



ABH April Committee Meetings

Friday, April 2
Children's Policy
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 6
ATS, 10:00 a.m.

Friday, April 9
Corporate Compliance
10:00 a.m.

Monday, April 12
Billing
(Framingham Public Library)
9:30 a.m.

In-home Therapy
(Framingham Public Library)
2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 13
CBFS, 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 15
**Substance Abuse
Residential**, 10:00 a.m.

Friday, April 23
DAE/SOA, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 27
Methadone, 9:30 a.m.

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

Tackling Healthcare Disparities

People with behavioral health disorders face stigma and discrimination due to their illnesses. The topic of health disparities is very much in the forefront these days; however, there is a marked absence of public dialogue regarding disparities involving persons with behavioral health disorders.

Addressing Healthcare Disparities for Individuals with Behavioral Health Disorders 2010 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

12:00-2:30 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel, Westborough

Fee: \$40 (lunch will be provided); Table for 10 available for \$380.

1.5 CEUs are available for an additional \$10.

Questions? Contact Jessica Kirkpatrick at JKirkpatrick@abhmass.org or via phone at 508-647-8385, x. 16.

Keynote Speaker:

Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Panel Discussion:

Michael Botticelli, Director, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (DPH)

Laurie Martinelli, Executive Director, NAMI-Mass

Linda Rosenberg, President/CEO, National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

David Rosenbloom, Director, Join Together

The 2010 Annual Meeting will also feature an **Electronic Health Record Exhibitor Fair**.

Going Global

The Patrick Administration and the Legislature are committed to controlling rising health care costs. Implementation of a global payment system is one avenue being explored by policy makers on Beacon Hill to achieve this goal. ABH is hosting a panel presentation and discussion to examine what a global payment system might look like in Massachusetts and how behavioral healthcare providers could be impacted by global payments.



Who? What? Where?

Tuesday April 13th, 2010 from 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Hogan Campus Center, Holy Cross, Worcester
\$40.00; lunch will be provided
1.5 CEUs are available for an additional \$10.00

Panelists include:

Commissioner David Morales, Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
Sarah Iselin, CEO, Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation
Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, CEO, Health Care for All
Senator Richard Moore, Joint Committee on Health Finance (Invited to Attend)
Rep. Harriet Stanley, Joint Committee on Health Finance (Invited to Attend)

For more information, contact Jessica Kirkpatrick at 508-647-8385 or at JKirkpatrick@ABHmass.org.

And the Winner Is...

A few months ago, we shared with you that ABH had been chosen by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare as the recipient of the *2010 Award of Excellence for Grassroots Advocacy*. We were honored for leading the *Campaign for Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery* and the successful effort of our coalition to repeal the sales tax exemption on alcohol. ABH received the award during the National Council's 40th Annual Conference in March. Vic DiGravio, ABH's President and CEO was on hand to accept the award along with ABH Board Members Kathy Wilson and Norma Finkelstein, and Senior Director for Public Policy and Research Stephanie Hirst.



This award is a wonderful recognition of the collective strength of our membership. The success of our campaign to repeal the sales tax exemption was driven by the grassroots activism of our members and coalition partners.



**2010 SAAS (State
Associations of
Addiction Services)
National
Conference and
NIATx Summit**

**July 11-14, 2010
Cincinnati, Ohio**

For more information, click [here](#).



We've Got a TIP for You

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently published (TIP) 51, *Substance Abuse Treatment: Addressing the Specific Needs of Women*. What's a TIP you ask? Well, it's a Treatment Improvement Protocol; more specifically, TIPs provide best practice guidelines.

According to the Executive Summary of this particular TIP,

When women's specific needs are addressed from the outset, improved treatment engagement, retention, and outcomes are the result. This TIP endorses a biopsychosociocultural framework based on clinical practice and research centered on women...many topics examine the role of factors that influence women's substance use from initiation of use to engagement of continuing care treatment services...

The full text is available [here](#).

Of course, we would be remiss if we did not mention that this project was Chaired by Norma Finkelstein, Executive Director of the Institute for Health and Recovery and a member of the ABH Board of Directors. Yes, we're a bit boastful but we're okay with that.

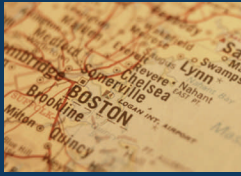
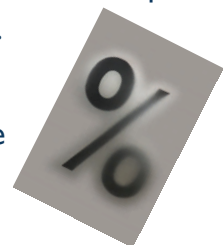
Survey Says...

Last year during our campaign to eliminate the sales tax exemption on alcohol sales, we talked a great deal about the link between alcohol prices and consumption. Specifically, we cited studies that found increasing taxes on alcohol is an effective deterrent to drinking and underage binge drinking.

In February 2010, the American Journal of Preventative Medicine published a systematic review of 73 published articles and technical reports that looked at the link between the price of alcohol and excessive drinking. "Results of the review indicate that increasing the price of alcoholic beverages by 10 percent would reduce the overall consumption of these beverages by about 7 percent." The change in consumption as the result of an increase in price differs depending on the type of alcohol. For example, a 10% increase in price results in a 5% decrease in beer consumption, a 6.4% decrease in wine consumption, a 7.9% decrease in hard liquor consumption, and a 7.7% decrease in total alcohol consumption.

As a result of these findings, "the Task Force on Community Preventive Services recommends raising alcohol taxes to reduce excessive drinking and related harms. "

For more information, click [here](#).



**Association of
Recovery
Schools**

**9th Annual
Conference**

July 21-23, 2010

**Northeastern
University, Boston**

**For more informa-
tion, click [here](#).**



Just a Wee Bit of Process

It is often said that laws are like sausages. It is better not to see them being made. If there was ever a case to support this statement, the recent federal health care reform law might be it. From our new Senator's pledge to be the 41st vote in the Senate to the ping-pong volleys of the reconciliation bill, it was hard to keep score.

Here's a quick look at the stats:

October 8, 2009: House Passes the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590)

December 24, 2009: Senate passes the bill with amendments.

March 21, 2010: House agrees to Senate amendments.

March 23, 2010: President Obama signs the bill into law.

March 17, 2010: HR [4872](#), Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 is introduced in the House. This companion bill of "fix it measures" was introduced to ensure passage of HR 3590.

March 21, 2010: House passes HR 3590.

March 25, 2010: Senate passes HR 3590 with amendments. Sends the bill back to the House.

March 30, 2010: President Obama signs HR 3590 into law.

But What's that Sausage Made of?

Oh, you want those stats too? Well, that makes sense.

Here's the quick and dirty: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act includes mental health and addiction parity, bans pre-existing condition exclusions, expands Medicaid to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and includes the Melanie Blocker Stokes MOTHERS Act which focuses on postpartum depression.

Under this new law, most individuals will be required to purchase health insurance (this will go into effect in 2014); individuals without access to affordable employer-based coverage will be able to purchase it through a health insurance exchange (sound familiar?). Employers with up to 100 employees will be able to purchase plans through the exchanges. Young adults will be able to stay on their parents plan until age 26 (again, sound familiar?). Subsidies will be available for individuals between 133% and 400% FPL. There are no specific employer mandates, but there are fees that may apply to employers who do not provide affordable health insurance and who have more than 50 employees

Still curious? Check out the [Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation](#) for more information on the health care reform law.



It's Coming....

The House Ways and Means Budget is expected to be released mid-April.

Be on the lookout for ABH's budget analysis and information about our Community Conversation.

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RFP...RFI...Oh My!

Last month, we mentioned that the Department of Mental Health (DMH) was expected to release an Request for Response (RFR) for Respite Services. DMH issued this RFR on March 18, 2010. ABH submitted a number of questions to the Department of Mental Health on behalf our members relative to the RFR. We expect the responses to be posted on [Comm-Pass](#) on April 5.



In addition, DMH issued a second Request for Information (RFI) for Clubhouse Services on March 12, 2010. Responses are due by April 7, 2010 and ABH is in the process of working with members to develop a response. A copy of the RFI can be found on [Comm-Pass](#).

What's Cooking?



ABH has been working to bring a new focus to our advocacy around children's issues. Our goal is to better coordinate the efforts and deliberations of ABH's Children's Policy Committee, Children's Services Committee, and In-Home Therapy Committee.

The Children's Policy Committee is now meeting monthly. The purpose of the committee is to identify overarching policy issues associated with child and adolescent mental health and addiction services and prioritize those issues. Membership is open to CEOs and other senior executives of ABH organizations.

The Children's Services Committee will continue to meet every other month. This committee focuses on operational issues affecting children's service providers and membership is open to program-level staff, including program directors.

ABH's In-Home Therapy is the successor to ABH's Family Stabilization Team (FST) Committee. This committee is comprised of supervisory and program-level staff from ABH members that provide In-Home Therapy services. This committee provides members with an opportunity to share mutual experiences and exchange information. The committee focuses on operational and implementation issues around service delivery models, staffing, referrals, outcome measurement, documentation, reporting, and payer relationships.

ABH expects that our renewed focus on communication between these committees will strengthen our collective voice on issues concerning children's services. For more information about any of these committees, contact [Jessica Kirkpatrick](#).