



# MHSACM E-Update

October 2009



## MHSACM November Committee Meetings

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Clinical Stabilization  
Services, 10 a.m.  
Community Based Flexible  
Supports, 3:00 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 9

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

Thursday, Nov. 12

SOAP, 10 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 13

Children's Services,  
9:30 a.m. (Worcester  
Youth Guidance Center)  
Corporate Compliance,  
10 a.m.  
DAE/SOA, 1 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 16

In-Home Therapy  
(formerly FST)  
2 p.m. (Framingham Public  
Library)

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Methadone, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

e-Health, 9:30  
(Framingham Public  
Library)

Thursday, Nov. 19

Human Resources, 9:30

Friday, November 20

Psychiatric Day Treatment/  
Partial Hospitalization, 9:30  
Quality and Outcomes,  
9:30 (Advocates, Inc)

All meetings are at  
MHSACM unless other-  
wise noted. For more  
information, call  
508-647-8385.

## Are You a Lobbyist? You just might be and not know it

Who me? A lobbyist? No, not me. Can't be. Well, actually you might be considered a lobbyist under a new state law.

Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, *An Act to Improve the Laws Relating to Campaign Finance, Ethics and Lobbying* amends the state lobbying law by broadening the definition of lobbying and also who must register as a lobbyist. This new law, which goes into effect on January 1, 2010 may require many of our members to register as lobbyists. It is essential that our members understand the provisions of the new law as they apply to non-profit organizations and individuals.

Ben Fierro, MHSACM's lobbyist has prepared a legal analysis of the law and how it will impact you. (For a copy of this analysis, contact Stephanie Hirst at [shirst@mhsacm.org](mailto:shirst@mhsacm.org)). In addition, MHSACM has arranged for Ben to conduct a training on the new law for our membership on:

**Friday, October 16, 2009**

**1:30-3:30 p.m.**

**Clark University—Framingham Campus**

**Cost: \$25**

For more information about the training, contact Jessica Kirkpatrick at [jkirkpatrick@mhsacm.org](mailto:jkirkpatrick@mhsacm.org).

This training will help provide clarity on the new law and will help you determine if you need to register as a lobbyist.

**We strongly encourage you to attend.**



NAMI  
Massachusetts  
27th Annual  
State Convention

Saturday,  
October 24

8 a.m. to  
4:30 p.m.

Springfield, MA

Keynote  
Speaker:

Dr. Alex Sabo,  
Director of Psy-  
chiatry and Be-  
havioral Sciences  
at Berkshire  
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## Come Celebrate With Us

MHSACM's 10th Anniversary Provider Celebration will recognize the accomplish-ments of individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to community-based behavioral healthcare over the past year. This year's event will be held on **Friday, October 23, 2009 from 8 am to 2 pm at The Westin Waltham Hotel.** Registration information for this inspiring celebration is available [here](#). Interested in being a sponsor, advertiser or exhibitor at this year's celebration? Click [here](#) to learn more about available opportunities.



Need more details? Have a few more questions? Contact Jessica Kirkpatrick at [jkirkpatrick@mhsacm.org](mailto:jkirkpatrick@mhsacm.org) or at 508-647-8385 x 16.

## Smoking Cessation



Dr. Doug Ziedonis, Professor and Chair of the UMass Department of Psychiatry recently spoke to the MHSACM membership about the barriers and opportunities available to providers to change the culture of tobacco within mental health and addiction treatment settings. This fascinating discussion touched on a variety of issues, such as why providers should address tobacco dependence in mental health and substance abuse organizations; tobacco and psychiatric disorders; cultural challenges; clinical, program and systems issues; addressing tobacco through organizational change; and barriers to addressing change.

The UMass Department of Psychiatry has an Addressing Tobacco Through Organizational Change (ATTOC) Consultation Service which "has helped many mental health and addiction agencies better address tobacco, including transitioning to tobacco-free grounds and helping thousands of consumers and employees quit tobacco use." For more information, visit [www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry](http://www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry) or contact Dr. Ziedonis at [Douglas.Ziedonis@umassmemorial.org](mailto:Douglas.Ziedonis@umassmemorial.org).

## A Peek in the Personnel File

Leslie Kirwan, Secretary of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance has announced that she is leaving the Patrick administration to accept a position at Harvard University. Secretary Kirwan was a key supporter of the repeal of the alcohol sales tax exemption and will be truly missed.

