



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health

Helping People Lead Healthy Lives In Healthy Communities

Commissioner's Update

Cheryl Bartlett, RN
Commissioner of Public Health

Public Health Council
March 12, 2014



“The 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.”

DPH Goals

1. ***Support the success of health care reform*** by ensuring that public health is involved in promoting wellness and access to high quality care while reducing increases in health care costs.
2. ***Reduce health disparities*** by promoting health equity.
3. ***Promote wellness*** and reduce chronic disease.
4. ***Strengthen local and state public health systems*** to prevent disease and promote health.
5. ***Reduce youth violence.***

Key DPH Initiatives

- **Opioid Overdose Prevention**
- **Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund**
- **Climate Change**
- **Strengthening DPH infrastructure**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Public Health Accreditation**

Opioid Overdose Prevention

- BSAS overdose prevention grants to 71 cities and towns (\$1.7M)
- Opioid dependence treatment programs, including medication-assisted therapies
- Training of substance abuse providers in overdose prevention strategies
- Prescription Monitoring Project to reduce diversion
- Nasal naloxone pilot since 2007
 - Training of public safety officials, friends, family, and other likely witnesses to overdoses
 - Over 2,500 overdoses reversed
 - Good Samaritan Law protects those who call 911

Opioid Overdose Prevention

- Collaboration between BSAS, BID, HCQ, BCHAP, BSHIRE and Office of Health Planning
 - Formal cross bureau workgroup
 - Strengthening and coordinating our message
- Exploring regulatory options for first responders
- Planning a series of roundtables to meet with local officials and learn how we can work together to raise awareness of resources
- Partnering with Executive Office of Public Safety, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, municipal officials, substance abuse providers and community coalitions

Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund

- Part of healthcare cost containment legislation (Chapter 224)
- \$57 million to promote evidence-based community prevention efforts
- Up to 15% for administration and evaluation
- Up to 10% for worksite wellness
- Commissioner awards 75% of Trust funds through a competitive grant process
- Activities support state goal to meet health care cost growth benchmark and have the following functions:
 - Reduce rates of common preventable health conditions
 - Increase healthy habits
 - Increase adoption of effective health management and workplace wellness programs
 - Address health disparities
 - Build evidence of effective prevention programming

PWTF Grant Program

- Overall goal: implementation of interventions that demonstrate health care cost savings
- Advice and guidance from the Prevention and Wellness Advisory Board
- RFR was released at the end of August. Awards announced on January 27th.
 - Local partnerships that must include community and clinical partners as well as a municipality or regional planning agency
 - 4 priority conditions– **hypertension, tobacco use, pediatric asthma** and **falls among older adults**. Partnerships must address *at least* two of these conditions
 - Optional conditions include: diabetes, obesity, substance abuse and oral health. Additionally, applicants could choose to address behavioral health, including substance abuse, as a co-morbid condition
 - Interventions must be done in three domains – community settings, clinical settings and through community-clinical linkage

PWTF Grant Awards

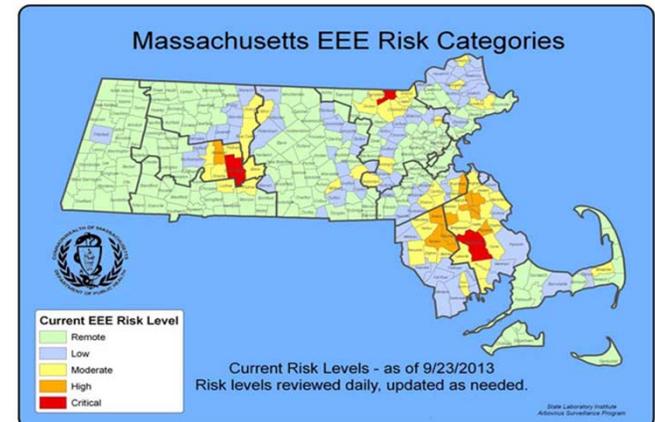
- 9 awardees in two cohorts
- **Cohort 1: Implementation**
 - Holyoke Health Center, Inc.
 - City of Worcester
 - Boston Public Health Commission (North Dorchester and Roxbury)
 - City of Lynn
 - Manet Community Health Center, Inc. (Quincy and Weymouth)
- **Cohort 2: Capacity Strengthening**
 - Barnstable County Department of Human Services (Barnstable, Mashpee, Falmouth, Bourne)
 - New Bedford Health Department (New Bedford and Fall River)
 - Town of Hudson (Framingham, Hudson, Marlborough, Northborough)
 - Berkshire Medical Center (Berkshire County)

Next Steps

- Establishing common and site specific benchmarks for awardees
- IT/Evaluation site visits being conducted (to assure capacity for bi-directional e-referral)
- Kick off Event with grantees and stakeholders: March 13th
- Programmatic site visits: end of March/beginning of April
- Completing staff hires to support ongoing TA and QI needs

Evolving Challenges in a Changing Climate

- **Arbovirus (WNV, EEE)**
- **Vibrio**
- **Recreational Water Contamination**
- **Issues associated with intense storms, tornados**
 - **Housing impacts (mold, structural issues)**
 - **Impacts to retail and wholesale food establishments**
 - **Indoor air quality in schools and public buildings**



