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MHOA Spring 2022 Newsletter

Message from MHOA President Rae Dick

It is my greatest honor to be your 2022 President at the Massachusetts Health Officers Association. I want to thank Sigalle Reiss who is currently the Health Director for the Town of Brookline for her years of service. She has an everlasting passion and dedication for public health and MHOA.

As we observe National Public Health Week, I have reflected on my own public health career. I started my public health career as an intern with MHOA over 16 years ago. Like many people, I didn't know what public health departments do or offer to their communities. However, I immediately fell in love with this field. My passion continued to grow as a food inspector, then as a health agent, and now as a director.

I am a firm believer that our profession saves lives!! Whether you are an inspector, director, or a nurse, we are all working as public servants and preventing illness in our communities. Our efforts are not always tangible or measurable, but impacts are made every day with your hard work.

The last two years with the pandemic have been a challenge for us all. We have learned many things during the pandemic and we will continue to do so. We have witnessed our strained department's capabilities, the absolute need and true appreciation of our MRC units, and have developed close partnerships with our EMS and Emergency Management partners.

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advocate for more public health funding, local public health grant opportunities, SAPHE 2.0 legislation, local and state communication, special commission report initiatives, workforce development trainings for all public health positions, and provide continued support to local health departments.

As we turn the corner into spring, our public health future is looking brighter!! The MHOA Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank you for your membership and the hard work you bring to the public health field.

I hope you have a wonderful, safe, and healthy spring,
Rae Dick, MHOA President



Please join the Massachusetts Health Officers Association in observing Public Health Week 2022!

Public Health Museum Tours

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Take an indoor tour of the museum or outdoor grounds tour of the Tewksbury Hospital free of charge. In celebration of Public Health Week, the museum will be open expanded hours and tours will be free.

[Schedule a tour here](#)

Local Public Health forum: Impacts and Experiences from the Pandemic

Friday, April 8, 2022

10:00am - 12:00pm

The Public Health Museum, in association with the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association, the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses and the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, presents a discussion among local public health professionals and officials, moderated by Harold Cox, MSSW, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice and Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences at Boston University School of Public Health. Representatives from each organization will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons learned, and the lasting effects on local public health.

[Register here](#)

****CEUs Available****

Thanks to our public health partners, CEUs for the forum will be available. This program has met all the standards of CMR 244 5.0 of the Board of Registration in Nursing. Contact hours will be provided in accordance with the regulations governing continuing education requirements for the Board of Registration in Nursing under Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations 244 Section 5.0 and is approved for 2.4 Nursing CEUs. 2.4 CEUs will be available for RS, REHS and CHO, but to receive credit attendees must attend for the full webinar and log in under their name.

Change in Tobacco Control Technical Assistance

In the early 90's, as voters passed the initial tax on tobacco products and the Mass. Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program began to develop, DJ Wilson, Esq. started working for Mass. Municipal Association as their Tobacco Control Director. For almost 30 years, DJ has provided guidance and technical assistance to local boards of health across MA. Chances are that you have

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DJ is retiring on June 30, 2022 after 29 years in his position. MMA is in the recruiting/hiring process for a new Tobacco Control Director, who will also be an attorney. The hope is that there will be some overlap time which will allow DJ to introduce his successor to the infrastructure of tobacco control and its many partners.



Over the decades, DJ has been an integral part of many tobacco control initiatives that leave us with smokefree workplaces, including restaurants; a state law that raised the age to sell tobacco products to someone from 18 to 21; the first state to prohibit the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies; the first state law in the US that prohibits the sale of all flavored tobacco and vape products including menthol in convenience type stores and retail tobacco stores; and the first in the country to have a municipality to ban the sale of tobacco products to anyone born after 1/1/2000, which aims to create a smokefree generation. MHOA thanks DJ for his many years of exemplary service!

Once MMA completes their hiring process local boards will be updated on the contact information for the new hire. In the meantime, continue to contact either DJ at djwilson@mma.org or Cheryl Sbarra at sbarra@mahb.org or Sarah McColgan at smccolgan@mhoa.com for tobacco related questions.



Free Assistance for LBOHs

<https://forms.gle/akiDzqSFK7v7UaP29>

A member of the APHC leadership team will contact you within 2-3 days to schedule an introductory virtual meeting, gather information on your request, and organize Corps members to respond to your needs.

The APHC can assist LBOHs with the following services:

Health Communication (Print, Signage, Social Media, Websites)

- Social media messaging development (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter)
- Topic- and population-specific messaging and infographics
- Signage to communicate health regulations
- Graphic design and web development support
- Written translations of health communications materials (flyers, infographics)

Data Analysis & Presentation

- Data Analysis and visualization to highlight disparities and offer insight into public health problems in communities
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping
- Dataset manipulation
- Visualized data analysis reports
- Data analysis consultation

Health Equity Support

- Highlighting and supporting public health initiatives that promote health equity and service minority or underrepresented communities
- Collaborating with community and faith-based organizations
- Creating tailored infographics and informative social media content
- Community and stakeholder analysis and engagement
- Supporting health equity projects and research

Research and Administrative Support

- Meeting minutes
- Digital file organization
- Policy guidance

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Workforce Development Programs and Trainings

MHOA/MDPH Annual Spring Seminar

*Sponsored by the Massachusetts Health Officers Association and the
Massachusetts Department of Public Health*

**Come learn about the latest on Beach Updates, CORI Board, Recreational
Camps & Documents, Pools, & Housing Court Prep!**

- April 12th - Devens - **Registration is closed.**
- April 14th - Holyoke - **Deadline to register April 7 at 12pm**
- April 25th - Hyannis - **Deadline to register April 15 at 12pm**
- April 27th - Dedham - **Deadline to register April 18 at 12pm**

*To better assist each venue with their preparation, please register by the
deadlines noted.*

6.5 CEUs available for CHO, RN, RS, REHS

[Register at: https://tools.mhoa.com/](https://tools.mhoa.com/)

SAVE THE DATE!

MHOA June Quarterly Meeting

Tour of New England MedWaste in Middleton, MA

June 9, 2022

More information to come.

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Buy Now!

Not a member of MHOA yet? Join now!

Here are some new perks for all MHOA members....

- Free membership to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). We are excited to offer this great opportunity to our members and thank NACCHO for this partnering opportunity.
- New member breakfast opportunities for new members to meet seasoned colleagues and establish mentors as they begin their public health career.
- A Lending Library for all to borrow study guides for the RS and CP-FS exams.
- MHOA's "NEW" Guide to Local Public Health in Massachusetts. A resource guide for local public health professionals.
- Social Media Informational Infographics from APHC.
- Public Health Excellence Grants with the Coalition of Local Public Health (CLPH)

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Enter for a chance to win a free seat at an upcoming MHOA Quarterly Program! Raffle winner will be announced on April 15th.

Enter Raffle!



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SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS



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