



Advancing Health Care Policy  
for Mental Health and Addiction

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ABHW Announces New Hire and Promotion**

Washington, DC (January 16, 2020) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits for over 200 million people, has announced the appointment of Deepti A. Loharikar, J.D., as Director of Regulatory Affairs.

“Deepti is an accomplished executive with significant regulatory and policy expertise, and will be an integral part of the ABHW team. Deepti’s extensive experience will help drive ABHW’s overall goal of ensuring access to quality, evidence-based behavioral healthcare for all individuals with a mental health or substance use disorder,” stated Pamela Greenberg, MPP, ABHW, President and CEO.

Ms. Loharikar brings over 12 years of legal and policy experience in the healthcare industry. Prior to joining ABHW, Deepti was the Director of Federal and State Public Policy at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores. She previously worked on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as well practiced law, focusing on civil litigation, insurance defense, and health law. Ms. Loharikar received a B.A. in Genetics and Philosophy from Rutgers College in New Jersey and a J.D. from the University of Maryland with a concentration in Healthcare Law and Policy.

“I’m thrilled to contribute to ABHW’s impressive policy and advocacy efforts in the field of mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment. I believe behavioral health is one of the most pressing health policy issues of our time and I’m excited to join the ABHW team,” stated Ms. Loharikar.

ABHW also announced the promotion of Ms. Tiffany Huth, MPH, to Senior Director of Communications and Public Affairs.

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[ABHW](#) is the leading health plan association working to improve access and quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders. ABHW’s members include national and regional health plans who care for more than 200 million people. Together we work to reduce stigma and advance federal policy on mental health and addiction care. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, AmeriHealth Caritas, Anthem, Beacon Health Options, Centene Corporation, Cigna, Kaiser Permanente, Magellan Health, New Directions Behavioral Health, and Optum.