The Association for Behavioral Healthcare

- Leads in promoting and advocating for community-based mental health and addiction treatment services.
- Brings hope and health to individuals and families by promoting recovery and resiliency.
- Ensures access to quality person-centered and outcome-oriented care that is clinically and cost effective.
- Is committed to securing essential resources, including training, education and adequate salaries, for the development of a committed and stable workforce.
- Is the leading statewide association with four decades of experience advancing, promoting and preserving community-based mental health and addiction treatment services for individuals and families.
- Creates strategies that positively change public policy through legislative, budgetary and regulatory advocacy.
- Identifies and impacts emerging issues relating to mental health and addiction treatment services.
Dear ABH Member:

It is our pleasure to submit to you the Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report for the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. and the Association for Behavioral Healthcare Foundation, Inc. The Annual Report allows us to reflect on the work of the past year and to celebrate some of our successes during FY14.

The accomplishments highlighted in these pages are the direct result of the extraordinary support ABH receives from our members each and every day of the year. ABH member organizations guide us in identifying our goals for each year and provide essential support to us in pursuit of those goals.

In many ways, FY14 was a historically unprecedented year for public policy advocacy by ABH. Among the highlights were:

- Passage of legislation to require MassHealth Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to pay a floor rate for all Evaluation and Management (E&M) codes in outpatient settings;
- Adoption of language in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget to force MassHealth to collect and make public the financial terms of contracts between the MassHealth MCOs and companies whom they hire to manage behavioral health benefits;
- $10 million in increased funding for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to create new community placements for individuals “stuck” in DMH continuing care facilities;
- $15 million in new funding to expand community-based addiction treatment services funded by the Department of Public Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (DPH/BSAS); and,
- Most significantly, passage of landmark legislation mandating that MassHealth and commercial insurers cover both ATS (detox) and CSS (detox step-down) services.

Each of these achievements was the direct result of the important relationships ABH and our members have developed with key legislative allies and our ability to present very complicated issues in a clear and concise manner for policy makers.

Despite these historic successes, however, much work needs to be done as we continue to advocate for community-based mental health and addiction services. ABH and our members are looking forward to partnering with our new Governor and Legislature to strengthen services for the most vulnerable residents of Massachusetts.

Most importantly, we are excited to work with all of our members as we move forward over the coming year. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jackie K. Moore, Ph.D., Chair
Board of Directors

Vicker V. DiGravio III
President/CEO
Outstanding Budget Advocacy

Advocating for adequate funding for the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Public Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse Services and MassHealth is always a top priority for ABH. This year, ABH and our coalition partners led the way in securing the most significant expansion in funding for community-based behavioral health services in the last seven years.

Expanded funding included the following:

- $15 million in new funding for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) for the expansion of addiction treatment services including the establishment of new ATS and CSS programs on the South Shore and in Franklin County.

- $10 million in new funding for the creation of new community-based services for individuals currently “stuck” in DMH continuing care facilities.

- $8 million in funding for increased MassHealth behavioral health reimbursement rates.

ABH keeps members informed of budget developments through regular correspondence, including Community Conversations, which are conference calls designed to brief members on key items included in the budget and their impact on ABH members.
Historic Legislative Achievements

ABH successfully took the lead in fighting for passage of three major policy initiatives in Fiscal Year 2014. In each case, our advocacy overcame the powerful interests of the insurance industry and business community. These legislative achievements included:

- Passage of a law requiring all MassHealth payers to “open” all Evaluation and Management codes to psychiatrists and establishing MassHealth Medical Fee For Service rates as the floor rates for all Medicaid payers for these services.

- Passage of language in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget requiring MassHealth to collect the financial terms of all contracts between MassHealth Managed Care Organizations and companies to which they “carve-out” management of behavioral health benefits. Under this new law, MassHealth must also make public this information if requested.

