



CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Health & Human Services
Division of Public Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Matilde Castiel, MD
Health & Human Services
Commissioner

Karyn E. Clark
Public Health
Director

DATE: July 30, 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 6:40pm.

Members present: David Fort, Chair, Edith Claros, PhD, Vice Chair, Jerry Gurwitz, MD and Abigail Averbach WDPH Staff: Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director, Karyn Clark, Director of DPH, Colleen Bolen, Deputy Director of DPH and Kelsey Hopkins, Academic Health Collaborative Coordinator

Approval of the July 9, 2018 Minutes:

Motion to approve the WBOH meeting minutes of July 9, 2018 made by Edith Claros, PhD, Second – Abigail Averbach –with one change to add name to “one abstention” to the fracked gas letter of Governor Baker - Approved

Review and act on formal adoption of finalized BOH flavor restriction and minimum cigar packaging regulation:

The Board of Health voted on the flavored tobacco and minimum packaging cigar policies by signing the regulation.

Review and discuss an update for Central MA Mosquito Control Project:

Karyn Clark, Director: The Department of Agriculture has detected species of mosquitos known as “Asian Tiger” that is present here in the City. This type of mosquito can carry the Zika virus. The mosquitos that have been found and reported to us did not test positive for Zika. Due to increasing mosquito activity over the last few years, it was recommended that the City Council vote to join the Central MA Mosquito Control Project to provide additional education and preventative measures to mitigate mosquitos. Thus far, they have found 3 positive West Nile Virus mosquitos in different locations. Since these 3 instances, CMMCP sprayed targeted areas. Reverse 911 calls have gone out to the residents of the affected area and if residents want to opt out they can.



David Fort, Chair: How are we educating the kids during summertime?

Karyn Clark, Director: We have been working with Recreational Worcester, training their staff and giving children mosquito bite prevention coloring books.

Review and act on continued discussion relative to window guards:

Lindsey Weiss, RN: In Worcester, child falls continue to be a public health issue due to the existence of many three family (triple decker) homes. Currently, there are no laws that enforce the use of window guards in the homes of families with children. Window guards are metal bars that are installed in the interior part of the window. They are easy to install. They can withstand 150lbs of pressure. They have emergency release in case of needed egress. Other cities using window guards have found a decrease in falls; ie. Boston 83% and New York 93%.

Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director: Robert McLoughlin, MD, pediatric research resident at UMass, did research for us on the last 12 years of our trauma data regarding window falls in pediatric patients. (Presentation distributed) Dr. Hirsh briefed the BOH on the findings. Falls from windows/balconies/buildings appear to be generally on the decline over the last 11 years.

The BOH would like to build relationships with organizations and landlords to see what the costs would be for triple decker homes to install window guards.

Review and act on information relative to water safety:

Karyn Clark, Director: Briefed the BOH regarding her meeting with other city departments about the concerns of children drowning in Worcester. Also discussed were concerns of individuals falling through the ice. It will be a multi-pronged approach with what the city and partnerships to try and figure out the best way to teach individuals to swim or anti-drowning campaign.

Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director: Partners in our Academic Health Collaborative probably have student access to a pool. Helping with teaching individuals to swim would be a good idea.

Motion to adjourn; Abigail Averbach, Second by Jerry Gurwitz, MD

Adjourn: 7:30pm

Next Meeting

September 17, 2018 at 6:30pm

Next Meeting Topics:

Mission Massachusetts for a medical marijuana dispensary license

Window Guards

Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester CHIP work plan discussion

Unclaimed Remains