

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**On-Line Zoom Teleconference Meeting**  
**June 17, 2021 Minutes**

**BOH Members Present:** Joanne Levin; Suzanne Smith; Cynthia Suopis; and Laurent Levy

**BOH Members Absent:** none

**Staff:** Merridith O’Leary, Director and Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk

**Staff Absent:** none

**Public Comment Session:** No Public Comments

- I. **Meeting opened June 17, 2021** at 5:32 pm by Joanne Levin. Dr. Levin announced that the meeting is being recorded.
  
- II. **Review Minutes**
  - A. **Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2021.**

**Motion: Approved as amended:** Motion made by Cynthia Suopis to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Suzanne Smith. All were in favor (4-0).
  
- III. **Presentation: COVID Vaccine Clinics and Efforts** - Kate Kelly & Vivian Franklin, Northampton Public Health Nurses. Kate Kelly gave an overview of the vaccine clinic, including outside clinics, “taking it on the road” projects and pop up clinics at Pulaski Park and the Northampton High School. Northampton has given out 1,906 Moderna, 28,194 Pfizer and 1,356 Johnson & Johnson vaccinations. The maximum number of shots given in one day was 938. Vivian Franklin reviewed the demographics of the vaccinated populations.
  
- IV. **Department Updates:**

Director O’Leary gave an update on COVID rates for the last 14 days. We have had zero COVID-19 cases, percent positivity is zero, our daily incident rate is zero and our 14-day incident rate is zero.

The posting for the Board of Health member description went up on the City website. One person has applied with a letter of interest to the Mayor. Dr. Levin and Director O’Leary discussed putting out a press release and talking to the Gazette about it to promote the position.

Director O’Leary stated that she is restructuring the prevention team, and it is officially now called the Center for Prevention and Community Engagement. Along with the restructuring, the team members have been given new titles along with increases in pay. Cherry Sullivan has been involved since the first grant that was the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) grant, which was for five years. June 30 is the end of this grant. She is going to supervise the entire team and will report directly to Director O’Leary.

Within that team, Michelle Farry is primarily focused on the Drug Addiction Recovery Team (DART) work and growing that program in Hampshire County. Currently the team is expanding its work to Hampden and Berkshire Counties with the new grants. The team has also created a comprehensive health information exchange (HIE) database, which started with a \$100,000 community compact

information technology (IT) grant. There are about 50 plus agencies that are connected to the HIE database across Western Massachusetts. Ms. Farry's primary job is overseeing those two programs.

The team also includes Austin Sanders who started during COVID. Wendy Penner is the DART coordinator who is going to take on the expansion of the DART work in Berkshire County, as her primary job; she started on June 7. The technology manager will be Melissa Aloisi, who will start on July 14. We also recently hired a grants manager Kate Moskos, who will start on June 21. Finally, we are in the process of interviewing for the position of Northampton Prevention Coalition coordinator. The mayor put this in the Health Department budget because the Drug Free Communities Support (DFCS) grant funding has ended completely and the City cannot reapply for it.

**Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting:** Motion made to close the Board of Health meeting by Cynthia Suopis, seconded by Laurent Levy. All in favor (4-0)

**Meeting closed at 6:38 PM.**

The next scheduled Board of Health Meeting: September 9, 2021  
Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk

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## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Date: June 17, 2021

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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
- May 20, 2021 Minutes