

SUPPORTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH



OCTOBER 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Derek Fullerton
MHOA President

On behalf of MHOA,

WE are proud to hold the 49th Annual MHOA Conference this year in Hyannis, MA! This is going to be a great conference as we have wonderful sessions and exhibitors. I want to personally thank Sam Wong, PhD; MHOA Vice President who leads as the MHOA conference chair and the entire conference planning team for their hard work to bring this conference into reality each year! Kudos to you all. For those attending the conference please ensure you thank each and

every one of the people involved in making every conference a great success and as an effort to strengthen public health.

MHOA 5k Run/Walk

If you are able, please join us at the annual MHOA 5k walk/run at the conference. We will be doing this on Thursday at 4 p.m. First 50 people to sign up (conference registration table) will receive a free MHOA 5k t-shirt. The meeting spot for the walk/run The event will be followed by a networking event at the Cape Cod Brewery.



Ballot Question #4: Legalize Marijuana?

As local public health officials and as residents of the Commonwealth it is vital that we understand the details on ballot question #4. This is not just a vote about legalizing marijuana, but about creating a large profitable business that negatively affects the public's health. In 2008, possession of an ounce of marijuana was decriminalized meaning that police could not arrest anyone for having this amount of marijuana, essentially legalizing small quantities. Just like with Big Tobacco, there is Big Marijuana, a profit driven industry that preys on our youth as customers. As public health officials, we need to look at the science and not the hype, and work to inform our communities,

Read more on page 11,

MHOA REPRESENTATION

(CLICK NAME FOR EMAIL)

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[Jennifer Sullivan \(Retired\)](#)

NACCHO Rep

[Claude-Alix Jacob](#) - NACCHO President

Watch a great video hosted by the BU School of Public Health (BUSPH) of a debate on the potential legalization of Marijuana in Massachusetts. Click on the picture to watch the video.

BU School of Public Health

LEGALIZED MARIJUANA: RIGHT FOR MASSACHUSETTS?

JOINTS 3 FOR \$10.00

Jim Borghesani
Director of Communications, Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol

Jason Lewis
Senator, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Dean's Seminar Series on Contemporary Issues in Public Health

September 8 | 1-2:15 p.m. @BUSPH | #SPHDSS16

FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, & MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR



Sam Wong
Vice President
Conference Chair

Along with being Vice President, Sam serves as the MHOA Educational Conference chair.

**CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION,
SCHEDULE AND
HOTEL
INFORMATION
CAN BE FOUND AT
MHOA.COM**

Annual Conference Update:

The MHOA Annual Educational Conference will be held October 26th-28th at the Cape Codder Inn and Resort in Hyannis, MA.

The schedule includes a packed agenda with Plenary speaker Sandro Gal ea, Dean and Robert A Knox Professor at the BU School of Public Health and MDPH Commissioner Monica Bharel. Sessions offer CEUs for Title V and RNs. Certain sessions are approved for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Training funds as well.

For more information about the conference activities, See Page 5

Well many things have changed since our June newsletter including Ruth-Ellen's mind. She agreed to stay on for a little longer! Thank goodness. Now we have a whole year to thank Ruth-Ellen for all the work she puts into MHOA.

I have been working, with the other officers and executive committee members on several projects, most notably the annual conference. Our 2016 Annual Conference has a great schedule and should draw a lot of interest. At the annual conference executive committee members are elected. Please join us for the business meeting and election at 4:30pm on Weds following the last session. The current slate of members is on the MHOA website: www.mhoa.com/officers-staff-and-ec-members.

Other projects include updating job descriptions, legal counsel for MHOA, budgets, and creating an opioid toolkit. We are always looking for additional members to get involved so please contact any of us if you are interested in serving on a committee or running for executive committee.



Sigalle Reiss
Secretary

A Note From Our Membership Coordinator!

As you can see, I have not quite retired yet and am staying on a bit longer than I originally intended. With that said, I would like to welcome new members:

*Alexis Andrews
Eileen Boudreau,
John DeMato,
Jessica Horsman
Donna Bagui,
atherine Donaghey
Gary Finn
Marisa Gruenwald
Syed Hashmi,
Gail McSweeney
John Stellberger.*

With these new members, we have once again hit the 600 mark!

