Proposed Rescission of 105 CMR 345.000: The Establishment of State Certified Clinics for the Diagnosis, Treatment and Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Public Health Council
January 13, 2016

Kevin Cranston, MDiv
Director, Bureau of Infectious Disease

Alfred DeMaria, MD

State Epidemiologist, Medical Director, Bureau of Infectious Disease

Background

- 105 CMR 345.000 was established in 1933 to regulate the procedures for designation of state-certified STD clinics.
- In the early 1900s the treatment of STDs was very different than it is today.
- It was practical to establish state-funded clinics to treat STDs:
  - STDs were a curable infection
  - Many individuals who could not afford it
  - State funded services were needed
  - The national war on syphilis was declared by the Surgeon General in the 1930s.
- During the 1950s and 1960s there were over 20 STD clinics in Massachusetts.
- Clinics began to close in the early 1980s, as STD care became part of other primary care and screening initiatives.
- By 2009, the remaining clinics closed.

Reasons to Rescind

- The implementation of health care reform in MA in 2006 and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2013 has increased the number of individuals with health insurance that covers STD screening and care, significantly reducing the need for specialized clinics providing these services at no cost.
- The Bureau of Infectious Disease (BID) funds clinical and community-based sites to provide integrated screening and treatment services encompassing HIV, STDs, and viral hepatitis.
- The Department maintains statutory authority to establish such clinics if necessary moving forward (M.G.L. c111 §117).

Recommendation/Next Steps

- Bureau of Infectious Disease has conducted a comprehensive review of 105 CMR 345.000: The Establishment of State Certified Clinics for the Diagnosis, Treatment and Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and recommends rescission.
- Following this presentation to the Public Health Council, a public hearing and comment period will be held.
- Following review of public comments, rescission will likely be requested at a subsequent meeting of the Public Health Council.