- Passage of landmark legislation (Chapter 258 of the Acts of 2014) to expand access to addiction treatment, including the elimination of prior authorization requirements for both commercial and MassHealth payers for ATS and CSS services. The law also requires MassHealth plans to cover up to fourteen days of treatment in CSS programs and requires commercial payers to cover up to fourteen days of total treatment for ATS and CSS services.
Chapter 257 of the Acts of 2008 was passed to replace the historic Purchase of Service System with a transparent rate-setting system in an effort to remedy the fact that human service contracts have been historically underfunded.

For the third consecutive year Governor Patrick and the Legislature included funding in the state budget for Chapter 257 rate increases which was a major victory for ABH and The Collaborative. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth’s failure to fully implement Chapter 257 forced ABH and our colleagues in The Collaborative (in addition to the Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium and the Children’s League of Massachusetts) to file a complaint in Superior Court asserting that the Patrick Administration failed to fully meet its obligations under Chapter 257. The Collaborative took this step after very careful deliberation and a series of high-level meetings with members of the Governor’s cabinet and his Chief of Staff that convinced us that the Commonwealth was not willing to compromise with us around delayed implementation deadlines.
Influencing State Policies

Integration, Healthcare Reform and Cost Containment
ABH continued to devote significant resources to tracking and influencing state and federal initiatives around the evolving health care delivery system here in Massachusetts. Specialty Behavioral Health Homes, One Care, Primary Care Payment Reform and a number of other initiatives have the potential to significantly impact the long-term prospects of our members. Throughout the year, ABH staff worked diligently to ensure that the perspectives of our member organizations were represented on various task forces, working groups and standing committees created and led by state policy makers.

Monitoring and Influencing Procurements
As always, ABH focused extensively on a number of ongoing procurements of significant importance to our members including the DMH/DCF Caring Together procurement, the expected redesign and reprocurement of the BSAS residential recovery home system and the potential reprocurement of DMH Community Based Flexible Support services. In these and other smaller procurements, ABH submitted extensive feedback to the Commonwealth about system designs and worked closely with other stakeholders to positively impact the implementation of these procurements.
Salute to Excellence

ABH’s favorite day of the year—our annual Salute to Excellence—was held on Friday, October 18, 2013 at the Westin Waltham Hotel. Over three hundred people gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the awardees. As we’ve come to expect, the contributions that these individuals have made to community behavioral healthcare is extraordinary.

Elizabeth Funk, ABH’s past President/CEO was the keynote speaker. In recognition of her contribution to the field of behavioral health, ABH established the Elizabeth Funk Emerging Leader Award in her honor.

ABH is privileged to be able to recognize the awardees for their unwavering dedication to individuals living with mental illness and addiction disorders. They truly make a difference each and every day.
Member Opportunities Abound

Each year, ABH hosts an Annual Meeting and regular Association Meetings which provide ABH members with the opportunity to hear from state and federal policymakers as well as other leaders in the field.

**ABH Annual Meeting:**
**Health Care Cost Containment and the Health Policy Commission.** David Seltz, the first Executive Director of the Health Policy Commission, spoke to ABH members about health care cost containment and the Health Policy Commission. His presentation focused on the work of the Health Policy Commission to control health care spending while promoting integration of primary and behavioral health care and the implementation of alternative payment methodologies.

**Association Meetings:**
**Charlie Baker, Candidate for Governor.** Charlie Baker, who spent the past three years as an Entrepreneur in Residence at the venture capital firm General Catalyst Partners, spoke to ABH members about his candidacy for Governor and his vision for behavioral health treatment and policy.

**Martha Coakley, Attorney General and Candidate for Governor.** The Commonwealth’s first female Attorney General and candidate for Governor spoke to ABH members about what behavioral health policy would look like if she were elected Governor.

**Steve Grossman, State Treasurer and Candidate for Governor.** Steve Grossman, candidate for Governor of Massachusetts, spoke to ABH members about his vision as Governor for community-based mental health and addiction treatment services.