I look forward to seeing you at the conference!



Ruth Ellen Sandler
MHOA Member Services
Coordinator



Click here for membership [FORM!](#)

Training Opportunities!

Do not forget about the upcoming **Quarterly Educational Meeting** on December 15th! We have the dynamic Dr. Bobby Corrigan speaking on **Urban Rodents and Public Health**. The registration form can be found here at MHOA.COM

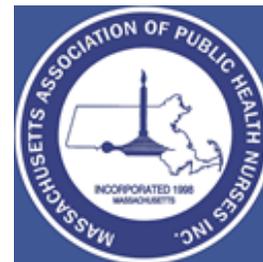
"Managing Effectively in Today's Public Health Environment" will be starting up soon so keep your eye out for information on that course.

MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES ASSOCIATION (MAPHN)*



Terri Khoury
MAPHN Vice President
MHOA At Large Rep

The Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses will be attending Boston 2016 Stand down on September 30th. Over thirty MAPHN nurses will provide foot care to Boston's (and surrounding communities) veterans for the ninth year. MAPHN past president Kitty Mahoney started organizing the event in 2008. Many MAPHN Nurses have received their Certification in Foot and Nail Care. Access to foot care is one of the greatest unmet health care needs of veterans. The evolution of Stand Down with MAPHN includes partnerships with nursing schools, Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteers of America, Occupational Health Nurses and members of the Coalition for Local Public Health who help us support shoe and boot fitting with military surplus, personal care item ("Comfort Kit") distribution, vaccination with flu, pneumonia and tetanus. Many vets report that this opportunity to sit in the tent and socialize with their veteran counterparts cross all ages, genders and branches of the service... it is an emotional communion. Many nurses report that this opportunity is one of their most heartfelt contributions they make to our service members.



* Asterisked organizations with blue borders are part of the Coalition for Local Public Health (CLPH)



Tom Carbone
LSAC Chairman
MHOA Active Ex Officio

LOCAL STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LSAC)

LSAC has begun a strategic planning exercise as we prepare for the next federal grant Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).

Earlier this year, CDC announced that it would be diverting a good amount of preparedness funding to address the ongoing Zika Virus Response, since Congress has failed to appropriate specific funding for that work. As a result, we fully expect that PHEP funding in the coming grant year will be greatly reduced. With that in mind, LSAC is reviewing coalition spending plans to get an idea of what the funding priorities should be. Local health should be in contact with your coalition representative to LSAC for up to date information.

Congratulations to the Graduates of the Local Public Health Institute's (LPHI) Foundations of Local Public Health Practice Course!

LPHI pleased to announce that 38 public health professionals graduated from the course on September 14, 2016

<i>Jeffrey Barossy</i>	<i>City of Salem</i>	<i>Ann Marie McCauley</i>	<i>Town of Wellestey</i>
<i>Matthew Bernard</i>	<i>City of Fitchburg</i>	<i>Timothy McDonald</i>	<i>Town of Needham</i>
<i>Kevin Bernardo</i>	<i>Town of Freetown</i>	<i>Michael Mendez</i>	<i>City of Worcester</i>
<i>Diane Chalifoux-Judge</i>	<i>City of Boston</i>	<i>Betty Nee</i>	<i>Town of Hingham</i>
<i>Damon Chaplin</i>	<i>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</i>	<i>Koby Owusu-Ansam</i>	<i>City of Worcester</i>
<i>Karyn Clark</i>	<i>City of Worcester</i>	<i>Rosa Pina</i>	<i>City of Lawrence</i>
<i>Jessica Cliff</i>	<i>Town of Natick</i>	<i>Melissa Ranieri</i>	<i>Town of Walpole</i>
<i>Katharine Dagle</i>	<i>Town of Bedford</i>	<i>Melanie Rajaniemi</i>	<i>City of Worcester</i>
<i>Jason Dulmaine</i>	<i>City of Fitchburg</i>	<i>Jaime Rice</i>	
<i>Zach Dyer</i>	<i>City of Worcester</i>	<i>Erica Rimpila</i>	<i>North Suffolk Massachusetts Hospital Association</i>
<i>Annette Graczeuski</i>	<i>Town of Dennis</i>	<i>Jayne Smith</i>	<i>Town of Great Barrington</i>
<i>Tara Gurge</i>	<i>Town of Needham</i>	<i>D Rike Sterrett</i>	<i>City of Marlborough</i>
<i>Sharon Hart</i>	<i>Town of South Hadley</i>	<i>Shannon Sullivan</i>	<i>Town of Tewksbury</i>
<i>Jennifer Jernigan</i>	<i>Town of South Hadley</i>	<i>Lisa Tobin</i>	<i>City of Lynn</i>
<i>Gail Johnson</i>	<i>Town of Westford</i>	<i>Tara Tradd</i>	<i>Town of Avon</i>
<i>Erin Kirchner</i>	<i>Town of Essex</i>	<i>Julie Vanarsdalen</i>	<i>City of Worcester</i>
<i>Scott Koczela</i>	<i>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</i>	<i>Kerry Wagner</i>	<i>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</i>
<i>Jean-François Leblanc</i>	<i>City of Fitchburg</i>	<i>Brian Zahn</i>	<i>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</i>
<i>Paul A Mazzuchelli</i>	<i>Town of Milford</i>		
<i>Tom McAdams</i>	<i>City of Boston</i>		

