



ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL.

The State of the Association



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT AND CEO

One Team. One Goal. Leading the Way in Behavioral Healthcare

We are a month into 2026, which I predict will be one of our best years in NABH's 93-year history.

As many of you know, I led NABH as its president and CEO for 24 years before I retired in December 2019, and I have served on the NABH Board of Trustees since then. I am excited to serve as NABH's interim president and CEO, and I am both pleased and proud to share that the state of our association is strong.

Following a leadership change at the start of last year's fourth quarter, our Washington-based team has worked closely with our executive committee, led by NABH Board Chair Jim Shaheen of New Season, to set a clear path for NABH's future and define our association's priorities. This resource highlights those priorities.

Our One Team – which includes our members and our staff – is working together toward One Goal: to make NABH the nation's leading behavioral healthcare provider organization.

I am confident that together with you, our members, we are well-positioned to tackle some of your toughest challenges, including looming Medicaid cuts, an uncertain regulatory environment, veterans' care issues, rural access and care, parity enforcement, and recurring workforce concerns.

We're doing that by meeting with officials at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to discuss state-directed payments and workforce requirements in Medicaid; creating quality-outcome measures based on episodes of care under the direction of our association's Quality Committee; applying to the U.S. Labor Department for NABH to sponsor a behavioral health technician registered apprenticeship that our members developed; and more.

I look forward to highlighting our progress with you in March at our 2026 Annual Meeting at The Ritz-Carlton-Washington, DC. Our meeting theme this year is *Future-Forward Leadership: Imagine. Innovate. Transform.* [Please see the last page for details.](#)

As always, thank you for the critical work you and your teams do each day to help patients improve their lives. Our whole team looks forward to seeing you in March!

Sincerely,



Mark Covall

Interim President and CEO

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare



ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL.

OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE NABH

The leading behavioral healthcare provider association.

Expand resources primarily through dues revenues.

Strengthen the PAC.

Increase membership through recruitment.

Expand NABH's footprint at the state level.

Position the NABH Annual Meeting as the premiere behavioral health conference.



BOARD-APPROVED ADVOCACY PRIORITIES



Address effects of Medicaid cuts (i.e., work requirements and state-directed payments).



Develop quality-outcome measures based on episodes of care.



Establish position on insurance liability reform (model state legislation).

ONGOING ISSUES

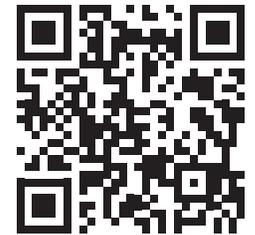
- Payor Pressures
- Payor Engagement & Alignment
 - Quality-outcome measures
 - Work requirements
- Parity Enforcement
- Veterans Affairs Community Care and TriCare/CHAMPUS
- Promote access to OTP services
- Medicare's 190-Day Lifetime Limit & Medicaid's IMD Exclusion
- Technology
- Workforce
- Other Issues

NABH 2026 Annual Meeting

IMAGINE. INNOVATE. TRANSFORM.

*Future-Forward Leadership
in Behavioral Healthcare*

March 2 – 4, 2026
The Ritz-Carlton Washington, DC



Meet the leaders shaping the future of behavioral healthcare

The NABH Annual Meeting brings together the executives and decision-makers advancing behavioral healthcare. Share your ideas, build relationships, and be part of the conversations shaping innovation, policy, and care delivery.

- Engage directly with CEOs and senior decision-makers
- Showcase solutions to leaders across behavioral health and SUD care
- Build relationships that drive advocacy, innovation, and growth
- Be part of the future of behavioral healthcare delivery

**Scan to learn more about opportunities
at the 2026 NABH Annual Meeting**