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MHOA Fall 2021 Newsletter

Message from the President

MHOA as an organization has never been so valuable to support local health departments and staff through this very difficult pandemic response. MHOA has worked to advocate for local health with state and elected officials for funding, to program and policy collaboration. The MHOA executive committee and staff continue to position the organization to contribute to the opportunities presented with new funding and political support. There is an opportunity to bolster local public health across the Commonwealth to better meet the needs of our communities and strive to improve public health.

As part of MHOA's work to support local health, we are excited to be able to host our annual conference and rejuvenate our members to continue to conquer COVID-19 and fight for the public's health.

Hope to see you there.

-Sigalle Reiss, President

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MHOA-NACCHO Collaboration

MHOA has partnered with the National Association of County Health Officials (NACCHO), “the only organization dedicated to serving every local health department in the nation” to provide all Massachusetts local health departments with free NACCHO premium membership.

MHOA is collaborating with NACCHO to ensure all local health departments in Massachusetts are active NACCHO members in 2022. NACCHO helps over 13,000 individual members serving in about 1500 local health departments and is a leading organization in providing professional resources and programs, seeking health equity, and supporting efficacious local public health practices and systems.

As a NACCHO Premium member in 2022, all Massachusetts health departments will have access to an integrated data hub where they can discover, analyze, and publish data. Health Departments will also have a personalized landing page with data on 50 health indicators and will have full access to NACCHO member benefits and NACCHO Premium benefits as outlined below.

NACCHO Membership and Premium Benefits

1. Newsletter subscriptions and publications
2. Recognition opportunities through the annual awards program
3. Leadership events through Workgroups, Committees, and the Board of Directors
4. Networking and discussion sessions through the Virtual Communities platform
5. Live Data: An interactive studio with the ability to create dynamic charts and export them as images or embed them with your webpages
6. 2019 Profile Data: Access to the 2019 National Profile of Local Health Departments Survey data
7. Upcoming Survey Data: Results from future NACCHO research projects (e.g., Forces of Change)

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An informational webinar will be presented in January 2022 to learn more about the NACCHO member benefits and NACCHO Premium. More details coming soon.



NEW MHOA Merchandise Web Store

Home Apparel Headwear Drinkware Bags Accessories

Premium Unisex Fitted Tee \$23

Premium Unisex Fitted Tee \$23

Unisex \$23

SHOP NOW

<https://mhoa.merchwebstore.com>

The advertisement features a dark blue background with orange geometric shapes and a dotted pattern. It displays a screenshot of the MHOA merchandise web store, which includes the MHOA logo, navigation links, and three t-shirt products. A 'SHOP NOW' call-to-action is highlighted with a starburst effect.

The new MHOA web store to buy MHOA merchandise is now here!

[Buy Now!](#)

[An Update on MHOA Tobacco Control:](#)

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have been added. Click this link to view it and download it in pdf format if you would like to:

<https://mhoa.com/massachusetts-tobacco-update/>

Any questions about this update or about the Tobacco Control Program in general can be directed to Sarah McColgan <smccolgan@mhoa.com>.

The monthly office hours and other information about the program can be found here:

<https://mhoa.com/project/mhoa-tobacco-control-program/>

New MHOA Blog Spotlights and Articles!

Timothy Muir McDonald currently serves as the Director of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Assistant Emergency Management Director for Needham, MA. This role encompasses many responsibilities including a Public Health Division, a youth mental health counseling service, a Senior Center and Aging Services Division, and a Veterans Agent.

Read more about all of his work during the COVID-19 pandemic [here!](#)

MHOA Member Spotlight: Jessica Tracy

Jessica Tracy is a public health nurse in the Dedham Health Department with over ten years of experience in the field of public health. She currently is enrolled in the Master of Public Health program nursing track at Worcester State University. She won the MHOA Amy Naparstek

MHOA Member Spotlight: Ivan Kwagala

Ivan Kwagala currently serves as a health inspector in the Melrose Health Department and is a graduate student enrolled in the Master of Public Health program at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He also won the MHOA Amy Naparstek Memorial Scholarship

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excellent work in public health.

Learn more about Jessica [here!](#)

Learn more about Ivan [here!](#)

[Check out the rest of the member and topic spotlights here!](#)

The 2021 MHOA 54th annual educational conference will be at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth, Massachusetts on Wednesday, October 20-Thursaday October 21, 2021.

Highlights of the MHOA 2021 Conference include:

- **Keynote speaker José Montero, MD, deputy director of the CDC for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support.**
- **Margaret R. Cooke, Acting Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health**
- **Martin Suuberg, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**
- Body art training describing rules and regulations for body art establishments and practitioners in Massachusetts.
- Interactive recreational camp training covering rules and regulations for recreational programs.

The three educational tracks for the conference are food, public health management, and wastewater.

- The food track will feature presentations including legal enforcement, an update on sanitizers, cultural awareness and humility, fostering partnerships with academia, and inspection reports.

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climate change, global health, local public health resources, managing a public health crisis, and stress management.

- The wastewater track will feature presentations about nitrogen and phosphorus removal in septic systems, responsible system management, and Title V septic system plan review presentations.

For more information about the recorded version of the conference, please press the button below to be taken to the MHOA conference website.

[Click here for more information!](#)

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MHOA Topic Spotlight

Blog post written by Yashashree Marne

New to Public Health in Massachusetts?

*The Guide identifies
topic areas and lists
resources that local
public health
officials can use to
aid them in their
journeys.*

*Learn about the
Orientation and
Resource guide
for Local Public
Health Officials
in Massachusetts*



The MHOA, along with several associated partners, has developed an “Orientation and Resource Guide for Local Public Health Officials in Massachusetts”. The Guide provides a comprehensive set of current resources about a range of topic areas in local public health in Massachusetts.

Check it out if you haven't already!

[Read our topic spotlight!](#)

[Read the Guide!](#)

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We at MHOA give our deepest condolences for MHOA former members who are no longer with us. Two members that passed away in 2021 were Mr. John Malone and Ms. Sharon Walker Mastenbrook.

John Malone was an Emeritus Member of MHOA, Former Health Director for the town of Belmont, and pharmacist at Batson Pharmacy. His obituary can be found at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/john-malone-obituary?pid=199946191>

Sharon Walker Mastenbrook, a former president of MHOA and retired Director of Public Health for the Town of Burlington, Massachusetts, died on January 31st, 2021, in her home in Austin, Texas.

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