(Below) The final day also included inspiration from Amanda Stone, Katie Reilly, Charlotte Stepanian, and Kitty Mahoney who are on the front lines of public health nursing



(Left) The Graduates of the LPHI Foundations Course 2016



(Right) Chief Public Health Officer, Cambridge Public Health Department, and President of NACCHO, Claude-Alix Jacob, encouraged the new Foundations graduates to engage in association and community work, to build their careers and contribute to public health



MHOA Annual Educational Conference Events



Plenary Speaker Bio: Dr. Sandro Galea

Dr Galea is a physician and an epidemiologist. He is the Robert A. Knox Professor and Dean at the Boston University School of Public Health. Prior to his appointment at Boston University, Dr Galea served as the Anna Cheskis Gelman and Murray Charles Gelman Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. He previously held academic and leadership positions at the University of Michigan and at the New York Academy of Medicine. In his scholarship, Dr Galea is centrally interested in the social production of health of urban populations, with a focus on the causes of brain disorders, particularly common mood-anxiety disorders and substance abuse. He has long had a particular interest in the consequences of mass trauma and conflict worldwide, including as a result of the September 11 attacks, Hurricane Katrina, conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa, and the American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This work has been principally funded by the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and several foundations. He has published over 600 scientific journal articles, 50 chapters, and 10 books and his research has been featured extensively in current periodicals and newspapers. His latest book, co-authored with Dr Katherine Keyes, is *Population Health Science*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press in 2016. Dr Galea has a medical degree from the University of Toronto, and graduate degrees from Harvard University and Columbia University; he has an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow. He was named one of TIME magazine's epidemiology innovators and has been listed by Thomson Reuters as one of the "World's Most Influential Scientific Minds" for the Social Sciences. He is past-president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and of the American Epidemiological Society. Dr Galea serves frequently on advisory groups to national and international organizations. He currently serves on the Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities and has formerly served as chair of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Community Services Board and as member of its Health Board.



The MHOA Conference Committee is sponsoring its 2nd Annual 5K this year!

Wednesday Night Entertainment:

Jon Fisch has appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman, has been featured in Maxim Magazine, and now at MHOA's Annual Conference.



This year, Conference Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the *Cape Cod Beer*



Company!





Sarah McColgan-MHOA Tobacco Control Director

Tobacco Control & Prevention

Sarah's role as Tobacco Control Director of MHOA is to provide technical assistance and trainings for Boards of Health and assist with the development of training and education related to tobacco control issues.

MHOA Education & Training

To Register click [here](#)

The 49th Annual MHOA Conference

October 26-28th
Hyannis

To Register visit MHOA.COM

MA PHIT Housing Certificate Program

November 8, 9 & 15
Acton

Educational Quarterly Meeting:

Urban Rodents and Public Health

December 15th
Devens Common Center
10am-1pm

To Register visit MHOA.COM

Dr. Bobby Corrigan will update and address whether or not the public health community, city municipalities, food serving, food retail, and food logistics arenas have kept current with the needs of contemporary public health and food safety relative to progressive rodent pest management.

