



**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:** MAY 2, 2016  
**START TIME:** 6:30PM  
**LOCATION:** 25 MEADE STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM 109  
WORCESTER, MA 01610

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**Present:** Karyn Clark, Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Zach Dyer, Nick Kotsopoulos, Michael Hirsh, MD, David Fort, Edith Claros, Joanne Calista, Abigail Averbach, Megan DeNubila, Matilde Castiel, MD, Rachel Frankenthal, Alexis Travis

1. Welcome and Introduction	Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Welcome and introductions.
2. Approval of the minutes (March 7, 2016 Meeting)	David motion to approve minutes for March 7 <sup>th</sup> Second - Edith All in favor, approved.
3. Approval of the minutes (April 11, 2016 Meeting)	David motion to approve minutes for April 11 <sup>th</sup> Second - Edith All in favor, approved.
4. Joint Worcester Board of Health/City Council Health and Human Services Sub-Committee Meeting on Tobacco – Debrief (April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2016)	After joint meeting, purpose to go over and prioritize and spend some time looking at T21.  List of potential policies, highlighted meaning it is currently in the ordinance (just updated in Nov 2015)  Not included:  Youth Access - <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum cigar packaging and pricing</li></ul>



strategy. Many of the products are bundled and sold for a low price. Almost the same concept as prohibiting sale of loose cigarettes. We know youth make impulse buys at \$2.50 or less.

- Not renewing a sales permit with three illegal sales to minors. Could consider as a strategy.
- Cap on the number of retail permits, we have close to 300 establishments, including hookah and cigar bars. Still need to ask the city solicitor if we can cap type of permit. Boston has a sundown clause on hookah bars, know that they are targeting the college students.
- No new tobacco retail establishments within 500ft of a school. We know from work done by the HOPE coalition that this is something that would impact low socio-economic status areas because the density of retailers is higher in these neighborhoods.
- Restricting flavored products to adult only establishments. Would also apply to e-cigarettes and e-juices. Two types of e-cigarettes; closed system and open system.
- Raise MLSA to 21, about 120 municipalities that have done this. If the state passes it, does it mitigate the need for Worcester to pass it. At the state level, the omnibus bill that includes T21, has passed through senate and still must pass through the house. More weight at the state level if Worcester passes it.

\*Who should be moving forward with T21? CC meeting next Tuesday, we will have a better understanding on the support for this. Up to the board.

\*Would the CC have a public hearing? CC would have it on the agenda and they have time for the public comment. Subcommittee would serve as the venue. Highly recommended to have a public hearing.

\*Would have to have a vote through full city council.

\*What is the best order of things? Probably have the public hearing and have city council discuss.

What is the process for a public hearing?

- Maintain or double length of permit suspensions. City council extended the tolling period from 12 to 24 months.

Environmental Tobacco Smoke –

- Ban smoking in smoking bars – hard to do this because we already have smoking bars. In order to get around SFWPL 51% of your revenue must come from tobacco sales. Must have this permit from the state. Worcester DPH conducts a joint inspection with Fire and Buildings. Could require them to submit their financial plans and require to report quarterly?
- Ban smoking in retail tobacco stores – you can only sell products cannot smoke in the store.
- Ban smoking in membership associations – Karyn got list from alcohol commission and there are about 12.
- Ban smoking in nursing homes – 4 in Worcester have smoking rooms. LBOH can provide exemption for nursing homes or substance abuse treatment facilities. Consider banning it, or having administrators come before the board of health and explain why they need and exemption.
- Ban smoking in hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts.
- Ban smoking in outdoor areas where food is served.

Other -

- Hookah bar sanitation regulations – have not found any other areas that have these regulations. Want to have them stored and cleaned properly.
- Work with the police department to revoke permits if establishment sells synthetic marijuana.

Topics for public hearing (based on Karyn's list)  
-Youth Access: #3, #6 (type of establishment or overall cap), #8, #9, ETS: #5, #7 (ban smoking in outdoor areas of restaurants and bars)

Will wait on hookah regulations, need more

<p>5. Medical Marijuana draft regulations – Discussion</p>	<p>information; same for synthetic marijuana.</p> <p>Possibility to break up the hearings?          Maybe by youth access and ets?          Hearing: just listing to public comment, no discussion. Most boards do not vote that night.</p> <p>Public Hearing Dates: June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6PM</p> <p>City has signed two host agreements with medical marijuana entities; will get the letter of non-opposition. We are in the siting Profile stage (see document provided).</p> <p>State regulations are very strict. The BOH has the option for additional oversight. Would like to provide a draft for the board’s consideration.</p> <p>Local oversight is required to help with enforcement. Definitions are included. Dr. Castiel or a designee can have a permitting process. All the people working in the establishment have met requirements for training and education. The city can have additional control to enforce. Option to have stings just like tobacco does.</p> <p>Would like to have the board review and have a conversation at the next meeting, Will try and have legal at the next meeting. Board could potentially do nothing.</p> <p>Compliance something that is important.</p> <p>What do the regulations at the state look like? If other states have done this what does it look like?</p> <p>Boston does have local regs around this.</p> <p>Have Cheryl come to next meeting.</p> <p>Catalog items discussed, help keep track.</p>
<p>6. Items for the June BOH meeting</p>	<p><b>Sex Education (update)</b></p> <p><b>Debrief and next steps on tobacco (potential vote)</b></p> <p><b>Needle exchange update</b></p> <p>What are the topics that need to be discussed?</p> <p>Possibly looking at the new CHIP and how we can use that as a guide. Also using the Academic Health Collaborative to help provide the board with information.</p> <p>Possibly having two meetings in a month for a bit</p>

<p>7. Adjourn</p>	<p>to get through some of the material. Make sure that the presentations are timely and relevant.</p> <p>Could think about coordinating with the Public Health and Human Services subcommittee.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned 8:24PM</p>
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