



**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:** May 6, 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, David Fort, Abigail Averbach and Chareese Allen WDPH Staff: Karyn Clark, Director of DPH, Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director of DPH

**Approval of the April 1, 2019 Minutes:**

Motion to approve the WBOH meeting minutes of April 1, 2019 made by Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair Second - David Fort – Approved with one abstention Abigail Averbach (absent from April 1, 2019 meeting)

**Review and continued discussion on unclaimed bodies:**

Andrew Karson, Chief Medical Officer, UMass: When a thorough search has been conducted and we are still not able to locate next of kin, an unclaimed body becomes available to go to a funeral home; fortunately the state has made an allowance for certain jurisdictions to authorize cremations verses burials which is much less cost to the Commonwealth and parties involved. Our request to the City of Worcester's Board of Health is to allow this jurisdiction to cremate these unclaimed bodies, which allows us to move forward in a more respectful and efficient way.

Susan Mills, Senior Director of Operations of Pathology, UMass: We are looking to treat the decedents in a manner that we feel is a more respectful approach, which is to expedite the process. Once we have gone through our due diligence to identify as well as find a solution that allows us to get some relief from other participants other than Peter Stefan to try to help us with moving the decedents on to their final internment.

Edith Claros, PhD, Chair: If a family wants to do a DNA ancestry look up in the future, how is that information provided?



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Cara Strock, Operations Manager of Pathology, UMass: Reviewed with the Board their discussion at the last BOH meeting on April 1, 2019 regarding unclaimed bodies at the UMass Memorial morgue and the proper steps they take to search for next of kin. We have a name and more information on the decedent.

Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director of DPH: Reached out to Saint Vincent Hospital and they follow a similar system as UMass. Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) will allow a stipend of \$1,100.00 per body, which is nowhere near the cost of a burial. Hopes to get funeral homes together to rotate on taking unclaimed bodies.

Abigail Averbach: Concerned about certain religions that are against cremation.

David Fort: How do we identify someone if the entire DNA is destroyed by cremation?

Peter Stefan, Graham Putnam Funeral Home: This is a problem statewide. People call me all the time because no one will pick up the unclaimed bodies. . I have taken unclaimed bodies from nursing homes and deaths in homes. These bodies are identified. The 2 legally responsible relatives are widowers and parents of a fetal death. DTA pays \$1,100.00 which has not changed in 36 years. If the person has any assets, those monies are deducted from the \$1,100.00. If it is an abandoned person, DTA will pay no problem. Abandoned bodies, that are not identified at the Medical Examiners, are not allowed to be cremated they have to be buried. It took 4 years to pass a bill for cremation of certain unclaimed bodies. As far as religion, it was hard to write that in the law as we couldn't refer to it. Medical Examiner's office declines jurisdiction when someone dies at home. Asking the BOH to vote on authorizing WDPH to allow funeral homes to cremate unclaimed bodies when all means have been exhausted.

Karyn Clark, Director of DPH: This is becoming a Public Health issue. These bodies are not embalmed and can be there for some time. We are concerned about the decomposition of these bodies and the staff that has to be exposed to that. We have received very detailed information from UMass about the steps they take to find next of kin. This would help Peter and everyone involved by having them cremated. This is a multiple step process. We will meet with the state delegation along with funeral homes to look at how we can address this issue long term.

**Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Vice Chair made a motion for the City of Worcester BOH to hereby appoint the Director of the Division of Public Health as its designee to serve as the duly authorized representative for the purpose of requesting cremation of unclaimed remains by signing a cremation form under certain circumstances which are specifically set forth in statute. This was seconded by Chareese Allen. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**Review and vote on position statement for Access to Care and Diversity (CHIP):**

Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director, DPH: Monica Lowell has worked with Community Health Workers to help with the programs trying to reduce absenteeism in the schools through asthma screening and home inspections to see what household hazards might be around to exacerbate asthma. The objection that I have heard from medical physicians is there are not really great standardization trainings of these Community Health Workers. Is there a core curriculum that they undergo that they make sure there is some quality control?

Karyn Clark Director, DPH: When the DPH was awarded the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund Grant, looking at clinical and community linkages were new. Integrating CHW in a meaningful way to be able to reduce medical costs by being able to go into homes and into the neighborhoods that people are familiar with. MACHWA is working towards refining core competencies.

Abigail Averbach: There has been work around standardization trainings and core competencies. Provider agencies, organizations and community people feel for a long time that it was an effective piece of the puzzle. There will eventually be certification done by the Bureau of Professional Health Licensure.

**Abigail Averbach made a motion for the City of Worcester BOH to support providing ongoing attention to the historical barriers to the integration of Community Health Workers in health care as well as advises healthcare, public health and regulatory agencies to include a lens to the lessons learned. This was seconded by David Fort. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**Review and act on update relative to communicable diseases:**

Karyn Clark, Director of DPH: We have a weekly communicable disease meeting with all the partners. We have zero Hepatitis A and meningitis cases. Continuing doing clinics to give a Hepatitis booster. There is one more case of HIV.

**Review and discussion of National Window Safety Month efforts:**

Karyn Clark, Director of DPH: Worked with the City Manager's office on developing advice and tips to protect your family (distributed). In April we had a Health and Safety Fair and distributed coloring books, information for landlords and parents on window safety. Fire Prevention will educate children in schools. Inspectional Services speaking with landlords.

**Review and act on update relative to Central MA Mosquito Control Project:**

Karyn Clark, Director of DPH: Briefed the BOH on how well the Central MA Mosquito Control Project worked last year. Report distributed. Every year West Nile Virus and EEE is always an issue. Due to the 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.

Motion to adjourn; Chareese Allen, second by Abigail Averbach

**Adjourn: 7:55pm**

**Next Meeting -- June 3, 2019 at 6:30pm**

**Potential Future Meeting Topics:**


Presentation regarding diversity on City Boards and Commissions  
Review and vote on increase of tobacco permit, burial permit and funeral home license fees  
Review and discussion on summer and swimming safety efforts  
Review and discussion on veteran's health  
Review and discussion on vaping  
Update relative to opioid epidemic





The City of  
**WORCESTER**

## **WINDOW SAFETY**

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 @TweetWorcester  
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### **ADVICE AND TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY**

**OPEN WINDOWS FROM THE TOP DOWN WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT**

**SET AND ENFORCE RULES ABOUT NOT PLAYING NEAR WINDOWS**

**KEEP FURNITURE - OR ANYTHING A CHILD CAN CLIMB - AWAY FROM WINDOWS**

**KEEP WINDOWS CLOSED AND LOCKED WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT**

**PLANT SOFT SHRUBS BENEATH WINDOWS TO LESSEN IMPACT OF A FALL**

**NEVER PAINT OR NAIL WINDOWS SHUT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY**

**DETERMINE FAMILY ESCAPE PLAN AND PRACTICE IT**



Public Health

# CENTRAL MASS MOSQUITO CONTROL USED TIRE PROGRAM

Tire piles provide suitable areas for larval mosquito development, including those species known to carry West Nile virus. During the course of one season, the potential exists for hundreds or even thousands of mosquitoes to emerge from just one tire. If tires infested with mosquito eggs, larvae or pupae are transported, the potential to introduce mosquito species into new areas and/or the potential for the spread of arboviruses and their transmission may increase significantly.

For these reasons and as a value added service to our member cities and towns, CMMCP has developed a used tire program, consisting of the following guidelines:

- ★ We accept passenger and light truck tires only
- ★ The maximum number tires from one property will be 10 at one time, subject to change without notice
- ★ Requests for tire removal shall be done according to established procedures
- ★ We reserve the right to refuse anything determined to be unsuitable for this program

Tires accepted as part of this program will be sent to an approved facility for recycling or disposal. This program is subject to end without notice.

We have been removing tire piles in member cities and towns on an intermittent basis. If you know of a tire pile in your area, or would like to participate in a curbside pickup in the future, please send the following information to [used\\_tires@cmmcp.org](mailto:used_tires@cmmcp.org); NAME, ADDRESS, TOWN, PHONE, E-MAIL, # of TIRES (off the rim), LOCATION OF TIRES, ANY COMMENTS. When we schedule a curbside pickup event in your area you will be notified in advance.

**ELIGIBILITY:** to qualify for this program you must be a resident or municipal official in a CMMCP member city or town and the tires must be in or from that locality. Businesses are not eligible at this time.

**COST:** there is no additional cost to residents or municipalities; this program is part of the full suite of mosquito control services offered.

To request more information, please contact Tim McGlinchy at (508) 393-3055 or [mcglinchy@cmmcp.org](mailto:mcglinchy@cmmcp.org)