



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



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Matilde Castiel, MD  
Health & Human Services  
Commissioner

Karyn E. Clark  
Public Health  
Director

**MONTHLY CMRPHA UPDATES**  
**November 2018**

**ADMINISTRATION (ADM)**

- **Duty Officer Number** – Reminder that the Duty Officer Pager System is in place for after hours and weekend emergencies. Please make sure that appropriate parties have the number, which is **508-408-5173**. This should be the process instead of calling specific environmental health staff cell phones after hours. **PLEASE ENSURE YOUR DISPATCH FOR ALL SHIFTS HAS THIS NUMBER AND ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE ON PAGE PROCESS AND CMRPHA.**
- **Greater Worcester Community Health Assessment (CHA)**– On, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Worcester Senior Center, the Division of Public Health along with Fallon Health and UMass Memorial Healthcare presented the findings of 2018 CHA to an audience of over 100 community members, residents and partners from across the region. A CHA is conducted every three years to gain an understanding of key challenges that affect health as well as assess the strengths of the community. The CHA was designed as a population-based assessment, meaning the goal was to identify the full range of community health issues affecting the region, across all its demographic and socioeconomic segments. This document will inform the next Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which will be released in 2020/2021 and is the road map the Alliance follows to improve health across our regional public health district. Please post the PDF (sent as attachment) on your website with relevant text (in cover email) or you can use this link: <http://www.worcesterma.gov/building-a-healthy-community>. Also please consider sharing the document with your BOS and department heads. Provides an excellent assessment of health in your community and how it crosscuts with all departments in a municipality. The CHA was a \$50,000 project, led by JSI, Inc., that was primarily funded through UMass Memorial and Fallon Health with considerable in kind support from WDPH staff.
- **More on CHA** – BOHs will be asked, over the coming months, to set aside time to discuss the status of community health initiatives as well as what the CHA means to your community and how it will inform the next Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
- **Federal Grants Awarded** – WDPH has been awarded two major federal grants.
  - **The Department of Justice / Office of Victims of Crimes:** In the wake of the opioid epidemic is a population of young victims who require wraparound services, and improved access to coordinated, trauma-informed health care options. As the project lead, WDPH will develop and implement an effective coordinated response to improve the services for children, youth and families impacted by the opioid crisis. The program will target children under 10 years of age from the City of Worcester. WDPH will partner

25 Meade Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2715 Phone: (508) 799-8531 Fax: (508) 799-8572

[health@worcesterma.gov](mailto:health@worcesterma.gov)



with two experienced, non-profit organizations to provide direct services to child victims, as well as engage the services of the Child Trauma Training Center for targeted trainings for first responders, childcare and welfare, public school, public health and clinical professionals.

- **Centers for Disease Control / Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH):** Worcester, the only municipality in Massachusetts to receive the grant, was one of just 31 recipients throughout the United States. WDPH is the fiduciary agent and a funded partner along with the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester. Other funded partners will include the Family Health Center, Latin American Health Alliance and the Edward M. Kennedy Health Center. The project goal is to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations with the highest burden of chronic disease (i.e., hypertension, heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, and obesity) through culturally tailored interventions to address preventable risk behaviors (i.e., tobacco use, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity). The priority population for the grant is Hispanic Americans.

**Workforce Development** – congratulations to the following staff:

- Michael Mendez and Abby Graham who have recently completed the extensive MADEP soil evaluator training. This consisted of 3 classroom training days and a test and 3 field training days and a test. We look forward to their ongoing participation in our Title V work.
- Karyn Clark who received her Master's in Public Administration from Anna-Maria College.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (EH)**

- The adoption of the 2013 Federal Food Code is now official as on October 5th. You can go online to [ma.gov/dph/fpp](http://ma.gov/dph/fpp) for a link to the Merged Food Code. We are awaiting official word from MADPH on trainings across the state. We hope to host one in our region for BOH's and partners. Stay tuned.
- The EH team and Worcester Inspectional Services Team will be having an in house training on the changes in the new food code. The MHOA Annual Training Conference is in November and there will be a training that will be attended by both Chiefs. More to come.
- MADPH is supposed to be making available templates and FAQ's on the changes in the Food Code. Once more is known we will inform the Alliance. This is our priority into the New Year. Stay tuned.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH (CH)**

### **Events and community meetings update**

Don't forget to send us information and flyers about local events so we can post them on the CMRPHA Facebook page to share with the community!

### **October Meetings and Events**

- On October 10<sup>th</sup> the Worcester Division of Public Health in collaboration with the Coalition for a Healthy Grafton hosted a Community Breakfast in Grafton at the Community Harvest Project to share the results of Grafton's youth health survey with the larger community and discussed possible interventions. The breakfast was productive; twenty four Grafton residents attended the breakfast including parents.
- Shrewsbury Coalition for Addiction Prevention and Education monthly meeting was attended by the Worcester Division of Public Health on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Shrewsbury High School. For more information about how you can join this meeting please contact Cassandra Andersen at [andersenc@worcesterma.gov](mailto:andersenc@worcesterma.gov).

