



CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Division of Public Health



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Medical Director

SUBJECT: BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2015
START TIME: 6:30PM
LOCATION: 25 MEADE STREET, ROOM 109
WORCESTER, MA 01610

IN ATTENDANCE:

Board of Health members: David Fort, Abigail Averbach, Dr. Jerry Gurwitz

Division of Public Health staff: Cassandra Andersen, Zach Dyer, Dr. Michael Hirsh, Dr. Matilde Castiel

Members of the public: Keegan Daugherty, Laura Santoso, Katelyn Soares, Christine Martin, Martha Akstin

ABSENT:

Board of Health members: Joanne Calista, Edith Claros

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Abigail Averbach, chair, welcomed all in attendance.

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Minutes of the 10-5-15 meeting are unanimously approved following a motion to the chair.

3. Presentations on Opioid Epidemic

- a. Keegan Daugherty presents on Needle Exchange programs
 - i. Question about how Hartford's program is funded.



- ii. Questions about what the history of Worcester City Council was on needle exchange
 - iii. Dr. Castiel discusses the very small percentage of the population that are active drug users seeking treatment
 - iv. Dr. Castiel discusses the potential for safe havens, triage centers, and recovery coaches
 - v. Question about paid needle exchange, if that is ever used, what about other incentives?
 - vi. Discussion of addressing potential stigma for needle exchange. Hartford's mobile van is a potential way to do that needle exchange.
 - vii. Ms. Averbach discusses potential for Massachusetts funding 5 additional needle exchange sites
 - viii. Question from David Fort about what is being done for high school aged users. Cassandra Andersen discusses WDPH's role in training for Worcester Public School staff. Nurses, other staff have been trained in a number areas to combat the issue. Ms. Andersen discusses the work done with youth agencies during the summer months on substance abuse prevention. At Ms. Averbach's request, Ms. Andersen discusses the newly opened Recovery High School in Worcester.
- b. Martha Akstin from AIDS Project Worcester discusses APW's Naloxone distribution program, outreach programs, and experience in working with populations actively using opiates
 - c. Dr. Jerry Gurwitz asks how the Board of Health can help support a needle exchange program in Worcester. Ms. Averbach requests sample ordinances from cities who have passed needle exchange programs
 - d. Board agrees that a briefing on Governor Baker's plan would be useful for their information.

4. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting will be Monday, November 2 at 6:30 PM.
- b. Board requests more presentations from community organizations, providers and potentially consumers.
- c. Board would like to review what a needle exchange ordinance would look like.
- d. Board requests any information from the Community Health Assessment process from users or former users.

5. Adjourn

- a. Meeting is adjourned at 7:39 following a motion of the chair.

