MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY FORUM

Suzanne K. Condon, Associate Commissioner Director, Bureau of Environmental Health
Outline

I. DPH Mission and Vision

II. DPH Today

III. Early Career Path

IV. The Job of Associate Commissioner of Public Health

V. Tips for Success

VI. Questions
I. DPH Mission and Vision

• **MISSION** of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is to prevent illness, injury, and premature death, to assure access to high quality public health and health care services, and to promote wellness and health equity for all people in the Commonwealth.

• **VISION** is a state of optimal health and well-being for all people in Massachusetts, supported by a strong public health infrastructure and health care delivery.
Values/Guiding Principles

• Health is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity

• Health equity and multi-sector partnerships are prerequisites for achieving the objectives of health care reform and securing and sustaining population health

• Massachusetts is uniquely positioned to demonstrate the practicality and value of an integrated public health and health care system

• Continuous Quality Improvement is a path to public health performance excellence
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

• Established in 1869

• $916 million FY15 budget state/federal combined

• 15 locations across state

• Decentralized public health system
Massachusetts Public Health

- Population 6.3 million
- 351 towns/cities
- Ranked in Nation
  1st place local health departments (351)
  13th place population
  44th place land area
- No county system
- No direct state funding for local board of health operations
Paul Revere
Lemuel Shattuck

- Shattuck started his career as a merchant in Concord, MA.

- He then went on to be a bookseller and publisher in Boston, a member of the Boston City Council, and a representative in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

- When writing a book on Concord History in 1835, he realized there was a neglect of vital records, and so he became one of the founders of the American Statistical Association.

- In 1844 he founded the New England Genealogical Society.

- He promoted legislation which required a better system of the registration of vital information.

- In 1850 he became a consultant for the United States Census.
Earned a B.S. from Harvard University, and went on to teach in Tennessee and Oklahoma

In 1909, he enrolled in Harvard Medical School and graduated in 1912

In 1918, Hinton returned to Harvard Medical School and was a professor in preventative medicine and hygiene and later taught bacteriology and immunology

Hinton developed a test for syphilis in 1927 that was used by the United States Public Health Service due to its accuracy

In 1936, Hinton published the first medical textbook authored by a black American

After teaching at Harvard, Hinton served as a physician at the Mass Hospital School for Crippled Children in Canton, MA and he served as physician-in-chief of the Department of Clinical Laboratories
II. DPH Today
DPH Structure

• Commissioners Office
  • Chief of Staff
    • Communications, Constituent Affairs, Government Affairs, Policy, Human Resources, Admin Support
• Office of Chief Financial Officer
• Office of General Counsel
• Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment
• Office of Health Equity
• Office of Health Planning
• Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management
• Office of Local and Regional Health
DPH Structure

- Bureau of Community Health and Prevention
- Bureau of Environmental Health
- Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition
- Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
- Bureau of Infectious Disease
- Bureau of Laboratory Science
- Bureau of Public Hospitals
- Bureau of Substance Abuse
Public Health Council (PHC)

Members:

Derek Brindisi: Mass. Public Health Association
Harold Coz: Non-Public School of Public Health
Edward Bernstein: Non-Public School of Medicine
Meg Doherty: Long Term Health Care Service Provider
Paul Lanzikos : Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Lucilia Prates-Ramos: Health Care for All
Jose Rafael Rivera: Mass. Assoc. of Community Health Workers
Michael Kneeland: Umass Medical School
Michael Wong: Community/Home Based Care Health Services Provider
John Cunningham: Umass Public Health
Alan Woodward: Acute Care Health Services Provider
Michele David: Primary Care Health Services Provider
Denis Leary: Executive Office of Veterans’ Affairs
Meredith Rosenthal: Mass. Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors
Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

- Private, non-profit, based in Washington, DC
- Established to implement recommendations of IOM and workgroups supported by CDC, all major national PH organizations
- Performance improvement focus
- State and Local Health Departments can apply for accreditation
- MDPH is applying for accreditation
PHAB Accreditation Process

- State Health Improvement Plan
- Strategic Plan
- Formal Application for Accreditation November 3, 2014

Upcoming Activities:
- Performance Management and Quality Improvement Training
- Workforce Development Plan
- SHIP Domain Leads identify Documentation
III. Early Career Path
Woburn Childhood Leukemia Study

• December 1979-Woburn:
  • A pediatric hematologist reported to Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) that since 1972 he had seen 6 children with acute lymphocytic leukemia

• All 6 children were from a 6 block residential area in Woburn, Massachusetts

• Woburn residents believed it was related to chemical waste dumps or chemical contamination of drinking water in the town
Incidence of Childhood Leukemia was significantly elevated in Woburn (12 Observed, 5.3 Expected)

The majority of the excess cases were males

Six of the cases were diagnosed while residing in a single census tract in Woburn

The hypothesis suggesting that the increase in leukemia incidence was associated with environmental hazards in Woburn, specifically as related to contaminated drinking water, is neither supported nor refuted by the findings
Woburn Childhood Leukemia Follow-Up Study
Conclusions

1997-Final Study

- The risk of developing leukemia was related to the amount of contaminated water received at the residence of the child’s mother.

