ABH 2018 Annual Meeting

ABH 2018 Annual Meeting featuring:
Senator Cindy Friedman
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery
Tuesday, May 8th from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Beechwood Hotel • 363 Plantation Street • Worcester, MA 01605

Senator Friedman was elected to the Massachusetts Senate on July 25, 2017 on a platform of improving access to services for individuals living with a mental health or addiction disorder. In a very short time, Senator Friedman has become one of ABH's foremost legislative champions. Please join us to hear her discuss her legislative and budget priorities as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

Cost: $50 per person or $380 for a table of 8. Lunch is included.
This event is for ABH members only.

Register Now!

Questions: Contact Ellen Caliendo at ecaliendo@abhmass.org or 508.380.9887.

Free DMH Training: From Cells to City Streets

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is once again offering a free half-day training to community providers. From Cells to City Streets: The Clinical Impact of Doing Time will focus on ways in which the enduring effects of incarceration may impact individuals with mental illness and discuss assessments and new structured group interventions tailored to the unique needs of individuals who have been incarcerated. This half-day training will be offered twice on May 8th at UMass Medical School (UMMS) in Shrewsbury.

Registration through UMMS is required. Contact Amy Thornton (amy.thornton@umassmed.edu) to register. Continuing education credits have been applied for. Please contact UMMS at 508.856.8709 for information about continuing education credits.
The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed its version of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget on Thursday, April 26. During budget debate, the House added $81.3 million to the House Ways and Means budget proposal. The administration, the House and the Senate had previously agreed on a consensus revenue forecast of $27.594 billion, which represents a 3.5% growth in state tax revenue over adjusted FY18 projected revenue of $26.661 billion. The House Budget, which totals $41 billion, proposes spending approximately $164.6 million more than the Governor’s Budget proposal, and counts on $63 million in new revenue from marijuana sales.

The FY19 budget includes the following highlights:

- The House budget for DMH fully funds the historic increase in community funding requested by Governor Baker, including almost $95 million in increases in the adult community services line item.
- The House budget also increases funding for DPH/BSAS beyond levels recommended by the Governor including expanded funding for jail diversion programming, the Massachusetts Access to Recovery Program (MA-ATR) and funding for five new recovery centers.
- An increase of $13.4 million for DCF over the current fiscal year.
- Approximately $38 million in funding in the Chapter 257 rate reserve for rates adjusted in the upcoming year.
- The House budget did not recommend adopting the Governor’s proposal to move 140,000 individuals from MassHealth to the Connector.

Next, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means will propose its budget. Once the Senate passes a FY 19 budget, the House and Senate will appoint a conference committee to work out the differences between the two bills.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mandy Gilman at AGilman@ABHmass.org.

Ask ABH: MassHealth System Transformation

ABH is continuing to host Ask ABH membership conference calls on MassHealth Systems Transformation. We are changing the schedule and will now hold them monthly. The updated schedule is as follows:

- Monday, April 30, 3 pm
- Monday, May 21, 3 pm
- Monday, June 25, 3 pm
- Monday, July 23, 3 pm

This is not a formal presentation – just call in with your questions.

Call-in Number: 800-867-0549
Code: 6478315

Please note: this call is open to ABH members only.
Addiction Treatment Data

ABH recently created an updated fact sheet regarding addiction treatment data. This new fact sheet shows FY 14 to FY 17 enrollment and bed capacity totals in ATS, CSS, TSS and Recovery Home programs across the state. Enrollment in programs beyond ATS continues to grow, while the number of individuals cycling through detox has decreased over time.

ABH is using this document in our continued advocacy for treatment programs and support of the success of Chapter 258. Feel free to use this in your own advocacy work. The fact sheet is available here.

If you have any questions about the data, contact Mandy Gilman (AGilman@ABHmass.org), Connie Peters (CPeters@ABHmass.org) or Vic DiGravio (VDiGravio@ABHmass.org).

Free DMH Training

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is once again offering a free half-day training to community providers. Violence Risk Assessment and Management will explore the causes of violence among individuals with mental illness and will describe scientific literature on violence risk assessment and management.

This half-day training will be offered on the morning of Thursday, May 31st at UMass Medical School (UMMS) in Shrewsbury. Continuing education credits have been applied for. Please contact UMMS at 508.856.8709 for information about continuing education credits. Registration through UMMS is required. Contact Amy Thornton (amy.thornton@umassmed.edu) to register.

Stephanie Moulton Symposium - Holyoke

May 18, 2018
9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Registration begins at 8:45 a.m.)
The Log Cabin, 500 Easthampton Road, Holyoke, MA

The Stephanie Moulton Symposium is sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

CEUs have been approved for Social Work, LMHC, OT, RN and Psychology

Target Audience: DMH and Provider Staff, individuals who receive services, and other stakeholders.

Click here to register!
Caring Together Scholarships

Caring Together is pleased to offer scholarships to interested CT clinicians for an Intensive Family Therapy certificate program provided by Therapy Training Boston. This is a great opportunity to help support supervisors and clinical staff in their work with families.

Information about the course is available here: https://www.therapytrainingboston.com/intensive-certificate-program-in-family-systems-therapy.html.

If you are interested in securing a slot in this program through the scholarship, please contact Carol Murphy, co-director of Caring Together (Carol.Murphy@massmail.state.ma.us or at 617-626-8698) as soon as possible. Slots are limited and based on first come, first serve. Registration and informational interviews will be held April through June. In order to participate in the program, your agency must support your attendance in this nine month program.

BSAS Short-Term Enhancement RFR

DPH/BSAS is seeking proposals for short-term enhancement projects for existing operational non-funded BSAS Substance Abuse Recovery Support Centers. The 10 currently BSAS-funded recovery support centers are not eligible for this RFR.

The RFR for this procurement is available here. Eligible centers will offer individuals recovery education and peer support that helps prevent relapse and promote sustained recovery from alcohol and other drug use. Proposals are sought from all 6 BSAS regions in the state of Massachusetts. It is expected that eligible respondents will have in place the demonstrated experience, expertise, and infrastructure to perform the work outlined in this request, including prior experience providing culturally appropriate recovery support for individuals who use substances, especially peer-to-peer recovery services. This procurement is for $250,000 for three to five awards and is one-time funding that ends on June 30, 2018. Providers that want to sustain the services beyond June 30, 2018, should demonstrate how their proposed project will be able to continue after this end date.

All monies must be spent by June 30, 2018.

Keeper’s Korner

Keeper is ready for spring and warm weather! Here’s what she has in mind for your spring reading list:

- A look at how the opioid crisis has affected people with employer coverage. Kaiser Health News.
- VA turns to alternative pain treatments amid opioid crisis. The Boston Globe
- YOUR VIEW: Support mental health funding. By Elizabeth Warren and Danna Mauch. South Coast Today