



**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:** November 4, 2019  
**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: Edith Claros, PhD, Chair, Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair and Chareese Allen  
absent: David Fort WDPH Staff: Colleen Bolen, Deputy Director of DPH, Michael Hirsh, MD,  
Medical Director of DPH and Matilde Castiel, MD, Commissioner of HHS

**Approval of the November 4, 2019 Agenda:**

Motion to approve the WBOH meeting agenda of October 7, 2019 made by Chareese Allen, Second –  
Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair - Approved

**Approval of the September 9, 2019 Meeting:**

Motion to approve the WBOH meeting minutes of September 9, 2019 made by Jerry Gurwitz, MD,  
Vice Chair Second – Chareese Allen - Approved

**Approval of the October 7, 2019 Meeting:**

Motion to approve the WBOH meeting minutes of October 7, 2019 made by Chareese Allen, Second  
– Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair – Approved

**Update on EEE:**

Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director of DPH: Updated the BOH that the EEE curfew for outdoor  
activities has been lifted. Worcester has experienced 2 hard frosts therefore the threat for EEE has  
diminished.

**Review and act on medical marijuana dispensary license for Resinate:**

Peter DeCaro, CEO: Founded the company in 2015. Being a cancer survivor, my motivation for  
jumping in this industry was to find a safe alternative medication for pain, I understand the opioid  
epidemic. We have a cultivation site in Douglas, MA where we perform our manufacturing and  
edible production. Our main retail store will be located at 1191 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA  
where the intent is to be a co-located

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dispensary, both adult and medicinal use. Currently opening as medicinal use only to start. Our hours will be from 8am – 7pm. We have two other locations; in Grafton and North Hampton, that we will begin building out shortly thereafter. Our goal over the next 6 months is to obtain our adult use permit.

Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair: Is Resinate locally or nationally owned?

Peter DeCaro, CEO: We are locally owned. We have thirteen entities that comprise our ownership structure. Of those there are eleven entities that are locally based.

Edith Claros, PhD, Chair: You had mentioned that you are starting as medicinal use only and then adding the recreational later, how is it set up right now?

Peter DeCaro, CEO: Briefed the BOH on the set up of Resinate. Once we become co-located we will separate the patient entrance and exit verses the recreational. The entire building is 9300 sq feet. 2800 sq feet is dedicated to our executive offices, 2800 sq feet for retail support; which includes our loading, dry storage, breakroom and the facilities. 4500 sq feet is all retail; where 1500 sq feet will be for patients and 3000 sq feet will be adult use.

Michael Hirsh, Medical Director, DPH: What about security?

Peter DeCaro, CEO: All doors are access controlled. Full surveillance cameras all around inside and outside the facility. Briefed the BOH about the security plans in place.

Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair: Is there a cap on the number of medicinal entities Worcester is allowed to have?

Colleen Bolen, Deputy Director, DPH: There are four host agreements for medical marijuana dispensaries in Worcester. Fifteen is the cap for recreational dispensaries.

**Edith Claros, PhD, Chair, made a motion to issue a license to operate a medical marijuana dispensary for Resinate. All in favor. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**Review and discuss marijuana facilities relative to hours of operation for medical vs. recreational dispensaries:**

Colleen Bolen, Deputy Director, DPH: Recently the hours of operation has come to our attention. In our local medical marijuana regulation hours of operation are between 8am – 7pm. When recreational came aboard, the hours of operation for adult use marijuana are set by State law, which is then adopted in the local Zoning Ordinance in the City of Worcester and Planning Board at the special permit hearing. (Went on to read the local zoning ordinance from the recreational side hours of operation.) On the recreational adult use, you can be open until 11pm, for medical you can only be open until 7pm. It becomes a challenge for medical facilities that are going to co-locate with adult use. As a local BOH you can amend the hours of operation on the medical side, however you don't have any regulatory authority to amend the hours of operation on the recreational adult use side. If you wanted to change the hours of operation, on the medical side, BOH would hold a hearing and take a vote.

Mark Donahue, Fletcher Tilton PC: Represents Good Chemistry. Good Chemistry is seeking uniform hours of operation for all of its operational purposes. Once you have a site that is co-located and selling marijuana, it's hard to understand why someone that's trying to utilize the service for medicinal purposes should be treated any different regarding the hours of operation. All adult use requires a special permit from the Planning Board and obtains a separate license from the License Commission, which can impose different regulations and requirements. We're looking to be able to avail the access issue that is most important for those patients.

Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair: Could we get current hours of operation and preferred hours of operation for the dispensaries? Also the regulations for both medical and recreational?

Colleen Bolen, Deputy Director, DPH: Will gather information from the 4 dispensaries for the next BOH meeting.

Motion to adjourn; Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair, seconded by Chareese Allen

**Adjourn:** 7:20pm

**Next Meeting -- December 2, 2019 at 6:30pm**

**Potential Future Meeting Topics:**

Review and act on update relative to BOH vacancy

Review and discuss status on vaping

Review and discuss update on unclaimed bodies

Review and discuss opioid update

Review and act on discussion relative to medical marijuana facility hours of operation