



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

Matilde Castiel, MD
Health & Human Services
Commissioner

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Public Health
Director

SUBJECT: BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
DATE: MARCH 7, 2016
START TIME: 6:30PM
LOCATION: 25 MEADE STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM 109
WORCESTER, MA 01610

Present: Karyn Clark, Tina Grosowsky, Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Lester Hartman, MD, Joe DiFranza, MD, Zach Dyer, Cassandra Andersen, Nick Kotsopoulos, Michael Hirsh, MD, Chris Cobb, David Fort, Edith Claros, Joanne Calista, Annie Parkinson, Abbie Averbach, Ken Farbstien,

1. Welcome and Introduction	Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Welcome and introductions.
2. Approval of February 1, 2016 Minutes	Minutes from last meeting Motion to approve, second - approved
3. Zika Virus Update	Zika Virus Update Dr. Hirsh gave update on Zika Virus: intense media coverage of virus, for most people the virus causes mild flu-like symptoms but pregnant women have risk of complications; World Health Organization (WHO) links Microcephaly and Zika Virus: Dr. Hirsh says science is not conclusive WHO: recommends that pregnant women or women who may be pregnant avoid travel to countries/places where Zika is endemic 1 Zika case in Worcester County so far
4. Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (WAASE) Debrief	WAASE had presentation after last BOH meeting: BOH is interested in getting WAASE a facility specific to survivors of sex trafficking



<p>5. T21 Presentation from Dr. Lester Hartman</p>	<p>Board recognizes importance of WAASE</p> <p>Dr. Mattie Castiel has insights on specific treatment for survivors: Karyn Clark will follow up with Dr. Castiel</p> <p>Important to tie WAASE work to existing housing programs and treatment services</p> <p>WAASE presentation at the Woo Church, 875 Main Street Worcester, 6 to 8 p.m.: community forum on issues related to WAASE that is open to the public</p> <p>Dr. Hartman presented on the work he has been doing to promote Tobacco 21 policy adoption (raising age to buy all types of tobacco to 21) to Boards of Health across MA tonight</p> <p>Tobacco 21 adoption is needed across MA because tobacco industry targets youth in many ways</p> <p>Dr. Hartman brought and showed examples of tobacco products he purchased in Worcester just before the meeting, like cigarillos that are flavored, advertised to youth</p> <p>Mention of three year old that was killed in NY State due to ingestion of tobacco product and tobacco lobby being very powerful, also tobacco lobby is trying to influence towns across MA to not adopt Tobacco 21</p> <p>Needham adopted Tobacco 21 and no convenience stores closed: there was concern that Tobacco 21 would negatively impact retail business, however this has not been the case</p> <p>Issue of “PUP” laws (Purchase, Use, Possession Law), Brockton MA mentioned in relationship to PUP law</p> <p>Dr. Hartman handed out list of towns and cities in MA that have adopted Tobacco 21 as of 3/4/16: 100 municipalities have adopted Tobacco 21, 45% of MA population is protected now by Tobacco 21 (2.9 million residents): Worcester is not yet one of these municipalities, Dr. Hartman advocating for Worcester to adopt the policy</p> <p>Dr. Hartman: mentioned the neurobiology of addiction, the plasticity of the brain for young people</p> <p>Board of Health asks: why now? Why adopt this now?</p>
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Dr. Hartman responds: he has been going around MA for a while advocating for this, advocacy takes time, but advocacy pays off

Board of Health asks: What kind of resistance have other BOHs in MA experienced when they have voted on the Tobacco 21 ordinance?

Dr. Hartman: easier to implement this in places that are more affluent, harder in lower socioeconomic status municipalities: mention of Boston, which was not among the first municipalities to adopt Tobacco 21 because it is so economically diverse

Board of Health asks: how is this enforced? How quickly could it be enforced?

BOH question: would this be a restriction of trade issue?