Did You Know?? There are over 40 online "On Your Time" training modules. Visit the LPHI online training website by clicking [here](#)

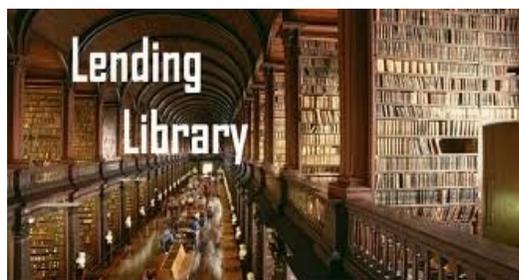
The Most Up-to-Date Municipal Lists of Local Action!

Have you visited the tobacco page on MHOA's web site lately? Sure, you did your research on the new Attorney General Regulations on e-cigarettes, but that was last fall. Did you know that the tobacco page is updated monthly to show recent policy developments made by local boards of health?

There are about 25 lists which name the communities that have passed a particular provision in their tobacco regulation/ordinance. If your board is considering revising the municipality's tobacco regulation/ordinance it might be helpful to know what neighboring municipalities have done, and how widespread a particular provision is across the state. Although the lists cannot be up to the minute, they reflect changes through the end of the previous month. If your municipality is missing from a particular provision that you have included in your regulation/ordinance please contact DJ Wilson at djwilson@mma.org and he will update the list the following month.



**Katherine Kokko
MHOA Executive Administrator**



The MHOA Lending Library is always open!

A listing of available books and their descriptions can be found at <http://www.mhoa.com/library/>. Books are available for renewable terms of three months. Rules for lending are also available on the MHOA Library website. Requests should be sent via email to Kkokko@MHOA.com Books are shipped via USPS and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.

Introduction to MEHA's New Officers:



President:

Leon A. Bethune, MPH

Leon Bethune is the new President of the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA). He has served on its board for the past five years. Leon

is the Director of the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Boston Public Health Commission where he is responsible for managing the Environmental Hazards, Biological Safety, Lead and Safe Shops programs. He has written and presented abstracts on environmental health issues for national conferences. Leon received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Northeastern University and Master of Public Health in Environmental Health from Boston University.



Vice President:

Robin Williams, BS

Robin Williams the new Vice President of the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA). For the past 18 years, Robin has held the position of Senior Environmental Health Specialist with the Newton Health and Human Services Department. She also works as a Food Safety Consultant with a private company for the Boston Garden and Gillette Stadium. Robin is the current Chair of the Marlborough Board of Health, and the first woman to hold this position. She served in the United States Army for eight years as a Food Inspection Specialist, including for two years as a Quality Assurance Inspector for slaughter houses in Northern Germany. Robin holds a BS in Food Science and Minor in Chemistry from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

(Right) From left: Leon Bethune, Thomas Carbone, James White (Health Director, Town of Natick)

The Massachusetts Environmental Health Association board of Directors would like to congratulate Thomas G. Carbone (Health Director, Town of Andover) for receiving the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association, Sanitarian of the Year Award. This annual award is presented to a professional who has done exceptional work in the field of environmental health



*The Massachusetts Environmental Health

Association (MEHA) is a subsidiary of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). MEHA's main concerns are the support, representation, and knowledge base training for the local environmental health professional in MA.



(Above) From left: Leon Bethune, Sandy Collins, James White (Health Director, Town of Natick)

The Massachusetts Environmental Health Association board of Directors would like to congratulate Sandy Collins, Health Director, (Town of Westford) for receiving the National Environmental Health Association certificate of merit. This annual award is presented to a professional who has done exceptional work in the field of environmental health.



Congratulations to the 2016 Recipients of MHOA's Conference Scholarships!

Conference Scholarships support conference registration, hotel stays and meals. This year's criteria focused on enabling non-administrative staff and first-time attendees from smaller health departments to join us in Hyannis. This funding is made possible through MDPH Block Grant funds awarded to MHOA.

Congratulations to the 2016 recipients!