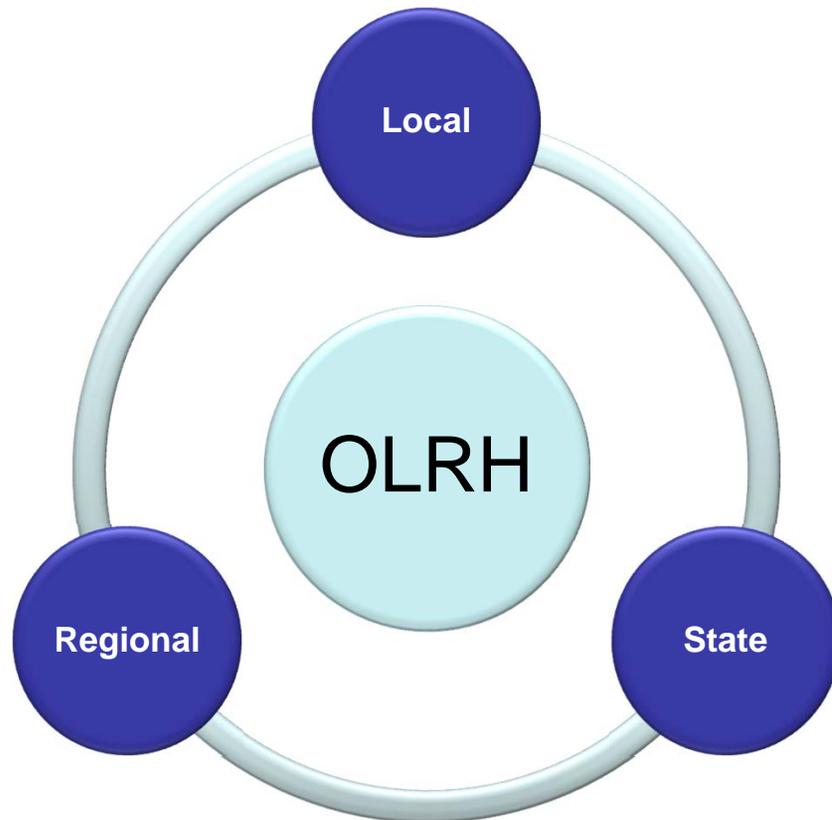
Governor Patrick's Climate Change Initiative

- Climate change is a priority in the Governor's FY 15 budget: Includes funding to increase DPH resources for EEE/WNV and Vibrio
- Internal workgroup to coordinate our efforts including BEH, BID, State Laboratory, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management and Office of Local and Regional Health
- Partnering with Executive Office of Energy and Environment including Dept of Fish and Game, Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Environmental Protection and local boards of health.

Strengthening DPH Infrastructure

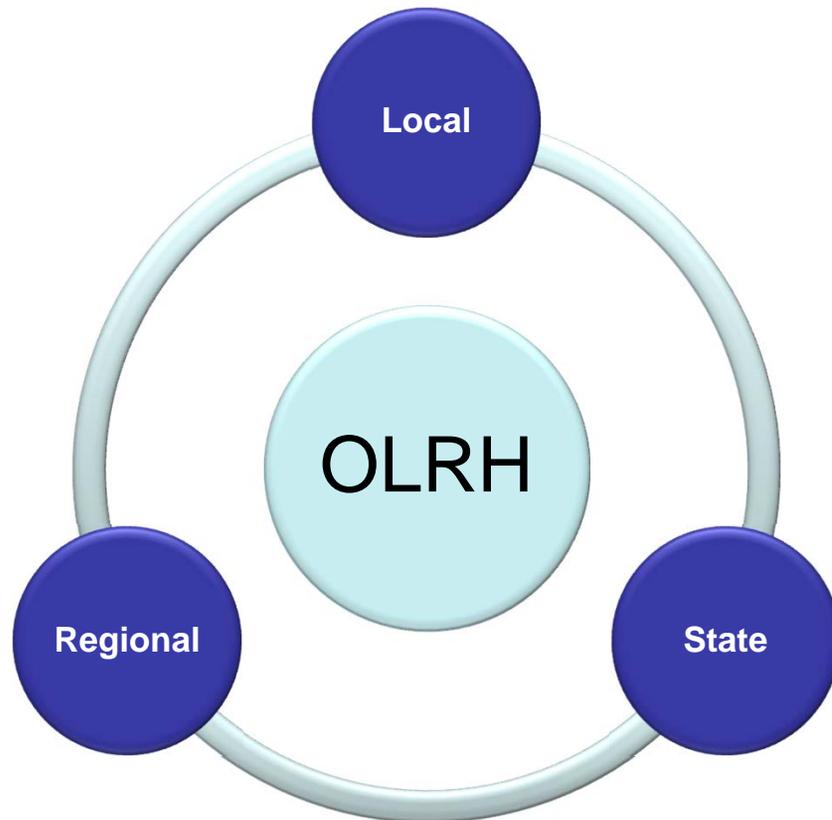
- Office of Health Equity
- Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (formerly Emergency Preparedness Bureau)
- Office of Health Information Policy and Informatics (working closely with Bureau of Health Information, Statistics, Research and Evaluation)
- Office of Local and Regional Health
- Office of Health Planning

