

BOARD OF HEALTH

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9833577075?omn=84102142797>

Meeting ID: 983 357 7075

January 18, 2024 Minutes

BOH Members Present: Dr. Joanne Levin; Dr. Suzanne Smith; Dr. Cynthia Suopis; Dallas Ducar, NP; and Janet Grant, MSPH

Staff: Merridith O’Leary, Commissioner; and Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk; Amy Hutchins, Environmental Health Director; Angelica Sanchez, Regional Inspector; JJ Prusak, Regional Inspector; Kristen Hargrave-Amodio, City of Northampton Inspector; Daniel O’Donoghue, Prevention Director; Em Rhodes Moulton, City of Northampton Public Health Nurse

The meeting was conducted on Zoom and recorded.

Public Comment Session: Dr. Levin announced that public comments would be limited to two minutes per person and the meeting was being recorded. A member of the public made comments.

I. Meeting opened January 18, 2024 at 5:35 pm by Dr. Levin.

Motion: Motion made to open the meeting by Dr. Suopis, seconded by Dr. Smith. All in favor (5-0).

II. Introductions:

- DHHS new staff introduction
 - ◆ Angelica Sanchez, Regional Inspector – Angelica gave a brief introduction of herself and her work as a regional health inspector.
 - ◆ JJ Prusak, Regional Inspector – JJ gave a brief introduction of her background before joining the team.
 - ◆ Kristen Hargrave-Amodio, City of Northampton Inspector – Kristen gave a brief introduction of her background.
 - ◆ Daniel O’Donoghue, Prevention Director – Daniel gave a brief introduction of their background and work experience.
 - ◆ Em Rhodes Moulton, City of Northampton Public Health Nurse – Em gave a brief introduction of themselves.

III. Presentation:

- Public Health Nurse – COVID/Influenza/RSV Update – Em Moulton gave a brief update on the current rates for COVID, flu and RSV in the nation, Massachusetts and Northampton.
- Taylor McAndrew, Hampshire HOPE Coordinator presented information regarding;
 - ◆ Opioid Settlement Fund Survey – Taylor discussed that the coalition’s focus has been on developing a survey which will gather community responses county-wide on how the settlement funds should be spent.
 - ◆ Overdose Prevention Sites – Taylor discussed what the overdose prevention centers were and what goes on in a site. There are currently two bills in the Massachusetts legislature looking to support sites. Taylor and Dr. Suopis will co-write a letter of support for the bills in the legislature.

IV. Old Business

- Synthetic Drug Update

- ◆ Belchertown’s Regulation – Passed on January 9, 2024
 - ◆ Letter to merchant, call of action requesting voluntarily removal of kratom and synthetic marijuana products off the market – Commissioner O’Leary shared a draft letter with the Board regarding the voluntarily removal of these items from retailer’s shelves. The Board Members will share their individual comments with the Commissioner before the letter is mailed.
- Ventilation Task Force Update - Amy Hutchins – Amy discussed how the ventilation applications went out to the retailers. Four applications were received for the task force to review. Amy discussed the possibility of a second mailing.

V. Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner O’Leary mentioned that there was a tobacco meeting scheduled for January 25th from 1:00 – 3:00 PM, with a remote option to attend.

VI. Review Minutes

A. Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2021.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Dr. Smith to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Janet Grant. Motion passed (3-0). Janet Grant and Dallas Ducar abstained.

Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting: Motion made to close the Board of Health meeting by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dallas Ducar. All in favor (5-0).

Meeting closed at 8:00 PM.

The next scheduled Board of Health Meeting: March 21, 2024
Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk

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Meeting Document List

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting.

These documents are available for review at the:

Northampton Health Department, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

- Meeting Agenda
- November 16, 2023 Minutes
- Board of Health Proposed 2024 Meeting Calendar
- Belchertown Draft Regulation Synthetic THC, Kratom