**Cheryl Bartlett, RN, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health.** The state’s top public health official joined ABH members to discuss her priorities as Commissioner of DPH. This was an excellent opportunity for members to discuss state funding for addiction treatment, implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and other important topics.
Knowledge and Networking

In addition to the knowledge and networking opportunities at the Annual Meeting and Association Meetings, ABH offers professional trainings and dialogue sessions at regular intervals during the year. This year, members were offered the following:

**Change is in the Air: Implementation of Healthcare Reform in Massachusetts.** MassHealth provided ABH members with a special briefing on implementation of the Federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) and other healthcare reform initiatives in Massachusetts. MassHealth is at the forefront of these reforms, which will significantly impact ABH members and the individuals we serve. The briefing provided an overview of multiple initiatives underway as well as status updates on their implementation.

**Workplace Violence and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).** Jackie Moore and North Suffolk Mental Health Association reached a settlement with OSHA after a two-year litigation with the federal agency related to a workplace death at North Suffolk. Ms. Moore’s presentation reviewed North Suffolk’s experiences with OSHA during this process and its potential impact on human service provider organizations moving forward. She covered the challenges North Suffolk faced trying to protect the privacy and safety of their clients and staff while simultaneously addressing the demands of OSHA.

**One Care, Integrated Care Organizations (ICOs) and Your Organization.** Representatives from Commonwealth Care Alliance, Fallon Total Care, and Network Health joined ABH members to discuss the implementation of the One Care program. The Integrated Care Organizations (ICOs) presented plan-specific operational issues to help inform providers as dually-eligible individuals transitioned to having their care managed by ICOs in the One Care program. The forum included a question and answer session with the representatives from the ICOs.
Networking and Knowledge

BSAS/JSI, Inc. Consumer Satisfaction Survey Overview for Addiction Treatment Providers. The Bureau of Substance Abuse Services worked with John Snow, Inc. (JSI), a public health research and training organization, to conduct a Consumer Satisfaction Survey for all BSAS-funded addiction treatment programs. JSI, Inc. staff presented an overview of their survey methodology and plans for its continued implementation, and answered questions from attendees about specific concerns.

Jay Gonzalez, President & CEO of Celticare Health/Cenpatico. Mr. Gonzalez and members of his leadership team discussed Celticare’s launch as the newest Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MMCO). This interactive discussion focused on how Celticare and ABH members can best work together to meet the needs of clients.

Improving Client Access to Addiction Treatment. This training provided addiction treatment staff from across the ATS, CSS, TSS, Residential, Section 35, and Methadone levels of care the opportunity to come together to learn about the barriers that providers have identified when seeking placements for their patients/clients in other levels of care as well as to improve opportunities for clients to access the levels of care they need in order to attain and sustain recovery.
ABH continued to expand our engagement on national issues and our involvement with both the National Council for Behavioral Health (National Council) and the State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS). ABH staff continued to play leadership roles in both the National Council and SAAS, including the recently approved merger of those two organizations.

ABH regularly participates in the National Council’s/SAAS’s annual Capitol Hill Day and advocates for federal behavioral health funding and policy with members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation. ABH had its largest delegation ever at the National Council/SAAS Hill Day where we met with more elected officials from Massachusetts than at any previous Hill Day.
Looking Ahead

While the ABH Annual Report provides us the opportunity to take a look at the past year, ABH is always looking forward and developing goals for the coming year. Below are a few of the tasks we are taking on in the coming months:

- Advocate for fair and adequate funding to ensure the provision of quality care for the treatment of mental health and addiction disorders within all components of the service system.
- Act to ensure that behavioral health is appropriately addressed in any changes to the overall health care delivery system.
- Provide public policy leadership at both the state and federal levels for behavioral health services.
- Promote the development of comprehensive and integrated continuums of treatment for mental health and addiction disorders, including peer and recovery services.
- Promote a regulatory and purchasing environment that supports members’ ability to conduct business in a cost-efficient manner.
- Encourage and assist providers to strive toward continued quality improvement and meet all applicable compliance requirements.
- Promote the value of services for mental health and addiction disorders among the general public and key constituencies.
- Continue to focus on ABH infrastructure, planning, and services for members.
ABH Committees

Our committees are essential to setting ABH’s agenda and participation on most is open to our full membership. Our committees fall into three categories: Policy and Systems, Mental Health Services, and Addiction Treatment Services, and identify pertinent policy and programmatic issues to be addressed by ABH.

