



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



**Public Health**  
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Matilde Castiel, MD  
Health & Human Services  
Commissioner

Karyn E. Clark  
Public Health  
Director

**DATE:** July 9, 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, Abigail

Averbach absent: Joanne Calista WDPH Staff: Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director, Matilde Castiel, MD, HHS Commissioner, Karyn Clark, Director of DPH, Amanda Wilson, Director of Inspectional Services and Michele Williams, Principal Clerk

**Approval of the June 4, 2018 Minutes:**

Motion to approve the WBOH meeting minutes of June 4, 2018 made by Abigail Averbach  
Second – Edith Claros, PhD – Approved

**Review and act on medical marijuana license for Good Chemistry:**

Karyn Clark, Director PH: Good Chemistry was one of four medical marijuana facilities that have a host agreement with the City of Worcester. Karyn briefed the BOH regarding the steps that Good Chemistry had to take in order to be licensed here in Worcester.

Meg Collins, Vice President: Good Chemistry is a nationally recognized and highly successful cannabis producer and provider with a superior reputation for combining product, production and retail excellence. We are located at 9 Harrison Street, Worcester, MA. Our founding principles are: science, access, dignity and compassion. We believe that cannabis has significant therapeutic benefits. Every patient has the right to be treated with dignity as well as compassion. We will be discrete & professional. We will evaluate the needs of Worcester's medical marijuana patients and caregivers and then decide to offer home delivery. We will offer a financial hardship plan for those who qualify (Mass Health recipient, SSI or income cannot exceed 300% of FPL).

David Fort, Chair: Can you see if an individual has gone to another dispensary and purchased marijuana? How do you keep track of making sure that the individual only receives the right monthly amount prescribed?



25 Meade Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2715 Phone: (508) 799-8531 Fax: (508) 799-8572  
[health@worchesterma.gov](mailto:health@worchesterma.gov)



Andrew Jones: We have a Virtual Gateway System which keeps track of what each individual purchases. It shows us the allotted amount that is left.

Edith Claros, PhD: What entails in the quality assurance of the product?

Matthew Huron, CEO: The product is tested by the State prior to coming to the facility.

Edith Claros, PhD: Are there background checks on your employees?

Meg Collins, Vice President: Yes.

Abigail Averbach: Is there a waiting area?

Matthew Huron, CEO: Yes. Our facility can occupy up to 30 individuals.

Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director DPH: Is the packaging on the edibles appealing to children?

Meg Collins, Vice President: All packaging is child proof or resistant and are not appealing to children.

David Fort, Chair: Do you plan on working with helping individuals get off of opioids?

Meg Collins, Vice President: They have found that states that have legalized marijuana have a 25% reduction in opioid abuse.

**David Fort made a motion to issue a license to operate a medical marijuana dispensary for Good Chemistry. All in favor with one absent: Joanne Calista. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**Review and act on fracked gas letter to Governor Baker:**

The BOH members agreed, with one abstention: Abigail Averbach, to sign the letter to Governor Baker regarding an independent health impact assessment prior to authorization of any natural gas infrastructure project in the Commonwealth.

**Review and act on FY 19 BOH work plan that includes the CHIP and Review and act on CLAS standards to inform position statements:**

Casey Burns, Director, Coalition for Healthy Greater Worcester: (Work plan distributed) Briefed the BOH members on the FY 19 Policy Work Plan and asked for support from the BOH to create position statements on certain priority areas. There's a need for health perspective across all areas in order to be affective.

Abigail Averbach: It would be helpful to learn more about the status of CHW's today in our community. I would like to look at the topics that are being addressed from other community boards on Economic Opportunity working groups.

David Fort, Chair: I would like us to listen to presentations in September and take action with position statements for October.

**Review and act on Community Health Assessment (CHA) status:**

Karyn Clark, Director, PH: We have been working closely with UMass Memorial and Fallon Health. They put some funds together and retained JSI Consulting Group to help with the CHA process. We have received 3,000 monkey surveys, have done key informant interviews, focus groups and attended festivals that staff and interns have conducted surveys. JSI is having a forum on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Worcester Public Library. The final CHA report should be completed in August.

**Review and discuss issues on window locks and guards:**

Michael Hirsh, MD, Medical Director: There have been some recent events of children falling out of windows. I have a pediatric research resident, Rob McLaughlin, who has been compiling data throughout the state to see what the mortality was like. I would like him to come and do a presentation at our next BOH meeting.

Amanda Wilson, Director, IS: If you group this into a potential liability category, then landlords might put on window guards. It would be helpful to have Central Mass Property Association and the Realtor Association do a presentation with landlords, and then you'll have a good case.

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

**Adjourn:** 8:20pm

**Next Meeting**

**July 30, 2018 at 6:30pm**