



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: February 5, 2018
RE: WORCESTER BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
START TIME: 6:30 PM
LOCATION: WORCESTER DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
25 MEADE STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM 109
WORCESTER, MA 01610

Welcome & Introductions:

Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

Members present: David Fort, Chair, Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair, Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Abigail Averbach
absent: Joanne Calista
WDPH Staff: Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director, Karyn Clark, Director of Public Health, Matilde Castiel, MD Commissioner of Health and Human Services and Michele Williams, Principal Clerk.

Approval of the January 8, 2018 Minutes:

Motion to approve the WBOH meeting minutes of January 8, 2018 made by Abigail Averbach
Second – Jerry Gurwitz, MD Approved

Review and act on discussion with LT. James Johnson, Worcester Police Dept., relative to supporting and partnering WPD on the public health and public safety of illegal drugs and alcohol.

The Worcester Police Alcohol Enforcement Unit started in 2004. There is a substantial underage alcohol drinking. Statistics show (nationwide) that 1700 college students between the ages of 18 – 24 die each year from alcohol related unintentional injuries including motor vehicle accidents. 500,000 students (nationwide) between the ages of 18 -24 are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol. 600,000 students (nationwide) between the ages 18 – 24 are assaulted by another student while intoxicated. 70,000 students (nationwide) between the ages of 18 – 24 are victims of alcohol related sexual assaults. 110,000 students (nationwide) between the ages 18 – 24 are arrested for an alcohol related violation such as public drinking and driving under the influence. We see 25% of academic problems, health and suicide problems in college students. Furnishing alcohol to a minor is an offense. We don't give them a break. We have diversion programs to help these kids so it doesn't go on their record, as long as they don't reoffend. When we do a sting and catch a minor in possession of alcohol, we'll offer a diversion program for the first offense. If they reoffend, the original charge plus the new charge will go against the individual and they will have no chance for the diversion program. We do stings at bars to see if bartenders are selling to minors



and intoxicated individuals. We do arrest the bartender for illegally selling alcohol. Then the bar gets a violation. Also, there are a lot of fake IDs, which is a felony.

David Fort, Chair: How do we avoid an intoxicated individual from being served more alcohol?

LT. James Johnson (WPD): Each bartender that serves alcohol has to be TIPS (Training and Intervention Procedures for Servers of alcohol) certified. They have to look for signs of intoxication. Each bartender is responsible and can be arrested for selling to an intoxicated individual.

Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair: What can we as the BOH do to help?

LT. James Johnson (WPD): You are welcome to come out and observe what we do.

David Fort, Chair: How do you determine what liquor store a keg was purchased at?

LT. James Johnson (WPD): All kegs have tags on them.

Review and act on discussion with Maureen Binienda, Superintendent of Worcester Public Schools, relative to supporting and partnering on public health initiatives in schools.

Maureen Binienda, Superintendent of WPS: There was an increase in the number of STD's in High Schools students last year, according to Family Health. We did not have the MOU's at that time to allow testing or treatment within the school based health centers. It was time to upgrade the MOU's for both Family Health Center and Edward Kennedy. So we wrote that into our contract. It has been a year now and the situation has improved. We are providing services to students in a school day, where they don't have to leave the school. We work with the American Heart Association who are teaching hands only CPR. It has been very successful.

Carol Manning, Health Liaison, WPS: The Worcester Division of Public Health has been a big asset to our Health Education Department. We have partnered up and had education for our teachers on tobacco and drug use, resources for 5210 movement program, sexual health issues and general curriculums. DPH has connected us with UMass and helped us with Health Smarts. Through this our teachers are teaching goal settings for students; they have discussions and goal setting, analyzing influences and learn how to advocate for themselves. We also work with DPH on the CHIP and CHA.

Maureen Binienda, Superintendent of WPS: On February 14, 2018, students will be doing a health survey regarding homelessness. We want to see how students feel about homelessness and also to get an idea of the number of families that are homeless so that we may be able to provide services. This year marijuana is our biggest challenge with students vs. alcohol. We have found students passing out brownies. I am very concerned. Another big challenge is students that have suffered from trauma. They find it difficult to follow basic routines in school. Some of the behaviors from our elementary students are more severe. We have parents that are addicted to opioids. We are hoping to open four K1 classrooms for these students. Family Health was able to add a clinician to each of the centers, which has been a great help. They help the child get refocused.

David Fort, Chair: The Board would like to work with WPS and draft some educational public announcements that could be spoken over the intercom first thing every morning.

Maureen Binienda, Superintendent of WPS: Some schools do not have an intercom. I will look further into it.

Abigail Averbach: Can you clarify what type of health survey are the students taking?

Karyn Clark, Director of PH: It's a Regional Youth Health Survey which is based on the YRBS that is utilized to identify trends of both risky and positive behaviors that youth are engaging in across the different communities that we provide public health services to.

Abigail Averbach: What are students required to take in terms of health education and what percent are getting health education?

Maureen Binienda, Superintendent of WPS: Health education is no longer required in the state of Massachusetts.

Carol Manning, Health Liaison, WPS: Students in 4th and 5th grade have 18 health classes. Students in 6th and 7th grade have 36 health classes. About 20% of high school students take health education as an elective class. On February 14th students at North High are teaching hands only CPR from 7:30am – 8:30am.

Maureen Binienda, Superintendent of WPS: We have a project that is run through the north quadrant schools in the city, funded by the Health Foundation. In those schools the teachers are able to take 5 courses at Lesley and it's about mindset. When they do the announcements in the morning, everyone closes their eyes and breathe as well as some yoga techniques. This is an effort to see if it helps students take care of their emotions and thinking. Also regarding after school activities, there are some schools that are connected through Recreation Worcester that do have different activities for the students to do after school.

David Fort, Chair: We should encourage kids to be involved in some sort of activity.

Review and act on discussion relative to communications on tobacco and pipeline.

Karyn Clark, Director, PH: We have received letters and emails from a couple of retail associations that would like to come and speak to the Board. We have also received letters on information for e-cigarettes and pipelines.

Review and act on discussion relative to communicable disease reporting.

Karyn Clark, Director, PH: Will work with Patricia Bruchmann, Director of Nursing and Nikki Nixon, Epidemiologist, to distribute reports every 6 months to the BOH.

Motion to adjourn; Edith Claros, PhD. Vice Chair, Second by Abigail Averbach

Adjourn: 8:45pm

Next Meeting

March 5, 2018 at 6:30pm