Christopher Bishop - Northampton

Thomas Fitzgerald - Southwick

Ron Laurin - Southampton

Sandra Martin - S. Egremont

Melanie Rajaniemi - Athol

Michael Sciola - Pittsfield

Jayne Smith - Great Barrington

Applications for Winter 2016-2017

**Internships will be posted at MHOA.COM
in early November!**

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

Congratulations to Claude-Alix Jacob who took over the presidency of NACCHO on July 1st! As president, Claude has [his own blog](#) on the President's Corner at NACCHO! He has also shared the following links and encourages everyone in Local Health to get to know their NACCHO Board Members and the many ways that NACCHO supports local public health!

<http://www.naccho.org/>

NACCHO Board (2016-2017 Term)

<http://www.naccho.org/about/board>

FOOD ESTABLISHMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FEAC)

Overhaul of the MA Food Code!

A draft of the Massachusetts' 590, adopting the FDA 2013 Model Food Code standards has been created and is currently undergoing the legislative process, with anticipated release for public comment. The MA DPH Food Protection Program and MHOA will notify stakeholders when



Rae Dick
MHOA Region 3 Rep
FEAC Representative

Change is Happening in State Regulations!

State Regulation Changes/Amendments: Click here for a list and to view. *Be sure as a public health professional to comment on proposed changes before it's too late.* Here is link <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/laws-regs/dph/proposed-regulations/>

Coming Soon: MORE MHOA Funding for Local Health Department Internships!

For the last two years, MHOA has been making it possible for local health departments to provide small stipends to their graduate and undergraduate interns. Funding allows health departments to host interns during the students' winter and summer breaks. Local communities are responsible for identifying a project and an intern to carry out the work funded. Internships are for a total of 50 hours.



Claude-Alix Jacob
NACCHO PRESIDENT

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE (LPHI)*



Kathleen Macvarish
LPHI Director
MHOA Active Ex-Officio



LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH
INSTITUTE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Strengthening Local Public Health Through Training & Education

The mission of the Local Public Health Institute (Institute) is to improve public health and preparedness capabilities and the health of the residents of the Commonwealth by creating, implementing, and sustaining workforce development activities for local public health and other public health system partners. Local public health professionals are busier than ever, and their training needs are more complex. In order to make the training accessible statewide, the Institute leverages a variety of training delivery methods, including traditional classroom trainings, asynchronous online modules, live webinar sessions, and blended formats.

LPHI Fellows were invited to attend the Sept. 8 BUSPH [Deans Seminar on the marijuana ballot question](#). They were recognized for their contributions by Associate Dean Harold Cox. Fellows also participated in a Government Pathways networking event with BU SPH students and other state and local practitioners, to introduce students to careers governmental public health agencies. Many LPHI Fellows are MHOA members – thanks to all of them! See our photos of the day below!

The **Foundations for Local Public Health Practice** course (co-sponsored by MHOA) finished with a graduation ceremony on Sept. 14. 39 local and state public health professionals graduated and Claude Jacob (MHOA member and NACCHO president) provided remarks. MHOA officers and board members attended. A photo booth was set up to provide professional head shots and to snap images of public health professionals in action, for the *On Your Time* modules and other trainings. The next course is will start in spring 2017 (there is a waiting list). MHOA member Sandy Collins received an award from MEHA at the conclusion of the ceremony.



(Above) 2016 LPHI Fellows at the Dean's Seminar on the Marijuana Ballot Question



(Right) BUSPH Associate Dean Harold Cox handed out graduation certificates.

* Asterisked organizations with blue borders are part of the Coalition for Local Public Health (CLPH)



John Coulon
MHOA Representative
for the Massachusetts
Food Safety Education
Partnership



MAPFSE & USDA Visit the Big E:

Taking Aim at Food Borne Illness

For fifteen days last month, nearly two dozen MPFSE members along with fifteen UMass Food Science and Nutrition students contributed over 300 hours volunteering with USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) staff to promote core food safety messages. John Coulon represented MHOA during two of those days.

The mission of the [Massachusetts Partnership for Food Safety Education](#) (MPFSE) is to provide food workers and consumers with easy access to food safety information, education and training through collaboration and communication among partners, and coordination of resources and services, thus ensuring the safety of our food supply.

