



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

Matilde Castiel, MD
Health & Human Services
Commissioner

Karyn E. Clark
Public Health
Director

DATE: October 18, 2016

RE: WORCESTER BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

START TIME: 6:30 P.M.

**LOCATION: WORCESTER DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
25 MEADE STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM 109
WORCESTER, MA 01610**

1. Welcome & Introductions	Meeting called to order 6:37 pm. Members present: David Fort, Chair, Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair, Abigail Averbach, Jerry Gurwitz, MD. Absent: Joanne Calista. WDPH Staff: Karyn Clark, Director, Rosa Navarro, Clerk, Alexis Travis, Chief of Community Health, Zach Dyer, Deputy Director, Cassandra Andersen, Manager of Strategic Partnerships, Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director, Matilde Castiel, MD, Commissioner of Health & Human Services.
2. Approval of the September 26, 2016 Minutes	Motion to approve the WBOH meeting minutes of September 26, 2016 made by Jerry Gurwitz, MD. Second - Abigail Averbach. Approved.
3. WBOH Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)	Motion to approve the WBOH Standard Operating Procedures as amended by the City Law Department made by David Fort, Chair. Second - Abigail Averbach. Approved.



<p>4. Recreational Marijuana Discussion</p>	<p>David Fort, Chair addressed Question 4 / Recreational Marijuana on the November Ballot. Colorado, and Washington have already adopted this bill 2 years ago, and we are waiting on data to see on how well it is doing in those states. We need more research done see if any issues with how this ballot is written/ how many plants individuals are allowed to grow at home or is Marijuana just a gateway drug. Mr. Fort stated, "I want to see a healthy, clean city, already seen much devastation due to drugs." Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair discussed some of the research and literature regarding the use of marijuana and its implications and long term effects on the brain in terms of coordination and behavioral issues. Jerry Gurwitz, MD commented on the extensive list of agencies against the Ballot question, compiled by the Massachusetts Medical Society.</p> <p>Abigail Averbach, opposed to this particular bill but open to legalization (decriminalization). Personally can't understand the difficulty with alcohol being legalized - also agrees with impact on brain development. Sees movement across country to legalize but stated it is not the right bill for the state or City Worcester.</p> <p>Motion for the Worcester Board of Health to make a public statement in opposition of Ballot Question 4 on the legalization of recreational marijuana made by Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair – second by Abigail Averbach. Approved.</p>
<p>5. Opioid Crisis</p>	<p>Jerry Gurwitz, MD, asked Lt. Scampini of the Worcester Police Department Vice Squad to elaborate on Heroin that is being cut with Fentanyl.</p> <p>Lt. Scampini noted that over the last 2 years the WPD has seen a dramatic increase of Fentanyl being mixed with Heroin which makes the high last longer. During the last year WPD has been testing for fentanyl. When people know there is a good high they want that drug. He also noted there are no shortage of drug dealers.</p> <p>Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair commented that addiction is long life affliction and rehab is not a</p>

<p>.</p> <p>6. Date and Topics for Next Meeting</p> <p>7. Adjourn</p>	<p>quick fix. What is more important is when the person returns into the community. The difficulties with aftercare planning are important and complex</p> <p>Dr. Matilde Castiel spoke about mental health services being critical and the need to follow the person through the process. People need stable housing and jobs - there are very limited skills or job training available.</p> <p>Lt. Scampini said the quality of services are improving within the last year but we need to talk more about it as a clinical disease/reduce stigma. We need more Recovery Coaches. Narcan has saved a many lives but overdoses are still up. Cassandra Andersen commented on the issue of stigma and that she and her staff are working to promote education around this issue. Held major events over the last several months to raise awareness: training for WPD officers, City of Worcester HR Education & Narcan training for public employees. Also, partnered with WPD in collecting data and appreciates the on-going partnership.</p> <p>David Fort, Chair discussed the topics for the next Worcester Board of Health meeting tentatively scheduled for November 14, 2016 at 6:30 PM (pending Edith Claros' schedule): agenda will focus on 2016 Greater Worcester Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) policies and initiatives that the WBOH may consider supporting as well as the Question 4 State Ballot results.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM. Motion made by Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair. Second – Abigail Averbach.</p>
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