

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: JANUARY 4, 2016

START TIME: 6:30PM

LOCATION: 25 MEADE STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM 109

WORCESTER, MA 01610

Present: Abigail Averbach, David Fort, Joanne Calista, Edith Claros, Megan DeNubila, Michael Hirsh, MD, Karyn Clark, Zach Dyer, John Barber

Welcome and Introduction	Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:35PM.
	Welcome and introductions.
2. Approval of Minutes	David Fort – motion to approve minutes from the
	December 7, 2015 meeting.
	Second – Joanne Calista
	Discussion – board requests that minutes be
	amended to show attendance at the top, as well as
	listing Kevin Cranston's, MDiv, Director of the
	Bureau of Infectious Disease and Thomas Stopka's,
	PhD, MHS, titles be shown.
	Edits – approved unanimously.
3. Needle Exchange Update	After the last board of health meeting, Karyn sent
	letter to MA Department of Public Health (MDPH).
	Kevin Cranston, MDiv, Director of the Bureau of
	Infectious Disease informed Karyn via email that
	they received clearance from their Purchase of
	Service Office to send the announcement of
	competitive contract amendment directly by email
	to the two eligible vendors, AIDS Project
	Worcester and Edward M. Kennedy Community
	Health Center. These were the only two agencies



serving Central MA that indicated on a past MDPH Request for Responses (RFR) an interest in hosting a needle exchange program if locally approved. They expect these emails to go out soon with a quick turnaround. They still hope to award by February 1.

Karyn also spoke with Kevin over the phone about the application process and how the organization would work with the board of health and local health department in this process.

The District Attorney released a statement about a heroin called "Hollywood" and the dangers of it. Karyn would like to coordinate more with their office on public health messaging.

If something is released we want to think about who is the target?

Cassandra is working with AIDS Project Worcester's community health workers to see how they can help with this issue.

If the heroin is cut with fentanyl, then it usually takes twice as much nasal naloxone to reverse the overdose.

Tonight in his inaugural speech, Mayor Petty mentioned the CHIP and connecting health to businesses, schools, families etc.

HBO has a documentary on the opioid crisis on Cape Cod.

Spectrum had about 1,000 people per day coming in for methadone treatment, now up to 1,400.

Conversation on the lack of education that is being handed out when someone is prescribed an opioid.

In the 70's there were many people dying from drug overdoses. Now there is more talk around the issue because of the population it is affecting, affluent White communities versus low socioeconomic status, People of Color.

4. Request to Review Governor Baker's Opioid Plan (At Future Meeting)

Presented Governor Baker's updated plan to board (in meeting documents).

Board will table this item since Dr. Gurwitz is unable to be here tonight.

5. Worcester Regional Tobacco Control Collaborative (WRTCC) Presentation

Karyn did want to let the board know that there is a bill (#3817) from the house (in meeting documents).

Provided to the board, the power point presentation relative to the work conducted on this project in Worcester and the 18 other communities in this regional tobacco control program; policy, smokefree housing support, education and enforcement. Copies of the Youth Access and Environmental Tobacco Smoke model regulations were distributed (in meeting documents).

6. Adjourn

Topics for next meeting's agenda:

- Governor Baker's updated plan
- Tobacco municipal lists
- Dr. Hirsh January 26th will be presenting about gun buy back for Mayor Petty, want to work on getting buy-in from more partners.
- Brief update on needle exchange

Motion to adjourn – Joanne Calista Second – Edith Claros

Meeting adjourned at 7:58PM