

BOARD OF HEALTH

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87534756290?pwd=a3QwdGVoMmpWSWxVeUs1WUI4V3J3dz09>

Meeting ID: 875 3475 6290 Passcode: 627582

DRAFT June 15, 2023 Minutes DRAFT

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

BOH Members Absent: Dr. Suzanne Smith

Staff: Merridith O’Leary, Commissioner; Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk; Kara McLaughlin; Amy Hutchins, Director of Environmental Services; Elliot Ezcurra, RN; Kelly Hughes, RN

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. Several members of the public made comments.

I. Meeting opened June 15, 2023 at 5:38 pm by Dr. Levin.

Motion: Motion made to open the meeting by Dallas Ducar, seconded by Dr. Suopis. All in favor (4-0).

II. Presentations

- **Community Health Needs Assessment;** Jeff Harness, CDH Chief of Community Relations and Communication Officer – Jeff Harness presented the Cooley Dickinson 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment whereby they identified Social and Economic Determinants that Impact Health; Barriers to Accessing Quality Health Care; Health Literacy and Language Barriers; Health Conditions and Behaviors; and Chronic Health Conditions.
- **Nothing About Us, Without Us;** Kara McLaughlin, Northampton Prevention Coalition and Cole Abrams, Northampton High School Youth for Equity & Action. Kara McLaughlin and Cole Abrams presented the Nothing About Us, Without Us campaign involving youth identifying and photographing health issues they consider important in their lives.
- **Protecting Reproductive Rights;** Janet Grant, BOH Member – Janet Grant discussed how the Board might respond to Counselor Maiore’s request for support concerning the issue of abortion rights and other comprehensive women’s health care.

III. New Business

- **Northampton Community Health Assessment,** Northampton Public Health Nurses, Elliot Ezcurra & Kelly Hughes. The public health nurses are conducting a community health assessment specific to the City of Northampton. Key stakeholder organizations and community partners will be identified and data collected and then an action plan.
- **Mosquito Control** – Commissioner O’Leary indicated that for two years in a row the City of Northampton has been able to opt out of aerial spraying of pesticides due to writing a local comprehensive mosquito control plan and being part of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. The State has removed that option this year.
- **Review of current BOH Regulations** – Dr. Levin and Dr. Suopis met with the Commissioner, Director of Inspectional Services and Public Health Nurses to brainstorm a plan for the Board to review current regulations.
- **Summer Meeting Schedule** – The Board discussed the meeting dates for the summer months and decide for one meeting. A poll will go out to the Board members to find a date.

IV. Commissioner Updates:

- **Community Gardens** – The Department of Health & Human Services is working on diversity, equity and inclusion issues at the garden and has been meeting with Robin MacEwan, Parks and Recreation Department and members of the Community Garden Committee to learn about the culture of the garden. A plan on how to move forward will be forthcoming.
- **Staffing** - The Department of Community Care has hired a coordinator, Nataya Burch, and is in the process of hiring eight community responders. The responders will have 150 hours of training throughout the summer. A public health nurse was hired and will start in August. The nurses will be integrated into the DCC space and assist communities that do not have public health nursing infrastructure.

V. Discussion:

- Dallas Ducar spoke on hosting the new Department of Public Health Commissioner, Robert Goldstein at City Hall facilitated by the Mayor to have a conversation around alternative approaches to public safety and at the same time show the new Department of Community Care space.
- Dr. Suopis spoke about meeting with Dr. Everett Lam who is the new medical director of the Cooley Dickinson Medical Practices. Dr. Lam acknowledged that he is concerned that there are many people falling through the cracks in the medical practices, which do not have enough providers. Dr. Lam wonders if there is a place in the community that we could contact/connect with the people that are unable to get appointments or unable to see their primary care, and perform simple visual checks or blood pressure checks, etc.

VI. Review Minutes

A. Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2023.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Dr. Suopis to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Dallas Ducar. All were in favor (4-0).

Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting: Motion made to close the Board of Health meeting by Dr. Suopis, seconded by Janet Grant, all in favor (4-0)

Meeting closed at 7:56 PM.

The next scheduled Board of Health Meeting: Will send a doodle poll for a date.

Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk

BOARD OF HEALTH

Date: June 15, 2023

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87534756290?pwd=a3QwdGVoMmpWSWxVeUs1WUI4V3J3dz09>

Meeting ID: 875 3475 6290 Passcode: 627582

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
- April 20, 2023Minutes