Answer: defer to lawyer on this (Karyn talks more about this later)

Worcester enforcement of Tobacco 21: Worcester has about 250 establishments that sell tobacco, currently the Mass. Department of Public Health (MDPH) only pays for 16 and 17 year olds to do compliance checks for tobacco: if age for selling raised to 21, hard to use 16 year olds for compliance checks

BOH: mentions the potential political minefields for this issue, mentions that there is a separation between the City Council and the Board of Health in Worcester and this will help navigate the potential political minefields for this issue

BOH: mentions that they know that very young kids are smoking, mentions the utility of doing presentations to third grade and fourth grade students about tobacco prevention

BOH: Asks Karyn for list of policy recommendations and data considerations prior to next BOH meeting in order to make informed decision about Tobacco 21.

BOH: mentions that it would be helpful to connect with the State legislature about this, present a unified front to State of MA legislature about the issue. Mentions the Worcester District Medical Society (WDMS) as potential partner for support

Dr. Hirsh: agrees with BOH, will connect with WDMS.

<p>5. Vape Establishments: Review and Discussion</p>	<p>Karyn: gave overview of issue of “vaping” and talked about the efforts of the Worcester Division of Public Health to educate and enforce newly adopted tobacco ordinance with vaping establishments (eg patrons no longer allowed to sample or vape in the retail environment)</p> <p>5 Vape shops in Worcester: Newspaper article about vape shop that advertised itself as ready to sell to people who enjoy vaping, people who are ready to try vaping – perceived that Worcester regulations on vaping are lenient according to a quote from the Worcester Sun from a Vape Store shop owner.</p> <p>51% of revenue comes from sale of tobacco for smoking bars. There is no mechanism at the state level to provide an exemption for a vape bar to allow vaping inside the establishment.</p> <p>BOH: mentions that they need to know what policy levers they can pull, because this is a real problem in Worcester and is contrary to all the positive developments in public health in the city</p> <p>Dr. Hirsh: mentions continual battle of public health against commerce, business: mentions the issue of selling poisonous products, this is unacceptable and would not be tolerated for other substances, products</p> <p>BOH: wants more specific policy recommendations, asks for report from Karyn before next meeting</p> <p>BOH: asks about having public hearing on vaping issue</p> <p>Tina: mentions that BOH, City of Worcester vaping response does not all have to come right away, can be incremental</p> <p>BOH: asks for discussion at next meeting, then they can plan a public meeting</p> <p>Karyn: mentions that towns in Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance are very interested in updating their local tobacco regulations including T21. Grafton is moving forward with T21 and other model regulations to reduce youth access and environmental tobacco smoke.</p> <p>BOH: should we have legal folks at next meeting?</p> <p>Karyn: yes, we should</p>
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<p>6. Opioid Epidemic Legislative Activity: Review and Discussion</p>	<p>Cassandra introduces Annie Parkinson from Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR), introduced BOH on legislation and prescribing of opioids</p> <p>Cassandra: Legislation in conference committee right now at the State House</p> <p>BOH: identifies that issue has gotten bigger than the BOH ability to influence prescribers of opioids, but there are other policy levers</p> <p>Annie: gave overview of S2022: “An Act Relative to Substance Use Prevention” in MA – asks BOH to give this strong consideration</p> <p>Annie: mentions that at the federal level, there is an issue with federal spending on addiction treatment, substance use treatment, issue of advocacy in DC</p> <p>Annie: mentions that 4 people per day are dying in the opioid epidemic in MA</p> <p>Annie: mentions the stigma of addiction, mentions issue lack of beds for treatment</p> <p>BOH: What is happening?</p> <p>Annie: House and Senate versions of bill in MA are different, going into conference</p> <p>Dr. Hirsh: Governor Baker likes Senate version more than House version (PDMP)</p> <p>BOH: How does this presentation from MOAR address the issue of what BOH should do?</p> <p>BOH member: this is very helpful to get update on legislation and opioid deaths, thanks Annie</p>
<p>7. Items For Next Meeting</p>	<p>For next meeting: Mental health discussion, HOPE Coalition coming with Photovoice project to present, Tobacco control policy regulations, Violence among tenants in housing</p> <p>BOH: Should we have another meeting to just discuss tobacco regulations?</p> <p>Karyn: agrees to this</p> <p>BOH: Yes, we should: Karyn will develop list of policy regs with lawyers, will present to BOH in separate meeting on 4/4/16</p>
<p>8. Adjourn</p>	<p>BOH member gives motion to adjourn – motion is seconded – meeting is adjourned at 9 p.m.</p>

