



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

SUBJECT: BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2016
START TIME: 6:30PM
LOCATION: 25 MEADE STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM 109
WORCESTER, MA 01610

Present: David Fort, Joanne Calista, Edith Claros, Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Megan DeNubila, Michael Hirsh, MD, Zach Dyer, Cassandra Andersen, Amarely Gutierrez Oliver, Danielle Yocom, Athena Haddon, Nick Kotsopoulos, Sarah Meigs, Leah Meyers, Hazel Berry, Giovana Ortiz-B, Johanna Mongue, Maria Rudorf, Kayla Dion, Devante Diaz, Jodi Harrison, Melissa Tarallo, Nicole Bell, Karen Riley-McNary, Marianne Sarkis, Mattie Castiel, MD, Paul Saucier, Michael McKiernan

1. Welcome and Introduction	Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:36PM. Welcome and introductions.
2. Approval of January 4, 2016 Minutes	Minutes from last meeting Edith motion to approve, second Jerry - approved
3. Needle Exchange Update	Needle Exchange Update Mattie - Approved by city council and BOH APW has been chosen as the host site. It is an important program for access to care, to get people into treatment, and for them to get tested. Edith – Are other organizations going to have it over time? State funded for a certain number of pilot sites, so for now it will just be APW. Board happy that this is happening.
4. Governor Baker's Opioid Plan Updates – Review and Discussion	Governor Baker's Update – Anything specific?



Zach can give updates in relation to WDPH work.

Dr. Gurwitz wants to make sure that other components of the problem are addressed, such as legislation and prescribing.

Can the board of health recommend something around passing an ordinance? Maybe advocate for legislation in the community. Dr. Gurwitz feels very strongly about the prescribing practices. Should the board of health advocate and/or consider legislation? Things are moving quickly so something should happen by the next meeting.

The board may need to meet before the next meeting.

Joanne would like to underscore Dr. Gurwitz's points and push to look at these additional steps.

Mattie looking at advocating for extra beds and get recovery coaches in hospitals. Also the WAASE presentation will show the importance of that as well.

Edith: Mental health is such an issue. Guns and other violence affected by mental health.

Zach: State budget, currently a 40 million dollar increase for substance abuse issues. Things will get cut. It is important to advocate for the budget and keeping funding for prevention.

Also the board would like to focus on the schools and initiatives around young people.

Cassandra: Copy of Governor Baker's updated plan in the papers for tonight, but if the board would like to hear more about it at a future meeting we can do that.

Dr. Gurwitz: It is important to have a focus because a lot is on the table. Prescribing and care of overdose victims would be two possible topics.

Also consider discussing the holding of overdose victims under section 35.

Governor baker's plan compared with what the legislature is doing. Senate proposal and house proposal. That's where we can think about differences.

5. Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (WAASE) Presentation

(See Slides)

Dr. Castiel: We need more treatment facilities for the women. How do we advocate for that treatment facility?

David: Thank you for the presentation. Whatever the board of health can do please give recommendations and suggestions.

Advocating to BSAS and DMH. Can also look for data, arrest records and historical records so that we can find the best place to intervene.

Also being able to provide more outreach support. Only have one person currently. Need a location for the women to land to be able to receive the services.

Athena, member of WAASE – survivors don't do well in typical facilities because of specific needs. They are sometimes re-exploited and need the support of other women with lived experience.

Important to have survivors at the table.

Joanne: thank you for the presentation. She would like to underscore need for specialized treatment. Well-meaning physicians sometimes not able to give appropriate care.

YWCA has a DV shelter. Sexual exploitation really different from the DV cases that they see.

Edith: Are there any other communities using this model?

No, lots of research is being done and there are other programs but here in Worcester the survivors leading the work.

Are there overlapping resources that can be tapped into?

Everyone working on this issue is able to tap into their specialties, but some gaps have also been identified including housing, which is the biggest gap.

Boston has done similar work with the AG's office, but need to recognize central mass as a unique location.

Nicole: Wants to reiterate the importance of housing, without housing the women cannot have

<p>6. Tobacco – Review and Discussion of Municipal List of Policies in MA</p> <p>7. Goods for Guns Update</p>	<p>services provided. Shelters where some can be re-exploited are not the best place.</p> <p>Surprised that there is not any specific housing, would like to see that happen.</p> <p>Reducing demand – what is the current punishment for John’s (misdemeanor fine and offered a program).</p> <p>What happens to the sex traffickers? – Federal Statute, have not had anyone prosecuted in Worcester. But the WPD does conduct sting operations.</p> <p>What keeps the Johns coming in from outside the city? The police will have the vehicle towed and send notification to vehicle owner. Names are published in the newspaper. No longer publishing females names and addresses.</p> <p>David: Lives in Main South and wants to be part of the solution. Good to know what is going on.</p> <p>Will send WAASE the presentation to the board.</p> <p>Provided some information for comparison what other municipalities are doing as well as a copy of the model regulations.</p> <p>Also muni lists provided for cigar packaging and pricing, T21, and flavor restriction</p> <p>The board would like to see recommendations from the division.</p> <p>Two physicians that do work around T21 can come and give presentation. Have doctors present at next meeting.</p> <p>Would like to see Karyn give recap on issues city council faced.</p> <p>Dr. Hirsh: Had a successful buy back – 12 retrieval sites and 18 communities, lots of media. Volunteers from many organizations and the communities.</p> <p>325 weapons retrieved 54 replicas – very useful because being used in crime.</p> <p>CM asked to have the program reimbursed for those, very hard to distinguish between replicas and</p>
---	---

<p>8. Review Pending Items for Future Agendas</p>	<p>the real weapons.</p> <p>Several semi-automatic guns were also collected. 75 trigger locks distributed in Worcester and 30 – 40 in other communities. Interest from other communities was show but unable to get something together in time, however hoping to work with them in the future.</p> <p>DA Early able to have Dr. Hirsh presenting to other DA’s in April. Hopeful this can become a statewide program and maybe even New England program.</p> <p>Additionally meeting this Wednesday at Worcester Tech about making retrieved weapons into art for peace park.</p> <p>Report out tabled at city council for tomorrow, but tabled again. Slides will be available to the public. Also presenting at a national symposium in April.</p> <p>From the 14th years the program has been running, 2900 weapons have been collected, total. Total cost less than 4 gunshot wound victims.</p> <p>Who is generally bringing in weapons – survey is anonymous. Demographic 92% Caucasian 90% over age 60, 90% male.</p> <p>Many weapons have been stolen from legal gun owners, or weapon illegal and not reported when stolen.</p> <p>Gunshot victims generally suicide, accidental shooting with children, and domestic violence.</p> <p>Do we have other options outside from gun buyback?</p> <p>In Boston there is an amnesty, but very few people because hard to do that.</p> <p>Chief McGuinn said if people call the police will arrange getting rid of the weapons.</p> <p>Lots of buzz around Zika virus, will probably be providing report to cc, will provide to the board of health as well.</p> <p>Follow-up on sex trafficking and what the board can help to support WAASE</p> <p>T21 and have the doctors come speak.</p> <p>Dr. Gurwitz request about other aspects of the</p>
---	--

<p>9. Adjourn</p>	<p>opioid crisis. Maybe have advocacy partners come and speak about this issue and what the board can do.</p> <p>Motion to adjourn – Dr. Gurwitz, second Edith. Meeting Adjourned at 8:05PM.</p>
-------------------	--