



**CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**  
Division of Public Health



Michael P. Hirsh, MD, FACS, FAAP  
Medical Director

Derek S. Brindisi  
Director

**SUBJECT:** BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 1, 2014  
**START TIME:** 6:45PM  
**LOCATION:** 25 MEADE STREET, ROOM 201  
WORCESTER, MA 01610

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**Present:** David Fort, Joanne Calista, Dr. Jerry Gurwitz, Abigail Averbach, Erin Cathcart, Derek Brindisi, Chris Montiverdi, Michael Hirsh, Seth Peters, Amanda Major, Colleen Bolen, Kerry Clark, Karyn Clark

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Derek Brindisi, Director of Public Health

**2. Organization of the Board**

- a. BOH Members discussed the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Derek Brindisi (DB) stated that the Chair's role would include a greater time commitment, including tasks such as testifying for Worcester Department of Public Health (WDPH) in front of the Public Health Sub-Committee. DB asked BOH members to nominate a Chair and Vice Chair at the earliest possible convenience. BOH Members decide to rotate tasks of Chair and Vice Chair until a fifth Board of Health member is appointed.
- b. Mr. Fort stated he was interested in the Vice Chair position. Dr. Gurwitz stated he may consider the Chair position, however, he believes that the BOH would benefit from not filling the Chair position with a Medical Doctor because the Medical Director offers that expertise.
- c. Dr. Gurwitz requested more clarity on the responsibilities of the Chair. DB stated that the WDPH wants to establish a mutually beneficial partnership with the BOH.
- d. Ms. Averbach requested that an agenda item for next meeting be to map out the roles of the Board of Health as a whole, as well as roles of Chair and Vice Chair relative to WDPH and City Council.



- e. Ms. Calista requested that WDPH present pressing health issues in the city allowing BOH the knowledge to influence policy (i.e. informational updates on the ongoing opioid overdoses). DB detailed that he would like meetings to be organized in a format similar to the MA State Public Health Council, where every meeting there are in depth informational briefings on pressing issues.
- f. Ms. Averbach requested that Karyn Clark highlights policy points in her CHIP overview during the January BOH meeting.
- g. Ms. Calista requested that City Councilor and Public Health Committee Chair Sarai Rivera present her priorities in order to better understand her comprehensive vision of public health change in the city.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes**

- a. Dr. Gurwitz motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 11-10-14. Ms. Calista seconded approval for meeting minutes. Board approves minutes from meeting on 11-10-14.

### **4. Overview of Division of Public Health Programming/ Board of Health Training**

- a. DB introduced the overview of the department. He detailed Dr. Hirsh's role as medical director and discussed the strategic plan's mission and vision.
- b. DB reviewed the administrative aspects of WDPH. See PowerPoint slides.
- c. Colleen Bolen, PERP Grant Coordinator, discussed health and medical preparedness and emergency preparedness. See PowerPoint slides.
  - a. Kerry Clark, Chief of Environmental Health and Response, discussed the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC). Moving forward, all funding for emergency preparedness will be streamlined through the HMCC. WDPH will apply for coordinating agency/fiscal agency of the Region 2 HMCC.
- d. Seth Peters, Chief of Epidemiology and Health Protection, discusses epidemiology, communicable diseases, and health protection. See PowerPoint slides.
  - a. Mr. Peters discussed the ongoing WDPH Ebola response, as well as annual trends in opioid overdoses in the city.
- e. Kerry Clark, Chief of Environmental Health and Response, discussed environmental health and emergency preparedness in Worcester. See PowerPoint slides.
- f. In the interest of time, group decided to postpone Karyn Clark's (Chief of Community Health) presentation until the next meeting in January.

### **5. 2015 Schedule of Meetings**

Dr. Gurwitz motioned to approve the 2015 schedule of Board of Health meetings. Mr. Fort seconded the motion to approve. Board approves 2015 schedule of meetings. Scheduled for the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm.

### **6. Next Meeting:**

- a. January 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 P.M.
- b. Location 25 Meade Street, Worcester



- c. Tentative agenda items:
  - a. Outlined responsibilities for Board of Health Chair and Vice Chair positions
  - b. Mapping relationship between BOH and WDPH
  - c. Mapping relationship between BOH and Worcester City Council
  - d. Future “pressing health issues” WDPH presentation topics
  - e. Karyn Clark to highlight policy points in CHIP presentation
  - f. Ms. Sarai Rivera presenting on her public health priorities at BOH meeting

**7. Adjourn: 8:55 P.M.**

Mr. Fort motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Gurwitz seconded the motion to adjourn.