Addiction Treatment Services Committees
- Acute Treatment Services (ATS/Detox) Committee
- Clinical Stabilization Services/Transitional Support Services (CSS/TSS) Committee
- Driver Alcohol Education/Second Offender Aftercare Committee
- Opioid Treatment Program Committee
- Recovery Committee for Residential Services
- Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP) Committee

Mental Health Services Committees
- Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative Committee
- Children’s Services CEO Leadership Committee
- Children’s Services Committee
- Community Based Flexible Supports Committee
- Emergency Service Programs Committee
- Outpatient Committee
- Psychiatric Day Treatment/Partial Hospitalization Committee

Policy and Systems Committees
- Billing, Rules, Regulations and Policy Committee
- Corporate Compliance Committee
- e-Health Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Quality and Outcomes Committee
ABH Member Organizations

Adcare Educational Institute
Addiction Treatment Center of New England
Advocates
Amesbury Psychological Center
Bay Cove Human Services
Bay State Community Services
Behavioral Health Network
Boston A.S.A.P.
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless
Boston Public Health Commission
The Bridge of Central Massachusetts
The Brien Center
Brightside
Brookline Community Mental Health Center
Cambridge Health Alliance
Cape Cod Human Services
The Carson Center for Human Services
Casa Esperanza
C.A.S.P.A.R.
Catholic Charities
Center for Human Development
Child and Family Services
Children’s Friend
Children’s Friend and Family Services
Children’s Services of Roxbury
Clinical and Support Options
Community Counseling of Bristol County
Community Healthlink
Community Services Institute
Community Substance Abuse Centers
Cutchins Programs for Children and Families
Dimock Community Health Center
The Edinburg Center
Eliot Community Human Services
Family Services of Greater Boston
Fellowship Health Resources
Fenway Community Health Center
Gandara Mental Health Center
George B. Wells Human Service Center
Gosnold on Cape Cod
Habit OPCO
Harbor Counseling Center
High Point Treatment Center
The Home for Little Wanderers
Hope House
Institute for Health and Recovery
Jewish Family and Children’s Services
Judge Baker Children’s Center
Justice Resource Institute
Key Program
Lahey Health Behavioral Services
Lowell Community Health Center
Lowell House, Inc.
LUK Crisis Center
Martha’s Vineyard Community Services
Massachusetts General Hospital
Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell
M.S.P.C.C.
New Life Counseling & Wellness Center, Inc.
NFI Massachusetts
North Charles
North Suffolk Mental Health Association
Old Colony YMCA
Phoenix Houses of New England
Pine Street Inn
Project Cope
The Psychological Center
River Valley Counseling Center
Riverside Community Care
ServiceNet
Seven Hills Behavioral Health
SMOC Behavioral Health Services
South Bay Mental Health Center
South End Community Health Center
South Shore Mental Health Center
Spectrum Health Systems
SSTAR
Steppingstone
Team Coordinating Agency
Victory Programs
Vinfen Corporation
Wayside Youth and Family Support Network
YOU, Inc.
Youth Villages

Associate Members
AdvantEdge
Advocates for Human Potential
Caregiver Homes of Massachusetts
CoCentrix
The Echo Group
eHana
Health Enhancement Services
Hirsch, Roberts, and Weinstein
Marsh & McLennan Agency
STM Technology
Qualifacts Systems
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