



Michael P. Hirsh, MD
Medical Director

**Worcester Division of Public Health, lead agency of
CENTRAL MA REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE**



Karyn E. Clark
Director

MONTHLY CMRPHA BOH MEETING UPDATES

August 2017

ADMINISTRATION (ADM)

- **Duty Officer Number** – Reminder that our new 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.
- **Next Quarterly Alliance Meeting** – Wednesday September 20th from 12:30 PM – 2:00PM. Location still TBD – please let us know if your town would like to host, we will provide lunch.
- **Vacation** – Karyn Clark, Director will be away on vacation August 12-19th. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Colleen Bolen, Deputy Director in her absence at bolenc@worcesterma.gov or (508) 799-8120.
- **Summer Events** – please let us know about any events in your communities coming up this summer – we will coordinate tabling and providing giveaways and public health information to residents.
- **Annual Reports** – please let us know when your annual report is due so we can begin planning for updates and edits.
- **Alliance Policy Work-Plan Update:**
 - **Medical Marijuana** - Shrewsbury BOH will discuss Worcester's model regulation on August 23rd.
 - **Farmer's Markets / SNAP** – on hold until we receive more information from the state as to when the devices to process payments will be available. Jackie Ewuoso, Public Health Prevention Specialist, is engaging Mass in Motion Coordinators from across the Commonwealth to discuss the feasibility of working on this strategy.
 - **T21** – Shrewsbury will have a hearing August 23rd. Leicester will be discussing this item at an upcoming BOH meeting.
- **Complete Streets** – in a previous communication, we offered to do a Complete Streets demonstration in your community. Jackie Ewuoso will be reaching out to the Alliance Town Managers/Administrators and / or Planners directly to follow up once more to see if there is interest in setting up this demonstration which is designed to engage the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (EH)

- Christian's Law regulations are in effect this swim season. These regulations require Coast Guard rated personal floatation devices (PFD's) Type 1, 2, or 3 for non-swimmers at bathing beach programs. Go to mass.gov/dph/csp for more info.
- There will be public hearings held by MADPH on September 27th at WDPH, 25 Meade Street, Room 109 10-noon and 1-3pm. The hearing will be on proposed changes to the housing and pool code. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.
- Ticks, mosquitos, and now caterpillars. Although an abundance of caterpillars can be a nuisance, these naturally occurring creatures pose no real harm. Handling them without proper protection can lead to rashes in some people. Ticks and mosquitos are of greater

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

healthycentralma.com

concern due to Lyme and West Nile disease potential in our area. WDPH staff and interns will be providing this information at community events throughout the summer in the Alliance towns. Here is a link to information about gypsy moths and how to prevent rashes <http://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/insects-arachnids/nuisance-moths/gypsy-moths> please consider posting to your town website.

- If EH team members are needed to attend departmental meetings in the towns, please include Phil Leger, Chief so that we can arrange coverage in case of scheduling conflicts. He can be reached at legerp@worcesterma.gov.

COMMUNITY HEALTH (CH)

