



ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP, BOARD MEMBERS

June 11, 2020 (Natick, MA): The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), a statewide organization representing over 80 community-based behavioral healthcare provider organizations, announced today its new board leadership and board members.

Bruce Bird, Ph.D., President & CEO of Vinfen, will be the new Board Chair, with **Ken Bates, President & CEO of Open Sky Community Services** serving as Vice Chair, **Lesli Suggs, President & CEO of The Home for Little Wanderers** serving as Treasurer, and **Nancy Paull, CEO of SSTAR** serving as Clerk. Dr. Bird replaces Diane Gould, LICSW, President & CEO of Advocates, Inc., as Chair. Ms. Gould remains a member of the ABH Board of Directors.

“I would like to thank the members of the ABH Board for electing me to this position, as well as Diane Gould, whose shoes will be hard to fill,” said **ABH Chair Bruce Bird**. “ABH’s voice has never been more important than now, when we are faced with unprecedented challenges in serving individuals with mental health and substance use disorder treatment needs.”

“It has been an honor to work with Lydia Conley and the rest of the ABH board and staff as Chair for the past two years,” said **Diane Gould, President and CEO of Advocates, Inc. and outgoing ABH Board Chair**. “As an organization, we’ve made a successful transition as Lydia assumed the leadership role at ABH. We are fortunate to have such strong leadership and advocacy that helps ABH focus on its core mission to improve the behavioral healthcare system in Massachusetts.”

“I would like to thank Diane Gould for her leadership over the past two years and for her outstanding commitment to advancing the mission and goals of our organization. Her experience in the field and in management has been invaluable,” said **Lydia Conley, President and CEO of ABH**.



ABH also held Board elections. **Charles Gagnon, President and CEO of Volunteers of America - Massachusetts**, and **Matthew Stone, Youth Villages Executive Director for Massachusetts and New Hampshire**, were newly elected to the ABH board, joining 13 others who were re-elected for a two-year term.

“We are very excited to welcome Bruce as Chair and Charles and Matt to our board, as well as the members who were re-elected,” said Lydia Conley, President and CEO of ABH. “We have a strong board to advise us as we move into challenging times in the coming years.”

Association for Behavioral Healthcare Board

Officers of the Board:

Chair: Bruce Bird, President/CEO Vinfen

Vice Chair: Ken Bates, President/CEO, Open Sky

Treasurer: Lesli Suggs, President/CEO, The Home for Little Wanderers

Clerk: Nancy Paull, CEO, SSTAR

Board:

Scott Bock, President/CEO, Riverside Community Care

Daurice Cox, President/CEO, Bay State Community Services

Matthew Davis, Regional Vice President, Acadia Healthcare

Paula Duvelson-Chrysostome, President/CEO, New Life Counseling and Wellness Center

Norma Finkelstein, Executive Director, Institute for Health & Recovery

***Charles Gagnon**, CEO, Volunteers of America – Massachusetts

Jim Goodwin, President/CEO, Center for Human Development

Diane Gould, President/CEO, Advocates, Inc.

Gary Houle, Executive Director, North Charles, Inc.

Kurt Isaacson, CEO, Spectrum Health Systems

Hilary Jacobs, President/CEO, Lahey Health Behavioral Services

Karin Jeffers, President/CEO, Clinical and Support Options

Christine Macbeth, President/CEO, The Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services



Mary McGeown, President/CEO, MSPCC

Robert Mills, CEO, Middlesex Human Service Agency, Inc.

Jackie Moore, CEO, North Suffolk Mental Health Association

Daniel Mumbauer, President/CEO, High Point Treatment Center

Andy Pond, President/CEO, Justice Resource Institute

Anne Sampaio, Executive Director, Child and Family Services, Inc.

Philip Shea, President/CEO, Community Counseling of Bristol County

William Sprague, CEO, Bay Cove Human Services

Emily Stewart, Executive Director, Casa Esperanza

***Matt Stone**, Executive Director, Youth Villages of Massachusetts and New Hampshire

Susan Stubbs, President/CEO, ServiceNet

Katherine Wilson, President/CEO, Behavioral Health Network

**Denotes newly elected board member as of May 12, 2020*

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About Association for Behavioral Healthcare

ABH's 80 members are the primary providers of community-based behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts. Member providers and their 47,000 dedicated employees provide clinically effective and cost-sensitive care to 81,000 individuals on any given day in communities throughout the state.

As an organization with three decades of experience in not only the advancement, but also the preservation and promotion of community-based mental health and addiction services, ABH is recognized as the leading statewide association in this field. Visit www.abhmass.org for more information.