Adam Ghering and Luis Delgadillo, Public Affairs Specialists with the FSIS Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education, steered the Food Safety Discovery Zone (FSDZ) to the Big E for the record breaking (1,418,042) Centennial. The FSDZ served as a backdrop for educating and disseminating print materials on safe food handling practices for individuals and groups to an estimated 25,000. (This number approached the number of visitors to the FSDZ in all of 2015!) Of great interest to FSDZ visitors were the **IMMUNE COMPROMISED:**



BOOKLET SERIES especially those relating to diabetes and cancer.

Children’s packets of coloring and activity books were a big hit as well as a tour of the FSDZ where they could learn more about the Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill. USDA and MPFSE volunteers fielded questions on home food

PUBLIC HEALTH MUSEUM IN MASSACHUSETTS

www.publichealthmuseum.org/
**America’s first
public health museum!**



(Above) MA DPH’s Diane Bernazzani with BAC

(Continued on page 11)

Ballot Question #4 con't from page 1

- **Marijuana can be addictive.** The earlier someone begins using marijuana, the higher their risk of addiction; one in six users who start under age 18 become dependent; 25-50% of teen heavy users become addicted.¹
- **Marijuana today is not the marijuana of the 1970s.** Highly concentrated marijuana products available today range from 5 to 85% THC (the psychoactive part of marijuana). High potency marijuana, often in the form of candies, cookies, sodas, and hashish concentrates (e.g., budder, wax, honey oil, shatter), are more likely to be associated with addiction and the negative health consequences in young people seen in recent years.²
- **Marijuana use has long-term negative consequences for kids.** According to studies by the National Academy of Sciences and other organizations, marijuana use by adolescents can impair brain development, reduce academic success, impact long-term career growth, and even lower IQ. Marijuana is associated with long-term health risks, including increased susceptibility to mental health issues (e.g., paranoia, depression, suicidal thoughts, and schizophrenia) and heart attacks.
- **Marijuana use/dependency is associated with addiction to other drugs.** In a prospective study, marijuana use was associated with a 6.2 times (620%) higher risk of developing any substance use disorder. The younger marijuana is used, the higher the rates of addiction to marijuana and to other drugs, including opioids.^{11,12}

Commercialization of marijuana will result in increased access to marijuana by youth. This coupled with decreased perception of harm associated with marijuana use as a result of the “normalization” of marijuana products, including candies, cookies, and sodas, will increase the likelihood that MA adolescents will use marijuana.

To read the rest of this letter and to share MHOA’s letter on this topic, [click here!](#)

Taking Aim at Food Borne Illness (Continued from p10)

safety and utilized a game to ask questions, enticing the winners with free gifts.

Barnstable County Cooperative Extension’s Kim Concra observed “There is widespread ignorance about the basics of food safety among consumers”. She found that many did not know that the countertop or sink was NOT the best place to defrost meat and poultry, and did not know what the temperature of their refrigerator or freezer should be. Most people thought you should wash chicken before cooking it, too. While foodservice operators are getting trained in food safety, it is clear that the public could use more education around home food safety.



As shown by preschooler Quinn demonstrating good handwashing.

We can all work together to spread the word on safe food handling practices for everyone. Download free easy-to-read materials in multiple languages at <http://www.mafoodsafetyeducation.info/>. USDA FSIS has factsheets and print materials, some in a variety of languages, at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/food-safety-education/get-answers/food-safety-factsheets>. You can also call 1-888-674-6854 to request quantities. Submitted by John Coulon and Rita Brennan-Olsen

MHOA AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Over the last two years, MHOA has focused on using its resources to provide opportunities that support the education, training and program capabilities of our members. Our newsletter will begin to highlight awards as they are made.

In June 2006, BU School of Public Health established an award for excellence in public health practice meant to acknowledge a member of the public health practice community for outstanding contributions to public health. The first recipient was Acting Dean of Practice Gail H. Douglas, an honor she received on the eve of her retirement.

The Gail Douglas Award is bestowed annually by the SPH Office of Public Health Practice, and usually acknowledges a member of the public health practice community for outstanding contributions to public health. The award includes a \$1,000 prize.



