



**ABH June  
Committee Meetings**

Friday, June 3

**Children's Policy, 10 a.m.**

Tuesday, June 7

**ATS, 10 a.m.**

Friday, June 10

**Children's Services, 9:30 a.m.**  
(Worcester Youth Guidance)

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

Tuesday, June 14

**CBFS, 3 p.m.**

Friday, June 17

**DAE/SOA, 10 a.m.**

Monday, June 20

**Billing, 9:30 a.m.**

Tuesday, June 21

**Methadone, 9:30 a.m.**

Friday, June 24

**PDT/PH, 10 a.m.**

Thursday, June 30

**Substance Abuse  
Residential, 10 a.m.**

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

# Healthcare Reform and Its Impact on Behavioral Health

**ABH invites you to join your colleagues  
for our 2011 Annual Meeting!**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Christie L. Hager, J.D., M.P.H.**

**Regional Director**

**US Department of Health and Human Services - Region 1**

followed by a

## PANEL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

**Panelists include:**

Deborah Delman, The Transformation Center  
Maryanne Frangules, MA Organization for Addiction Recovery  
Robert Seifert, Center for Law and Economics  
Christina Severin, Network Health

**Tuesday, May 10th from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough**

**Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. along with an**

## EXHIBITOR FAIR

**OVERVIEW:** We invite staff from our member organizations to join their colleagues from across the state to engage in this important discussion around healthcare reform and its impact on behavioral health.

**FEE:** \$50.00, Lunch included

Payment must be received on or before event

**TO REGISTER:** Click [HERE](#).

**Questions?** Please contact Jessica Hammond at 508-647-8385 x16 or at [jhammond@abhmass.org](mailto:jhammond@abhmass.org).

# Budget in Brief

## Upcoming Legislative Hearings:

On Tuesday, May 10, the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee will hold its first legislative hearing of the 2011-2012 session. ABH plans to testify on a number of bills being heard before the committee.

On Monday, May 16, the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing will hold a hearing on payment reform. ABH is planning to testify as part of a panel of behavioral health advocates.

ABH will post copies of its testimony on the ABH website ([www.abhmass.org](http://www.abhmass.org)).

The Massachusetts House of Representatives debated the FY 2012 budget during the week of April 25 and passed a \$30.5 billion budget on Thursday, April 28. ABH is extremely pleased that, during the debate, the House adopted an amendment that authorizes the Department of Mental Health to expend \$5.5 million for adult community services. According to the amendment language, this new money is to be used “to appropriately discharge” individuals “to the community and to provide them with services necessary to manage their illness and support recovery.”

The budget amendment also requires that \$550,000 of this money be used for clubhouse services which means that the House of Representatives has fully restored the \$3 million cut to clubs initially proposed by Governor Patrick. Finally, the amendment prohibits the Department of Mental Health from expending this increased funding until it submits a detailed bed closure plan to the Legislature.

ABH has worked very hard in partnership with other stakeholders over the past few months to stress to lawmakers that Governor Patrick’s plan to eliminate 160 DMH inpatient beds while simultaneously cutting funding for community-based services was extremely ill-conceived and we are very grateful for the support of the Legislature.

In addition, the House adopted a budget amendment which restored \$2.4 million in funding to the “step-down” line item within the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS). With this amendment, funding for step-down services has been fully restored by the House of Representatives.

ABH has worked very hard in partnership with our coalition partners within the Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services (MCAS) to lobby the House to restore the cuts to BSAS initially proposed in the Ways and Means budget.

Unfortunately, the House did not adopt amendments offered to restore funding for two other BSAS line items: 4512-0202 for secure treatment facilities and 4512-0203 for intervention, care management, and young adult pilot program.

Nonetheless, the House’s action represents a significant victory for ABH, the Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services (MCAS), and addiction treatment services. ABH will continue to work with MCAS to ensure that the Senate includes funding for all of the BSAS line items in their version of the budget.

ABH is extremely thankful for the work of Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo, House Ways and Means Chairman Brian Dempsey, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee Co-Chair Liz Malia, Ways and Means members Representatives Ruth Balser and David Sullivan, and Representative Jim O’Day for their steadfast commitment to community services.



Keeper intently watched the House budget debate.