Jay Gonzalez is expected to take over as Secretary of Administration and Finance Secretary

## Guest Columnist: Problem Gambling and Comorbidity

The following article was submitted by the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling.

Founded in 1983, the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is a private, non-profit public health agency dedicated to providing leadership to reduce the social, financial, and emotional costs of problem gambling and to promote a continuum of prevention and intervention strategies.

It is particularly interested in incorporating these services into existing mental health and addictions programs, as problem gamblers are significantly more likely to have mental health disorders and/or substance use disorders compared to those without gambling problems. As a result, providers already serving individuals with such disorders are in a unique position to identify gambling problems and to offer help.

### Consequences of Problem Gambling

Problem gambling has a substantial public health impact as evidenced by its association with a number of negative consequences that affect human service agencies serving the homeless, seniors, children, handicapped, and victims of domestic violence. Family dysfunction and domestic violence, suicide, bankruptcy, loss of property, and criminal behavior are often associated with gambling problems.

### Benefits of Identifying Gambling Problems

Screening for addictive behaviors has resulted in positive outcomes not only for the individual (such as reduced substance abuse and related consequences), but also for society as a whole (such as increased employment and housing, reduced arrest rates, reduced burden on the healthcare system). In addition, cost-benefit analyses have demonstrated net-cost savings from such programs. For instance, an evaluation of a comprehensive, national substance use disorder screening program found that for every \$10,000 spent in screening and early intervention, there is a \$43,000 savings in healthcare costs and an unknown amount of savings in legal/employment costs.

### The Council is Prepared to Help

With the help of the Council, human service agencies can take a few simple steps to address and identify problem gambling.

- Implement guidelines for staff and clients regarding gambling in and around the agency and its population;
- Educate staff members about the signs and symptoms of gambling disorders through literature and trainings;
- Display materials and information regarding the existence of gambling problems and the Mass. Council's 24-hour Helpline, 1.800.426.1234 or [www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org); and
- Utilize a gambling disorder screening or assessment tool to identify potential problems during intakes.

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

#### Problem gambling and substance use disorders

- 75% had experienced an alcohol disorder;
- 38% had experienced a drug use disorder; and
- 60% had experienced nicotine dependence.

#### Problem gambling and mental health disorders

- Nearly 50% had experienced a mood disorder (e.g., depression, bi-polar);
- 41.3% had experienced an anxiety disorder (e.g., phobia, social phobia, generalized anxiety disorder); and
- 60.8% had experienced a personality disorder (e.g., antisocial, schizoid, obsessive-compulsive).

## MHSACM STAFF

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## Profiles in Committees

Just what exactly do MHSACM's committees do? Well, in a nutshell, they are responsible for identifying pertinent policies for discussion, setting priorities for the MHSACM annual work plan, advising the Board of Directors, taking action to assure positive outcomes, ensuring that appropriate interface occurs with the relevant state agency(ies), and that the entire MHSACM membership is kept informed of actions taken on behalf of MHSACM providers.

Periodically, the e-Update profiles an MHSACM committee to give you a better sense of what MHSACM's committees do. The first in this resurrected series takes a look at the Human Resources Committee.

The MHSACM Human Resources Committee was reconvened in April 2009. The agenda of each meeting is determined by the needs and interests of the committee members. The committee is currently helping to shape a salary survey and agenda items include such topics as H1N1, recruitment and retention, orientation, health insurance, evaluations, communication with managers, special challenges for non-profits, tuition reimbursement, and documentation, among others.

The MHSACM Human Resources Committee meets on the third Thursday of every other month. The next meeting will be held on November 19, 2009 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at [MHSACM's offices](#) in Natick. If you would like to know more about the committee or are interested in joining, please contact Stephanie Hirst at 508-647-8385 x 16 or at [shirst@mhsacm.org](mailto:shirst@mhsacm.org).

## By the Numbers

We spend a lot of time talking about MassHealth, but it's not often that we look at the enrollment data in detail. Here's a closer look:

### MassHealth Enrollment Data (as of August 2009)

Primary Care Clinician Plan: 265,071\*  
Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan: 185,208  
Network Health: 111,860  
Fallon Community Health Plan: 12,647  
Neighborhood Health Plan: 138,790  
Fee-for-Service Program: 460,581

\* Individuals enrolled in the Primary Care Clinician Plan receive their behavioral healthcare through the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership.

