



### ABH April Committee Meetings

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

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

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

**In-home Therapy**,  
2 p.m.  
Framingham Public Library

Tuesday, April 13  
**CBFS**, 3 p.m.

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

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

Friday, April 23  
**DAE/SOA**, 10 a.m.

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

## 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:

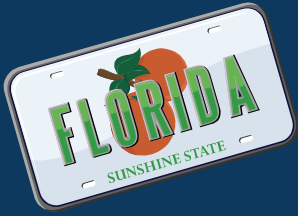
Commissioner David Morales, Division of Health Care Finance and Policy  
Sarah Iselin, CEO, Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation  
Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, CEO, Health Care for All  
Senator Richard Moore, Joint Committee on Health Finance (Invited to Attend)  
Rep. Harriet Stanley, Joint Committee on Health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

For more information, contact Jessica Kirkpatrick at 508-647-8385 or at  
[JKirkpatrick@ABHmass.org](mailto:JKirkpatrick@ABHmass.org).

## News You CANS Use



It's not quite the e-update, but the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI), Virtual Gateway and UMass Medical School recently released its first CANSNews, "a bi-monthly e-newsletter to keep MASS CANS users in touch and up-to-date." To subscribe, email [masscans@umassmed.edu](mailto:masscans@umassmed.edu). In addition, you will be able to access archived newsletters [here](#).

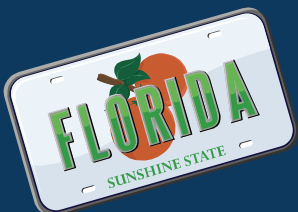


## 40th National Mental Health and Addictions Conference and Expo

March 15-17, 2010

Walt Disney World, Florida

For more information visit [The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare's website.](#)



# Hear Ye, Hear Ye

The House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means will be holding a public hearing on the FY 2011 budget on Friday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m. at Gardner Auditorium at the State House. ABH encourages members to attend the hearing or submit testimony in support of mental health and substance abuse priorities.

To read a copy of ABH's testimony, visit the [Members' Only](#) section of our website (simply register with your work email address) and click on *Budget* on the menu to the left. Feel free to use this testimony as a model for your own.

We also encourage you to send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. A sample letter can also be found on our website.

# On the Campaign Trail



The Massachusetts Package Stores has filed an initiative petition exempt liquor from the state sales tax. They have collected the required amount of signatures and it appears likely that the question will appear on the November 2010 ballot. As you recall, the Campaign for Addiction, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery worked extremely hard to repeal the sales tax exemption and we will do everything we can to ensure that this hard work is not undone.

ABH has been closely monitoring the liquor industry's efforts and has formed a campaign to oppose this ballot question. Vic DiGravio, ABH's President and CEO and Maryann Frangules, Director of the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR) are co-chairing the Campaign for Addiction, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. Over the next few months, the campaign will be working to protect the alcohol tax and we will need your help! Stay tuned for campaign updates!

# Under 50?

The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, the body charged with implementing the state's health care reform law, has created a new health insurance product for small businesses with less than fifty employees. The program, called Business Express, includes plans from carriers that have the state's Seal of Approval — CeltiCare, Fallon Community Health Plan, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Health New England, Neighborhood Health Plan, and Tufts Health Plan. For more information, contact your broker, visit [www.MAhealthconnector.org](http://www.MAhealthconnector.org) or call 1-877-623-6765.



# A Visit from the MCOs

On Tuesday, March 9, Behavioral Health Directors from the various Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will be joining us to discuss the future of Medicaid Managed Care in Massachusetts, the relationships between the MCO plans and what they view as the biggest challenges facing Medicaid Managed Care and behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts.

We hope you can join us for this interesting and extremely important discussion.

Details:

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 • 12:00 — 2:00 p.m.

Holy Cross, Worcester

Registration: \$40 (includes lunch) • 1.5 CEUs are available for \$10

Space is limited and the deadline to register is Friday, March 5. For more information or to register, contact Jessica Kirkpatrick at [jkirkpatrick@abhmass.org](mailto:jkirkpatrick@abhmass.org) or via phone at 508-647-8385 x 16.

## Coming Attractions

As a result of the Veterans Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs will be developing a pilot program aimed at improving access community behavioral health organizations for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The pilot programs will operate in at least three Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISNs) and we are thrilled that Massachusetts is included in one of the VISNs that has been selected! Massachusetts is in VISN I with the other five New England states. The other VISNs that have been selected are VISN 19, which includes Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, parts of Kansas, parts of Nebraska, and parts of Nevada and VSIN 20, which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, “Contracted outpatient services will be provided at the contractor’s facilities/locations. Services are expected to include peer outreach and peer support services to Veterans by Veterans, outpatient mental health services and readjustment counseling services,...and mental health day treatment services.” For more information and to access the pre-solicitation notice, click [here](#).

In addition, the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health is expected to procure both Respite and Clubhouse services in the coming year. In addition, a Request for Information (RFI) for Peer Run Respite is expected to be released in the very near future. The Request for Response (RFR) for Clubhouse services is expected in July and services would begin January 2011. All RFRs and RFIs will be posted on Comm-Pass ([www.comm-pass.com/](http://www.comm-pass.com/)). ABH will be sure to keep you updated!



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

**July 11-14, 2010**

**Cincinnati, Ohio**

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



# Virtual Schoolhouse



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ABH and Essential Learning have partnered to provide exclusive E-Learning services to ABH members at significant discounts. Members will be able to access online training opportunities tailored to behavioral healthcare.

There are over 400 courses available in Essential Learning's online catalog and many of the courses meet the requirements of accreditation for national organizations such as the National Association of Social Workers, and certain state licensure boards. Providers will have the opportunity to coordinate in-house trainings while minimizing training costs and maintaining compliance with training requirements. Each course provides concise, comprehensive and relevant information that will help participants improve their understanding and acquire new skills.

To find out more, visit the [Members' Only](#) section of ABH's website and click on the Essential Learning tab at the top of the page.

## Wonks Worth Reading

- **Addiction Treatment: A Strengths Perspective.** "Presents the strengths perspective as the unifying framework to bridge the gap between 12-step approaches and harm reduction in addictions treatment. This perspective is applied to the treatment of alcoholism, compulsive gambling, and other addictions."
- **Unmet Mental Healthcare Needs of Indigent, Uninsured Americans.** This summary report by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare examines the unmet behavioral healthcare needs of indigent, uninsured individuals across the country and looks at closing the gap. To read more, click [here](#).
- **Lifelines: Linking to Federal Benefits for People Exiting Corrections. Blueprint for Action.**
  - [Volume I](#): The need to link individuals with mental illness in correctional facilities with federal benefits to ensure successful re-entry.
  - [Volume II](#): What states, local governments, and correctional facilities can do.
  - [Volume III](#): Federal benefits, collaboration, and a list of on-line resources.
- **Practice Guidelines: Core Elements in Responding to Mental Health Crisis.** Click [here](#).

