards and the requirements of funders of mental health and addiction treatment services in Massachusetts for clinical documentation, and (2) maintain proper medical-necessity linkage as designed into the certifier's standard-documentation forms. For more information about the fully certified vendors, the certification process or MSDP, click [here](#).

Wonk of the Month

It wouldn't be July without a little light beach reading. The Massachusetts Attorney General recently released a report that looks at the causes of high health care costs in Massachusetts. According to the report, "A shift to global payments is unlikely to control rising costs without also addressing historic health care provider price disparities and encouraging consumers to make prudent health care purchasing decisions. To read the full report (we know you want to), click [here](#).



ABH's Salute to Excellence!

Recognizing leadership in community based
behavioral healthcare

DREAM...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE

Friday, October 21, 2011

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Westin-Waltham Hotel



Click [here](#) for more info or to register

Formerly ABH's Provider Celebration

Freedom Don't Come Free

ABH STAFF

Vicker V. DiGravio III
President/CEO
508.647.8385, x11
vdigravio@abhmass.org

Sara Hartman
Vice President for
Mental Health
508.647.8385, x13
shartman@abhmass.org

Constance Peters
Vice President for
Addiction Services
508.647.8385, x15
cpeters@abhmass.org

Stephanie Hirst
Vice President for Public
Policy and Research
508.647.8385, x14
shirst@abhmass.org

Jessica Hammond
Director of Special Initiatives
508.647.8385, x16
jhammond@abhmass.org

Rosemary Santini
Administrative Assistant
508.647.8385, x10
rsantini@abhmass.org

Ellen Caliendo
Business Manager
508.380.9887
ecaliendo@abhmass.org

At ABH, we know that freedom doesn't come free and are grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of our service men and women. We are happy to let you know, however, that Army OneSource is offering three FREE online educational courses from its *Treating the Invisible Wounds of War* series. CEUs are also available.

Treating the Invisible Wounds of War Series

Part 1 – Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD)

Part 2 – Traumatic Brain Injury

Part 3 – Issues of Women Returning from Combat

Purpose: This series of courses is designed to build awareness among primary care physicians, case workers, mental health providers, and other professionals of the culture in which Veterans and their families live and work. The courses provide best practices for identifying, assessing, and treating mental health problems that result from the trauma of war.

To access additional information regarding the course content and objectives, please visit <http://www.aheconnect.com/citizensoldier> and click on courses.

Length: Course times vary, and a course does not have to be completed all at one time. Users may log out at any time and start again where they left off.

Credit Types: Continuing Education credits vary depending on the length of the course. Visit <http://www.aheconnect.com/citizensoldier> and click on courses for further information.

Target Audience: Psychologists, psychiatrists, behavioral health providers, primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and other interested professionals.

Instructions: From your browser, go to <http://www.aheconnect.com/citizensoldier>

Step 1: Click on New Users tab at the top of the screen

Step 2: Create a personal user account following the instructions on the screen

Note: Be sure to enter your Army OneSource Referral Code in the space provided. The Army OneSource Referral Code is **A0SNE6**.

Step 3: **Login** to the system using your new id and password

Step 4: Click on **Courses** tab at the top of the screen and select a course you wish to complete

Step 5: Click on **Register**

Once you complete the course, your CE credit will be recorded and you will have access to download and print a Certificate of Completion.



A true Yankee at heart, Keeper is always on the lookout for a good deal.