



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: May 15, 2017
RE: WORCESTER BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING
REGULATION TO ENSURE SAFE ACCESS TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA
DISPENSARIES
START TIME: 6:30 PM
LOCATION: WORCESTER DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
25 MEADE STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM 109
WORCESTER, MA 01610

Members present: David Fort, Chair, Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Abigail Averbach, Joanne Calista
Absent: Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair
WDPH Staff: Karyn Clark, Director of Public Health, Colleen Bolen,
Chief of Emergency Preparedness and Michele Williams, Principal Clerk

Public Hearing opens at 6:37pm

David Fort, Chair – introductions of BOH members and WDPH Staff. Reads information to the attendees on the purpose of the hearing and rules relating to 2 minute testimony, and stating name and residence.

Donna Barry – Prime Wellness Center – I serve on the Board for Prime Wellness Center and we will have a medical dispensary on Pullman Street in Worcester.

John Glavik – CEO of Prime Wellness Center - We have entered into a Host Agreement with the City of Worcester as required by Edward Augustus, City Manager. We will be placing a dispensary on Pullman Street in Worcester. We were one of the first people in the State in Connecticut to have a dispensary and have been active for 2 ½ years. The State of New Hampshire has provided us with an approval for a dispensary and a growth facility, which we have a dispensary in Merrimack, NH and a growth facility in Petersburg, NH. We have been in operation since 8/11/16. We have about 4200 – 4500 patients that we're serving in those 2 locations. Most of the people are 55 and older.

Joanne Calista: Are there comments that you would like to make regarding the regulations?



John Glavik: This is the first time that I have reviewed them. I didn't know that there were regulations in place. I assumed that this was a meeting to discuss possibility of potential regulations that could be put together by the City of Worcester. In the review process we had to go through different departments over the last 1 ½ to 2 years and then deal with the State of Massachusetts Department of Public Health. It has been a long road for every one of us that have been applicants in the process. We have received 3 licenses through the State of Massachusetts; 1) Worcester, 2) Shrewsbury and 3) Leominster, these locations will be dispensaries only. A growth facility for the products will be in Sterling. The products will all come packaged to the dispensary. If Worcester has a growth facility, I think that the BOH would be more involved in that part of it being that is where you would be producing more of Cannabis Infused Products or Marijuana Infused Products. That's where you get involved with the concentrate, extracting down to get the liquid fluids to make edibles and patches. Possible food permit. Make sure that they have the proper hoods, grease traps, etc. On the dispensary level, everything comes packaged. We don't open anything. We provide a safe, secure vault to place the product once it arrives. There will be a refrigerator in there for any edibles that needs to be refrigerated. At the end of the day, everything is put back into the vault and accounted for. The licenses will be visual for anyone to see. We don't allow anyone into the facility without a certified card and some form of ID. Spouses and children are not allowed in. The card is provided by the State of Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The patient has to visibly show their card to the camera before being buzzed in. When a patient purchases a product, it is put into the computer allowing the State to know exactly what each patient purchased. Once they obtain their legal limit, you can't buy anymore product for that month. This is well controlled by the State. We do an intake on every patient, which usually lasts 30 to 60 minutes. The physicians involved with us are from Dartmouth Medical School. They understand opioid and cannabis and how to use it. You have to have good physicians guiding you through the process. They make sure that the proper education is given to our technicians, who speak to the people. We are able to contact their PCP if anything goes wrong. We work with the PCP to titrate the people off of opioids with the use of medical marijuana. This is very successful. People are feeling and sleeping better. Maybe we can deliver to the Hospice programs and make those patients feel a little more comfortable during their final hours of live. Stephen Corn, MD, the Head of Pain Management at Harvard Medical, the Head of Yale University from Connecticut and UCONN Pharmacy are involved with us and I'm hoping that UMass Medical Center would like to be involved once we get going.

David Fort, Chair: My concern is theft.

John Glavik: Our security officer is past Lieutenant Colonel of the Massachusetts State Police, Frank Matthews. We use ISG Security System. There will be proper cameras and keyfobs on every door (this allows you to arm and disarm the system). Not every employee will have a keyfob. We're more concerned about theft at our growth facility. Our employees have pocket less pants and shirts, no cuffs. We do that on purpose so that they can't place anything on their person when they come out. We don't have trees or bushes around our facility to keep the patients safe. We monitor them as they are leaving all the way to their car. We keep 4 years of camera recording. Everything is tracked, bar coded and weighed through the whole process. This is cash only. Once Pullman Street is built, we will bring in the Police and Fire Chiefs to come and tour our facility.

Abigail Averbach: Do you have any plans on rolling over to recreational marijuana?

John Glavik: Not at this time. I would wait and see what the State is going to do.

Karyn Clark, Director DPH: Through David as the Chair to Mr. Glavik, you have stated that you haven't read the proposed regulations. I would suggest that you read the proposed regulations and the executive summary. The BOH will take written comments through May 22, 2017 via email or written.

David Fort, Chair: Thank you for being here tonight. I appreciate your attendance and your views.

Adjourn:
7:16pm