- Mother’s exposure to contaminated water while pregnant showed the strongest association between water exposure and the development of leukemia in the offspring.

- A statistical test for trends was significant: increasing water exposure to mother resulted in increased risk of child developing childhood leukemia.

- The child’s exposure to contaminated water from the time of birth to the diagnosis of leukemia showed no association to leukemia risk.

- Due to small numbers of study subjects the conclusions must be interpreted with caution.
Greater New Bedford Study

A Community effort....
In search of an answer

Did you know the first PCB Study of its kind is in Progress?

Greater New Bedford Health Effects Study
46 Foster Street/Foster Hill Place
New Bedford, MA 02740
IV. The Job of Associate Commissioner of Public Health

Bureau of Environmental Health

- Community Assessment Program
- Environmental Epidemiology Program
- Environmental Toxicology Program
- Environmental Health Education And Outreach Program
- Indoor Air Quality Program
- Radiation Control Program
- Food Protection Program
- Community Sanitation Program
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Office of Local and Regional Health

- Western Massachusetts Regional Health Office
  - Northampton
- Central Regional Office
  - West Boylston
- Northeast Regional Office
  - Tewksbury
- Metro-West Regional Office
  - Canton
- Southeast Regional Office
  - New Bedford
The Bureau of Environmental Health has a broad mission of protecting the public health from a variety of environmental exposures. The Bureau responds to environmental health concerns and provides communities with epidemiologic and toxicological health assessments.

The Bureau comprises nine programs.

The Bureau also ensures regulatory compliance related to food and radiation safety, as well as the state sanitary code.
• Created in 2013, the mission of the OLRH is to provide a coordinated system to support public health planning at the local level and to help connect our local health partners with DPH programs, services, and resources that can help them carry out their responsibilities.

• Works with the Coalition for Local Public Health (CLPH) and other partners to assess the needs of local boards of health and develop priorities for the OLRH.
Schedule

- Similar to head of M.A.S.H Unit

March 12:
- 9 am: PHC - Christians Law
- 10:00 am: Paul Hunter; SKC Office; Condon, Suzanne (DPH)
- 11:00 am: Internal MCH Block Grant Discussion; Suzanne’s Office; Condo
- 12:00 pm: Jay & Tim re Tim Madden; 2nd floor; Cyr, Julian (DPH)
- 1:00 pm: Pre-Call briefing - 2:15 p.m.; S
- 2:00 pm: Conf Call with FDA re: MA Vib
- 3:00 pm: CDC/Budget Call - 3:30 to 3:45; 866-506-0113 Code 3981937; C
- 4:00 pm: Pharma Cycle - 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
  Lobby 2 - 250 Washington Street; Svizzer, Kathy (DPH)
- 6:00 pm: Dinner meeting with Commissioner

April 9:
- 9 am: Public Health Council
  Consolidating Food Manufacturing, Processing and Distribution Regulations
  Proposed Amendments to Bathing Beaches Regulations
- 10:00 am: Paul Hunter; SKC Office; Condon, Suzanne (DPH)
- 11:00 am: 1:1 with Julian; Suzanne’s Office; Condon, Suzanne (DPH)
- 12:00 pm: DoN/CHI Health Impact Assessment Advisory Committee Meeting
  (JF/MR/SKC) PHC
- 1:00 pm: GreenDOT Advisory Group
  10 Park Plaza (State Transportation Building), Boston, Room 4150, Boston Common Conference Room Codd, Ned (DOT)
- 2:00 pm: Travel to Plymouth
- 3:00 pm: NMC Meeting in Plymouth
  Plymouth Public Library - Board Room
  Condon, Suzanne (DPH)
- 4:00 pm: TRAVEL TO DUXBURY
- 5:00 pm: Pilgrim NMC Duxbury Meeting
  Duxbury Senior Center, 10 Mayflower Street
  Condon, Suzanne (DPH)
V. Tips for Success

- Honesty
- Time Management
- Organization
- Family First Philosophy
- Be Responsive
VI. Questions