



**CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Division of Public Health



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Matilde Castiel, MD  
Health & Human Services  
Commissioner

Karyn E. Clark  
Public Health  
Director

**DATE:** May 4, 2020  
**RE:** WORCESTER BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
**START TIME:** 6:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** WEB EX CONFERENCE CALL

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

Members on call: Edith Claros, PhD, Chair, Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair, Frances Anthes and David Fort WDPH Absent: Chareese Allen Staff: Karyn Clark, Director of DPH and Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director of DPH, Matilde Castiel, MD, Commissioner of HHS, Michael Traynor, City Solicitor and Michele Williams, Principal Clerk

**Approval of the April 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes:**

Motion to approve the WBOH meeting minutes of April 13, 2020 made by Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair, Second –David Fort – with one change to add “nursing home” to facilities – Approved

**Medical Marijuana Operating License Amendment – Change in Hours of Operation Hearing:**

- A. Good Chemistry - 9 Harrison Street, Worcester, MA 01604  
Joe Sandoval – Seeking to align hours of operation for both Medical and Recreational Marijuana.  
Current hours of operation for Medical Marijuana are:  
8am – 7pm Mon – Sat and 10am – 7pm Sundays  
Seeking to amend hours of operation to:  
9am – 10pm Mon – Sat and 10am – 10pm Sundays

**Edith Claros, PhD, Chair, made a motion to amend the Medical Marijuana hours of operation to align with the Recreational hours of operation. Seconded by Frances Anthes. Good Chemistry’s new hours of operation will be 9am – 10pm Mon – Sat and 10am – 10pm Sundays. BOH members: 4 - yes with one absentee: Chareese Allen. The motion passed unanimously.**



- B. Resinate -1191 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA 01607  
Matt Yee - Not approved yet for Recreational Marijuana. Once approved the hours will reflect the same.  
Current hours of operation for Medical Marijuana are:  
8am – 7pm Mon – Sat and 10am – 7pm Sundays  
Seeking to amend hours of operation to:  
8am – 11pm Mon – Sat and 10am – 11pm Sundays

Frances Anthes: Rejects to the amended hours. Would request to think about aligning all hours to 10pm.

**Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair, made a motion to align hours of operation for Resinate with other dispensaries. Resinate's new hours of operation will be 9am – 10pm Mon – Sat and 10am – 10pm Sundays. Seconded by Frances Anthes. BOH members: 4 – yes with one absentee: Chareese Allen. The motion passed unanimously.**

- C. Botanist - 65 Pullman Street, Worcester, MA 01606  
Brad Doyle – We are currently Medical Marijuana Dispensary only.  
Current hours of operation are:  
10am – 7pm Mon – Sat Sundays - closed  
Anticipating Adult Use in the near future and seeking to align hours of operation to:  
9am – 10pm Mon – Sat and 10am – 10pm Sundays

**Edith Claros, PhD, Chair, made a motion to amend the hours of operation. Botanist's new hours of operation will be 9am – 10pm Mon – Sat and 10am – 10pm Sundays. Seconded by Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair. BOH members: 4 - yes with one absentee: Chareese Allen. The motion passed unanimously**

#### **COVID19 Updates:**

Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director of DPH: St. Vincent Hospital and UMass Hospital will begin to transition back to normal. Patients who have been waiting for procedures during the COVID19 crisis can now be treated. As the peak is upon us, I continue the weekly call in's with the Community Health Centers and both Medical Centers. They are not overwhelmed because we've had a place to put COVID19 positive individuals during their time of quarantine. Elderly have been placed at Beaumont Nursing Center (currently 70 patients). Non-elderly COVID19 positive patients have been placed at the DCU Center. DCU Center is divided into two; some are patients that need the convalescent time and some are homeless. The SMOC shelter was over capacity so with the help of Matilde Castiel, MD, Commissioner of HHS, she had established a system where homeless individuals would go to North High School, St. John's Church and Ascension Church to hold 25 (each) of COVID19 negative patients. Originally at Worcester Tech High School we had COVID19 homeless positive cases. Over time, we were able to close Worcester Tech High School and use the unused portion part of the DCU Center for the COVID19 homeless positive cases. I and Karyn Clark, Director of DPH, have a request to the BOH tonight to ratify six orders that were put forth for homeless individuals with COVID19 who refuse to voluntarily stay in quarantine. This is so the COVID19 positive individuals would not be walking around exposing others. Three were COVID19 positive patients at the DCU Center and three were from the Albion whom were unwilling to shelter voluntarily.

Matilde Castiel, MD, Commissioner of HHS: We are trying to help people understand what this pandemic is about. How they will affect others in the community by spreading the disease.

Frances Anthes: The original shelters that were offered, were they all voluntary?

Matilde Castiel, MD Commissioner of HHS: When we first started, we opened three shelters: North High School, St. John's Church and Ascension Church. When we started testing at the shelters and

finding out who was positive, they were moved to Worcester Tech High School. When the positive cases increased, we then opened the DCU Center. This was all voluntarily.

Karyn Clark, Director, DPH: Briefed the BOH how these orders are very important in keeping everyone safe and to protect the public. When the Public Health Nurses speak to an individual, everything is explained about the virus and that the individual should isolate and quarantine for 14 days.

David Fort: Is there any enforcement in place for individuals that don't want to cover their face going into a business?

Karyn Clark, Director, DPH: Department of Inspectional Services have been making sure that individuals and employees are covering their faces in different businesses. We are not looking to give out fines, but making sure individuals are complying.

**Vote to ratify orders:**

- A. 6 Isolation orders issued by the Medical Director

**David Fort made a motion to approve the formal consent of 6 isolation orders by the Medical Director. Seconded by Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair. BOH members: 4 - yes with one absentee: Chareese Allen. The motion passed unanimously**

- B. Order issued by the medical director designating the Chief of Police, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, and Commissioner of Inspectional Services as enforcement agents for COVID-19 related matters

**Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair made a motion to approve the order issued by the Medical Director designating the Chief of Police, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, and Commissioner of Inspectional Services as enforcement agents for COVID-19 related matters. Seconded by David Fort. BOH members: 4 - yes with one absentee: Chareese Allen. The motion passed unanimously**

- C. Cease and Desist order issued by the Medical Director to Walmart

**Frances Anthes made a motion to approve the Cease and Desist order issued by Medical Director to Walmart. Seconded by Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair. BOH members: 4 - yes with one absentee: Chareese Allen. The motion passed unanimously**

Motion to adjourn; Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair seconded by Frances Anthes

**Adjourn: 8:00pm**

**Next Meeting -- June 1, 2020 at 6:30pm**

**Potential Future Meeting Topics:**

Coronavirus update

COVID19 related efforts Statewide due to Nursing Homes

Updates on the upticks in suicide, mental health, domestic violence and cyber abuse