



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: January 8, 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 6:30pm.

Members present: David Fort, Chair, Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Joanne Calista and Abigail Averbach

Absent: Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair WDPH Staff: Karyn Clark, Director of Public Health

Approval of the December 4, 2017 Minutes:

Motion to approve the WBOH meeting minutes of December 4, 2017 made by Jerry Gurwitz, MD,
Second – Joanne Calista Approved

Review and act on continued discussion regarding the FY18 proposed BOH work plan:

David Fort, Chair: One of the things that I would like to do in 2018 is to collaborate with many different entities to get things done. I have made a suggested “BOH 2018 to do list” open for discussion with the Board

1. Establish city wide collaboration of various stakeholders; schools, retailers, sport teams, churches, etc. to promote drug/alcohol abuse prevention and treatment options.
2. Endorse law enforcement public safety efforts to reduce the flow of illegal drugs into and throughout the city.
3. Endorse law enforcement public safety efforts that target housing and locations that are considered heart zoned for drug overdoses.
4. Develop a city wide core of volunteers who will recruit and/or recommend those who have suffered from drug or alcohol abuse seek emergency treatment.
5. Ensure that both medical marijuana and recreational facilities have signage that clearly highlights the possible side effects of marijuana use.
6. Work with medical marijuana and eventually recreational distribution facilities to develop a measurement tracking tool for their product distributed to their patrons.
7. Region wide collaboration of retailers and bars to track beverage sale amounts to each patron to prevent the possibility of intoxication.



8. Educate and mandate alcohol retailers to put up signage in the stores that states penalties to retailers who sell to and adults who buy for those who are under 21 years of age.
9. Research the liability of tagging each individual alcoholic beverage or keg sold at alcohol retailers.
10. Mandate Worcester Public Schools sexual, racial and religious orientation and anti-harassment training.
11. Require that every WPS student participate in some after school activity.
12. Collaborate with businesses in the city to provide short 2 to 4 hour one day work shadow opportunities 3 to 4 times a year for all middle and high school students.
13. Increase Narcan training and distribution. Make sure all schools, institutions and retailers have Narcan available on site.
14. Work with WPS and religious institutions to teach hands free CPR.
15. Develop a health statement, promised by the BOH, to promote among all healthcare delivery providers to increase healthcare access, better customer service, increase in collaboration and implementation of a more healthily living.

Jerry Gurwitz, MD: I think the question is to what extent we can dictate operations. What are the limitations as far as resources that are available and jurisdictions?

Joanne Calista: I think it all reflects to our desire to be really focused and action oriented.

Karyn Clark, Director of Public Health: There are several different groups that have already been established including our own Regional Response to Addiction Partnership which is already working on a number of these ideas. It would be helpful if the Board could reach out to some of these partners or non-traditional partners and let them know there's already a group meeting across the region and we would like to strengthen it. Is this something that you could participate in?

David Fort, Chair: I would like to have the public announcements once a week in the schools over the intercom to educate students on drug abuse, sexual harassment, etc.

Abigail Averbach: Need to have some professional advice about what is the right message for that kind of audience?

Karyn Clark, Director of Public Health: Worcester Police Department has a grant around diversion; instead of people getting arrested and going to jail, for purchasing drugs, they have an opportunity to call someone to try and get help. Maybe we could establish, with the Police Dept., a liaison and let them know that Public Health wants to be part of the solution.

David Fort, Chair: I would like to know what is going on to stop the flow of drugs coming in and then the distribution of drugs throughout the city.

Joanne Calista: Public Health and Public Safety partnership could be something that expands and strengthens the cross issues whether it's substance use, suicide or trafficking. I think there's been tremendous progress in Worcester over the past years and it would be great if we could contribute to that in any kind of way.

Karyn Clark, Director of Public Health: We do know where the hot spots and zones are for overdoses. There's an officer that has done training with volunteers who will be going out with this officer to follow up on the hot spots and try to get people into treatment. I would like the officer to come and give a presentation as to what they are doing and how we are able to support it. If and when the 4 medical marijuana establishments come in and get their license, the Board can have a conversation about the signage. As far as tracking the marijuana to the patrons, that is done at the facility. As far as alcohol and retailers, I would like to invite LT. Jim Johnson, Worcester Police Dept. Alcohol Enforcement to come and do a presentation. They do a lot of work around stings, education and enforcement. We can also invite the Superintendent and can discuss sexual, racial religious orientation and anti-harassment training. Let her know that the Board would like to help support education in the schools.

David Fort, Chair: I would like to be able to work with the Superintendent and the WPS to educate students on drug abuse, sexual harassment, bullying, etc.

Karyn Clark, Director of Public Health: We can work with Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Director of Youth Opportunities, and Kelsey Hopkins, Academic Health Collaborative Coordinator, to provide work/intern opportunities for youth and college individuals. AIDS Project Worcester and Learn to Cope provide Narcan training for the general public. I feel that hands free CPR is very important and I will discuss with Dr. Hirsh to see if we could get the American Red Cross to partner with WPS. The CHIP's overarching goal is Health Equity and there's a lot of great language in the CHIP about our vision. The Board can elevate what's in the CHIP as our goal. Try to get more people to participate in the CHIP. There are 4 buckets you would like to work on: 1) marijuana, 2) alcohol, 3) WPS and 4) Health Equity. How would the Board want to put all this together and come up with a work plan?

Abigail Averbach: I would like to point out the racism and discrimination; this was one of our original priorities. The goal for the CHIP is to have 500 leaders in the city trained. An action that would be helpful is a position statement on racism and health equity including the value of training developing policy adoption of definitions to be used by the city departments.

Karyn Clark, Director of Public Health: I will speak with the Manager's office about how we work with public relations to effectively put out some kind of position statement.

Joanne Calista: There's certainly an interface between Public Health and Human Services and what we do. How could the Board be helpful?

Review and act on update regarding promulgation of 935 CMR 500.00, *Adult Use of Marijuana*:

Karyn Clark, Director of Public Health: The draft regulations came out on December 21st from the Cannabis Commission and available on line. Our Law Dept. is in the process of reviewing this document. On February 7, 2018, from 9am - noon there will be a Cannabis Commission public hearing where you can give feedback on this document at the Worcester Public Library.

Next Meeting

February 5, 2018 at 6:30pm

Adjourn: 7:50pm