- The Coalition for a Healthy Grafton hosted a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Orientation presentation by staff from Community Health and the Coalition for Healthy Greater Worcester. This was the first in a series of orientations that will be offered across our alliance. The presentation provides an overview of the 2016 CHIP and highlights ways community members can get involved. For more information or to request a presentation please contact Dr. Alexis Travis, Chief of Community Health at travisa@worcesterma.gov or 857-214-1087.
- This summer the community health outreach interns have been busy with projects and health fairs in the community. For their first project, the interns distributed over 4,000 condoms to health agencies. Their second project focused on the availability of Narcan, the opioid overdose reversal drug, throughout the greater Worcester area. They documented that 35 pharmacies across the Alliance sell Narcan and offer proper usage training. Additionally, the interns have attended the Shrewsbury Farmers Market and Out to Lunch on Worcester Common, to hand out substance abuse, family safety and personal health information. The interns have also attended the Plumley Village Health Fair, the Veterans Inc. Stand Down and the New Life Health and Safety Fair. In the coming weeks, they will visit the Grafton Farmers Market, National Night Out (August 1), Holden Days (August 26), International Overdose Awareness Day/Vigil (August 31) and AIDS Project Worcester's Summer Slam.
- The City of Worcester will host the 3rd annual Overdose Awareness Day and Candlelight Vigil is on August 31st in remembrance of those lost to overdoses, as well as bringing awareness to the opioid epidemic. The event begins at 5:30pm in the back of City Hall and all are welcome to attend.
- September is Recovery Month. Alliance staff will partner with AIDS Project Worcester to plan multiple of Narcan trainings throughout the city. Using local community resources such as APW will increase our capacity for number of trainings, and amount of Narcan that we are able to supply. APW has also developed a very comprehensive, yet succinct PowerPoint presentation on Narcan usage to be used in locations with projector capacity. For more information or to host a similar training please contact Myles Leo, Public Health Prevention Specialist at LeoM@worcesterma.gov or 774-502-7027
- The City of Worcester will host the Annual Recovery Walk on September 23rd from 10am-3pm. For more information please contact Cassandra Andersen, Manager of Strategic Partnerships at AndersenC@worcesterma.gov
- The Coalition for a Healthy Grafton will be hosting a showing of the movie "If Only" on October 25th, 2017. Community Health staff are working closely with the Coalition leadership to plan the event which will open with resource tabling at 5pm at the Grafton High School, followed by the film screening at 6:15, and a speaker's panel at 7pm. The gym will also be open to youth if parents do not have childcare, and would like their children to opt out of the screening, as it is very graphic.

- Shrewsbury Coalition for Addiction Prevention and Education has invited Dr. Ruth Potee to present on Adolescent Brain Development and the Physiology of Addiction on November 16th. Dr. Potee has worked in family medicine as well as addiction medicine for 18 years, and is the medical director of Franklin County House of Correction. Details on location and time are TBD.
- West Boylston is planning on having a kickoff to a speaker's series on substance use. The first speaker event is to be combined with a Prescription drug take-back. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the planning process, please contact Myles Leo, Public Health Prevention Specialist at LeoM@worcesterma.gov or 774-502-7027 for meeting times and locations
- A summer retreat day is being planned for the Youth Health Action Committee in late August. A portion of this will be for fun activities, and another devoted to youth development. Once the school year begins, this group will be planning the details of its survey implementation for a social norms campaign.
- Save the Date: The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Annual Report Out meeting will be held on Friday, October 27 from 12-2pm (location TBA). Please plan to attend this meeting to learn about the progress made towards meeting the objectives of the 2016 CHIP.
- August Public Health communications will focus on Flu Messaging and Farmers Market Week

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (EP)

- To request Worcester Regional MRC volunteers for a real world emergency such as a sheltering operation or community event such as a senior health fair, please contact Alissa Errede, Region 2 HMCC Planning and Operations Coordinator at erredea@worcesterma.gov Note: Grafton has its own Greater Grafton MRC unit.
- EP staff attended the recent Tufts Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) meeting. Tufts Grafton will be hosting their annual Open House Sunday September 17th from 11 AM – 3 PM on campus. All in the community are welcome. The IBC will have an informational table staffed.
- The Region 2 Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC) is in the process of developing a new website. The website will be a resource for local boards of health and healthcare facilities to view upcoming training opportunities and access informational tools.
- September is National Preparedness Month. In anticipation, several hundred reusable tote bags and children's activity books have been purchased. Please contact Alissa Errede at erredea@worcesterma.gov if you are interested.

NURSING (PHN)

- As discussed at the Quarterly Meeting, semi-annual communicable disease reports have been completed for January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017 and will be forwarded to each town for review.
- Pat Bruchmann will be attending the Vaccine Reimbursement Training at Commonwealth Medicine on Thursday, August 24 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. This training is mandatory for providers who wish to participate in the 2017-2018 Vaccine Reimbursement Program. This will allow the alliance to bill an administration fee for each dose of influenza vaccine administered to children and an administration fee/unit cost for each dose of influenza vaccine administered to adults.