Office of Local and Regional Health



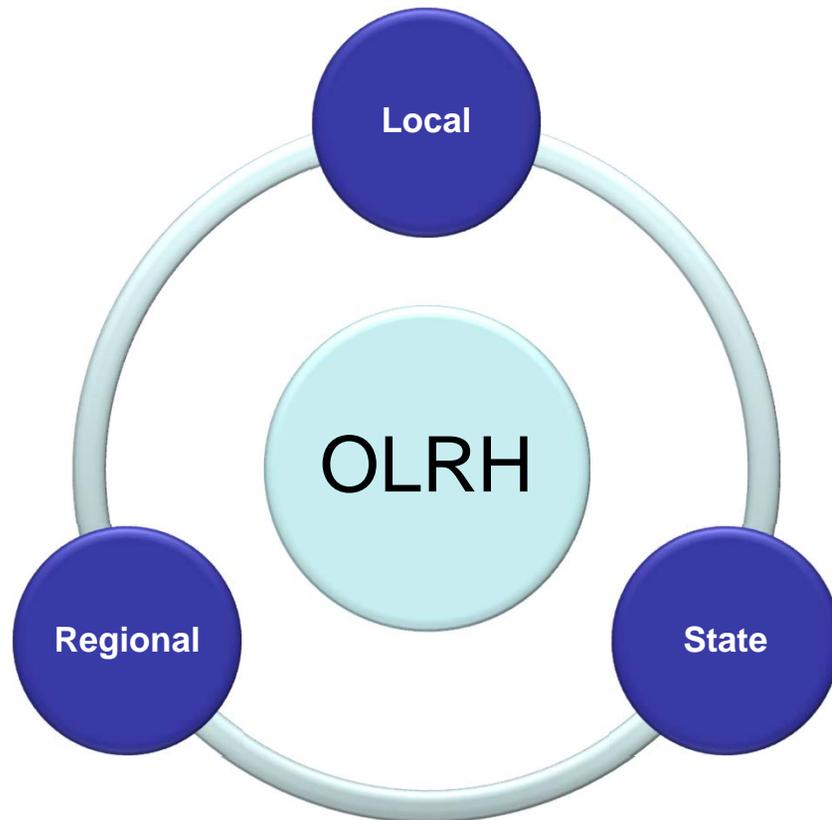
- Providing technical assistance to local health officials
- Providing regional support throughout the Commonwealth
- Participating in meetings of Coalition for Local Public Health and other bodies

Office of Local and Regional Health



- The office is under the supervision of Associate Commissioner Suzanne Condon; Jana Ferguson will serve as Director of OLRH
- Five Regional Office Directors will report to Jana
- Working with MHOA, MAHB and other organizations to identify needs of local boards of health, set priorities
- Will explore ways to re-align resources to meet needs

Office of Local and Regional Health



- Staff supported the Commissioner in holding eight regional dialogues across the Commonwealth
- Dialogues held in Worcester, Pittsfield, Holyoke, Newton, New Bedford, Hyannis, Lowell, and Boston (in collaboration with Boston Public Health Commission)
- DPH also held three listening sessions with over 60 staff who work with community coalitions

Office of Health Planning

- Office under the supervision of Associate Commissioner Madeleine Biondolillo, MD
- The goal of the Office is to coordinate implementation of healthcare reform (state and ACA) and cost containment and related cross-bureau/office projects.
- Will help coordinate priorities with insurance , healthcare providers, hospitals and community health centers.
- Will represent DPH on Interagency Quality Work Group, Statewide Quality Advisory Committee (SQAC) and related committees.

Office of Health Planning: Areas of Work

- Community Health Planning/Determination of Need
 - DoN regulations and new guidance
- Coordination of DON Factor
 - Conducting Health Impact Assessment
- Interagency Market Analysis Working Group
- Provider Price Disclosure
- Coordinating Chapter 224 implementation and Health Planning Council

Office of Health Planning: Areas of Work

- Cross bureau work including
 - Academic detailing
 - Integration Initiative Committee
 - Behavioral Health and Primary Care services
 - Tiered System of Care for Stroke
 - Invasive Cardiac Services
 - Emergency Room Boarding
 - Rest Home Planning

Improving Coordination

- Strengthening Interagency Collaboration
 - Newly created BSAB Veterans Services Coordinator
 - Prevention and Treatment supports for Veterans with substance abuse issues
 - Partner with Veterans Affairs and other state agencies
- Strengthening Inter-department Collaboration
 - Created LGBTQ inter-department workgroup
 - Developing data resources and improving health access

Public Health Accreditation

- Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) incorporated in 2007
 - 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 preparing to apply for accreditation in the fall of 2014

State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

- Setting state priorities for improving health of population
- Plan to include measureable objectives and strategies
- Over 70 private and public sector stakeholders involved
- Advisory Council met monthly, May – August followed by three fall retreats
- Plan will be finalized this spring





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Thank you