- On October 18<sup>th</sup> the Shrewsbury Public Schools Wellness Advisory Council held a meeting to review the Youth Health Survey data with support from the Worcester Division of Public Health.
- Shrewsbury Police Department hosted a medication disposal day in alignment with the DEA on Saturday 10/27 at the Shrewsbury Senior Center.
- Worcester Division of Public Health in collaboration with the Coalition for a Healthy Grafton held the monthly Grafton meeting on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 2:15-3:15 pm at the Grafton High School. For more information about how you can join this meeting please contact James Pignataro at [pignataroj@grafton.k12.ma.us](mailto:pignataroj@grafton.k12.ma.us) or Jennifer Nakijoba at [nakijobaj@worcesterma.gov](mailto:nakijobaj@worcesterma.gov).

### **Upcoming November Meetings and Events:**

- Leicester Public Schools has requested that on November 9<sup>th</sup> Worcester Division of Public Health attend a faculty meeting at the Leicester High School and present the results of Leicester's Youth Health Survey. A Q & A discussion will follow.
- Worcester Division of Public Health staff will attend events during Grafton High School Wellness Week November 5<sup>th</sup>- November 9<sup>th</sup> and provide resources about social norms and positive youth development.
- Worcester Division of Public Health staff will attend and present Youth Health Survey data on the panel for the event "*Middle Schooler at Risk: What Every Family Needs To Know Now*" organized by the Shrewsbury Coalition For Addiction Prevention & Education. The event is free and open to the public and will be held at Shrewsbury Oak Middle School on November 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm-9pm.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (EP)**

- We've ordered Emergency Preparedness tote bags and Fred the Preparedness Dog activity books on behalf of the Alliance; both items have proven popular in the past. If you'd like these materials to distribute, please contact Alissa Errede, Chief of Emergency Preparedness, at [erredea@worcesterma.gov](mailto:erredea@worcesterma.gov).
- To request Worcester Regional MRC volunteers for a real world emergency such as a sheltering operation, or for a community event such as a senior health fair, please contact Alissa at [erredea@worcesterma.gov](mailto:erredea@worcesterma.gov) Note: Grafton has its own Greater Grafton MRC unit.
- Once again, all communities in Massachusetts were tasked with completing a facility set-up drill for their Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS). Staff are available to assist Alliance towns with this deliverable; Millbury's was completed on October 30<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Katrina Stanziano at [stanzianok@worcesterma.gov](mailto:stanzianok@worcesterma.gov).
- The Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coalition provides reimbursement for certain Public Health conferences. If you're interested, please contact Katrina Stanziano at [stanzianok@worcesterma.gov](mailto:stanzianok@worcesterma.gov) to determine eligibility.
- If your community needs Public Health Emergency Preparedness equipment and supplies (such as replacement pads for an AED or an iPad to stay connected) and is interested in using grant funds to purchase them, please contact Alissa at [erredea@worcesterma.gov](mailto:erredea@worcesterma.gov) for more information and to determine eligibility.

### **NURSING (PHN)**

- State supplied influenza vaccine can be used for all children through 18 years of age or for uninsured adults seen at health department sponsored clinics. Influenza clinics scheduled as follows:
- **Town of Grafton:**
  - Grafton High School—Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30 am-9:30 am
  - Grafton Middle School—Wednesday, November 14 at 9:30 am-11:30 am
  - North Street Elementary School—Thursday, November 15 at 3:00 pm-6:00 pm
- **Town of Leicester:**
  - Forms have been forwarded to Nazareth Home and a flu clinic will be scheduled once forms have been returned.
- **CMRPHA Flu Clinics:**
  - Weekly on Tuesdays from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the City of Worcester, Division of Public Health Offices at 25 Meade Street, Worcester
- Meetings have been held with the Directors of the Councils on Aging in Leicester, Shrewsbury and Holden and Amelia Houghton, RN is working on collaborative efforts.
- CMRPHA Regional Nurses are exploring ways to increase collaboration with the schools beyond episodic communication with the school nurses related to vaccine preventable disease reports.

#### **Regional Public Health Nursing Events:**

- Blood Pressure Clinic for *Grafton Housing Authority* November 14, 2018  
9 Forest Lane, Grafton, from 3:30PM until 5PM
- Blood Pressure Clinic for *Grafton Senior Center* November 29, 2018  
30 Providence Road, Grafton, from 11:00AM until 12:30PM
- Town of Grafton—Student Wellness Resource Fair—November 20<sup>th</sup> at the high school from 9:30-10:15am.
- Leicester Senior Center—Blood Pressure Presentation/Blood Pressure Clinic—November 14, 2018 from 12:30 pm – 2 pm.