For the first time since its inception, the Gail Douglas Award for Excellence in Public Health Practice has been awarded to a group: the Bureau of Infectious Disease of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Because state workers cannot accept prizes from outside organizations, the Bureau of Infectious Disease turned the award over to the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, which helps staff of local health departments promote public health. In the spirit of the award, MHOA has decided to make those funds available to local health projects.



Funding was made available to enhance and create new immunization capacity. MHOA received applications from local health departments and funded The Town of Dedham's project to bring pneumococcal vaccine to home bound seniors and others with limited support systems (including transportation, financial and other barriers). The project would also provide an opportunity to assess the need for continued immunization services and other health department programs.

Our next newsletter will highlight the work done by Town of Dedham and what the community has

learned from their Health Assessment Survey!

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VISIT US! WWW.MHOA.COM

JOIN US! Become a member : www.mhoa.com/membership/



Sandy Collins
CLPH Rep for MHOA
MHOA At Large Rep

Coalition for Local Public Health (CLPH)

The Coalition for Local Public Health, formed in 2002, represents the 5 statewide public health organizations (MHOA, MAPHN, MEHA, MPHA, MAHB). Leadership of each of the organization meets monthly to identify issues and strategies to best advocate, promote and strengthen local health within MA. Collectively we represent over 3000 members. MHOA has participated in the Coalition since the group formed.

CLPH Member Organizations are identified throughout this newsletter with an asterisk and blue border.

Local Public Health Orientation Class

The Coalition for Local Public Health held a very successful Orientation to Local Public Health training on June 21st at Tower Hill in Boylston. This program was developed to fill an identified need. Over 50 new and seasoned local health staff attended the pilot session. They received information about public health delivery in MA and information on the 5 CLPH member organizations. They also obtained valuable resources to help them advance public health goals as they begin, or continue their work in their respective communities. The event was highly rated and those who attended commented that they appreciated the opportunity to network and obtain new ideas. Thanks to Kathleen Macvarish/ the Local Health Institute and the Office of Local and Regional Health for partnering on this endeavor.

Working with the Commissioner’s Office

In June, representatives of the CLPH met with Commissioner Bharel. We shared the history of CLPH and collective accomplishments over the years. We also shared the CLPH perspective on how we can more effectively work with MDPH including the Commissioner’s Office and the Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH). In turn Commissioner Bharel shared some of her goals. She also suggested ways we might address her priorities. Commissioner Bharel is scheduled to attend the CLPH meeting in November to continue the discussion. She looks forward to attending the MHOA conference in October.

Strategic Planning

On October 3, we held a facilitated retreat, focused on strategic planning to create a working plan for the next 2 years. We focused on ways we can collectively, through our five organizations, make the most impact to help strengthen local health. We felt renewed energy to implement many of the great ideas that came out of the session. This planning meeting is always a productive cornerstone for the work that the CLPH does. Watch for additional information in the near future.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) was formed to meet a local need. The foundations of MHOA began in 1950, when a group of health officials from cities and towns north of Boston began meeting together several times a year on a voluntary basis for the purpose of contributing their experiences for a better understanding and servicing of local health department practice and administration. This group became known as the North Metropolitan Health Officers and Agents Association. State Health Department officials took an interest and attended their meetings.

Mission

The mission of the Massachusetts Health Officers Association is to assist and support staff of local health departments in meeting their statutory responsibilities to the public through programs of education, technical assistance, representation, and resource development, and by providing educational and informational programs to the general public on public health topics.

Goals

To be recognized as and regarded by members and other agencies as an effective professional group representing and advocating for local public and environmental health

To promote and foster high standards of professionalism among local health department staff

To work closely with national, state, local, and environmental health agencies to improve public health practice

Objectives

To keep members abreast of new and current public and environmental health topics and issues
To maintain a Resource Lending Library

To maintain an internet and email site on the world wide web

To monitor and advocate for legislation affecting health and environmental issues

To offer an annual scholarship to a member or member's family embarking on or enhancing a career in public or environmental health

To present annual awards for outstanding leadership, extraordinary service, and distinguished contributions to local health practice

To promote student internship opportunities

To provide timely, pertinent and cost-effective educational programs

To serve on national and state committees that foster collaboration for the promotion of our ideals

SUPPORTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH