



**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

1. 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



<p>4. Request to Review Governor Baker’s Opioid Plan (At Future Meeting)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If something is released we want to think about who is the target?</p> <p>Cassandra is working with AIDS Project Worcester’s community health workers to see how they can help with this issue.</p> <p>If the heroin is cut with fentanyl, then it usually takes twice as much nasal naloxone to reverse the overdose.</p> <p>Tonight in his inaugural speech, Mayor Petty mentioned the CHIP and connecting health to businesses, schools, families etc.</p> <p>HBO has a documentary on the opioid crisis on Cape Cod.</p> <p>Spectrum had about 1,000 people per day coming in for methadone treatment, now up to 1,400.</p> <p>Conversation on the lack of education that is being handed out when someone is prescribed an opioid.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Presented Governor Baker’s updated plan to board (in meeting documents).</p> <p>Board will table this item since Dr. Gurwitz is unable to be here tonight.</p>
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