ABHW POLICY PRIORITIES

In our work on these crucial policy issues, ABHW focuses on health equity and reducing racial disparities and inequities so that everyone can have better health outcomes.

Increasing Access

Making sure that people can get the care they need is central to our mission. For ABHW, this includes supporting:

- Increased access to Telehealth
- Parity for coverage of mental health and substance use disorders
- An end to the Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion
- Expanding the behavioral health Workforce
- Healthcare Reform

Advancing Evidence-Based Treatment & Quality Outcomes

The best evidence and data drive positive outcomes for patients. We are active in the following policy areas:

- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Home- and Community-Based Services
- Eliminating Fraud and Abuse in Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Driving Integration

We believe that integrated care enhances access to care, improves treatment outcomes, reduces health disparities, and is cost-effective. This informs our work on:

- Privacy Issues
- Integrated Care
- Electronic Health Records
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)

Supporting Prevention

In addition to ensuring people get treatment, we advocate for the prevention of mental illness and substance use disorders through:

- Suicide Prevention
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Screening
- Crisis Services
- Examining Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

Raising Awareness & Reducing Stigma

We are working toward a world in which mental health and substance use disorders are widely understood, without the stigma that prevents appropriate care. Our initiatives include:

- Stamp Out Stigma
- Payers’ Behavioral Health Policy Summit
- ABHW Webinar Series

As an agile and strong non-profit with deep knowledge of health care policy, extensive experience inside the Beltway, and a vast number of relationships in the industry, we are poised to shift the paradigm in federal policy for mental health and substance use disorders.