## Looking for a Wonky Read?

Check out:

*Medicaid Policy  
Options for Meet-  
ing the Needs of  
Adults with  
Mental Illness  
Under the  
Affordable Care  
Act.*

By the Kaiser  
Commission on  
Medicaid and the  
Uninsured

Click [here](#) to read.



# A Chat with the Chair

The e-update occasionally profiles ABH leaders. This month, we profile Kevin Norton, Chair of the ABH Board of Directors and President/CEO of CAB/HES

***E-update: Rumor has it that your hail from New York. How did you get from Buffalo to CAB/HES (besides waking up one morning and realizing that Boston is far superior)?***

Kevin: After undergrad I continued my career path of working in the hotel industry taking a position at Wequasset Inn, Chatham. From there I landed in Boston at the Ritz Carlton supervising Housekeeping. Having left Buffalo and lived on the Cape and then Boston, the decision to stay was not difficult. It wasn't until several hotels later that I realized I still wanted to go to grad school and work in Human Services. CAB was my final internship where I planned to stay for six months and then find a real job. Eighteen years later I am starting to believe that I have found a real job.

***E-update: CAB and Health and Education Services recently merged to become CABIHES. What has been the most rewarding part of that process? The most challenging?***

Kevin: The most rewarding part of bringing together these two long standing community providers has been the ability to learn about the numerous way in which we can positively impact the lives of individuals and families. Meeting so many new staff that have the same level of commitment has been energizing. Learning the details of a large system and the funding complexities has provided me with a few headaches and the feeling at times that I am back in school.

***E-update: When did you first become involved with ABH? How has it changed over the years?***

Kevin: I had the privilege of joining ABH when MHSACM was just being formed. The change has been dramatic as new relationships have formed and many of the initial fears dissipated. The newly formed entity learning to fully use its market clout has been impressive. Add to the mix the establishment of the Collaborative and one begins to see the ways that it is possible to impact policy.

***E-update: After this year's snow-laden winter and murky spring, the ABH staff is beginning to chatter about vacation destinations. Where is your favorite escape spot?***

Kevin: My favorite escape is Red Lodge Montana where I get to spend a week horse-back riding as part of a crew on a working cattle ranch. The lack of T.V.'s, newspapers and cell phone coverage add to the natural beauty of Big Sky Country



## ABH STAFF

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# Cells to City Streets

The Department of Mental Health will be holding a free half-day forensic training on Tuesday, May 24. **From Cells to City Streets: The Clinical Impact of Doing Time** will be held in the morning from 9:00-12:00 p.m. and again in the afternoon from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Both sessions will be held at the Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center in Shrewsbury, MA.

Contact Dianne Williams at [Dianne.Williams@umassmed.edu](mailto:Dianne.Williams@umassmed.edu) or fax it to her at 508-856-6805 for more information.

Training description: Patients with criminal justice histories may act in ways that reflect the enduring effects of incarceration rather than symptoms of mental illness or personality disorder. Among the most important of these effects are that they present the challenges to engagement of the mentally ill offender in the community. Staff and patients can benefit by understanding the "cultural" underpinnings of such behavior in order to engage these patients more effectively.

## Capitol Hill Day



ABH will be joining mental health and addiction treatment providers from across the nation in Washington, D.C. as part of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare's (The National Council) Annual Hill Day on July 19 and 20. On Tuesday, we will join our colleagues from across the nation for policy briefings.

On Wednesday, we will have the opportunity to meet with members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation to discuss issues that are vital to behavioral health providers here in Massachusetts. You don't have to be an expert on policy issues to join us — we want our Congressional Delegation to hear about the great work you do!

We hope you will join us in this important effort. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, contact Stephanie Hirst at [SHirst@abhmass.org](mailto:SHirst@abhmass.org).

## Addiction Summit

The State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS) and NIATx will be holding their annual SAAS National Conference and NIATx Summit from July 10-13 in Boston. Here's your chance to attend a great conference right in your own backyard.

For more information, visit [www.saasniatx.net](http://www.saasniatx.net). To register, click [here](#).

NIATx Summit and SAAS National Conference

2011 Revolutionary Strategies for Leaders

Building great behavioral health organizations in the new health environment July 10-13 Boston, MA