Board of Health Annual Report 2015

Background

The Orange Board of Health staffs one full time Health Agent, Andrea Crete and a part time Clerk, Margaret Dyer. Andrea Crete replaced former Health Agent to the Board, Roger Mallet on April 1, 2015 and was voted at an annual Town Meeting to become full time July 1, 2015. The Board of Health provides services to the Town of Orange including but not limited to communicable and reportable disease surveillance via an online epidemiological network (MAVEN), public health investigations, public health messaging, 24-7 public health emergency response, seasonal flu vaccination clinics, tobacco control, substance abuse prevention programs, State mandated public health inspections and complaint management. The Board of Health meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6PM in the Board of Health Office located on 135 East Main Street in the Armory Building.

The report below details the services the Orange Board of Health provided to the Town of Orange for the 2015 calendar year. Please contact the Orange Board of Health with any questions, comments, requests for additional information, and to relay any specific public health concerns in Orange.

Leominster Tobacco Control Alliance

Joan Hamlett is director of the Central Massachusetts Boards of Health Tobacco Control Alliance representing 34 communities including the Town of Orange. Other inspectional staff in the Alliance includes Rick Saudelli and Eric Jack.

The Alliance assists the Local Boards of Health in the 34 communities in drafting local tobacco control regulations and is responsible for conducting youth access to tobacco compliance checks and point-of-purchase audits of all tobacco retail facilities. These inspections ensure retailers are in compliance with State and local regulations surrounding tobacco and to ensure staff is not selling tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18 years. The Alliance also responds to complaints related to the smoke free workplace laws.

Massachusetts Law prohibits the sale of any tobacco products to those under the age of 18 years as discussed in M.G.L. Chapter 270, Section 6. The Federal Synar Amendment requires all states to conduct random, unannounced compliance checks with local retailers where underage youth may attempt to purchase tobacco. There is a direct correlation between the rates of youth access and the funding of programs that educate retailers and enforce the law.

The Orange Board of Health permits 13 retail establishments to sell tobacco products. The Board of Health has tobacco control regulations protecting people in the work place and public places as well regulations for retail establishments in order to reduce the selling of tobacco to youth. A copy of these regulations can be found on the Board of Health website.

Below is a breakdown of the work and inspections the Leominster Tobacco Control Alliance has done for the Town of Orange Board of Health for 2015.
Inspections:

Youth Access:
Number of Inspections: 1*Partial
Number of Store Inspections: 13
Number of Violations: 0
Number of Warnings: 0

Leominster Tobacco Control Alliance conducted a flavored cigar compliance check in August and Orange had 100% compliance.

Retailer Inspections:
Number of Inspections: 1*Partial
Number of Store Inspections: 11
Number of Violations: 2
Number of Warnings: 2
Number of re-inspections: 2
Number of Violations from re-inspections: 0

This was an inspection to check for cigar/wrap issues only. The regular educational retail inspection is scheduled for Jan. 2016. Merchant Education packets, Under 27 materials, Attorney General memo on new regulations, and DOR application instructions will delivered to each merchant to assist in training their employees not to sell to minors as part of full retail education inspection.

Smoke-Free Workplace Law or Secondhand smoke Inspections:
Number of Inspections: 0 (Scheduled for Jan)

Pricing Survey
Number of Inspections: 1
Number of Store Inspections: 6

*Every store gets checked once per year for pricing survey. DPH/MTCP selects which stores to inspect for each quarter.

11 Orange residents were referred to www.makesmokinghistory.org for cessation resources.
9 Landlord/Tenants were referred to www.makesmokinghistory.org for information on smoking-free housing after determining that their issues were not a violation of the Smoke-free Workplace Law.

Substance Abuse Prevention

The NQCC Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force is the largest task force this year. It serves as a local communication hub for all involved in the epidemic of heroin and opioid use. This group includes members from the MOAPC Grant serving Fitchburg, Leominster, Gardner and Athol as well as members of the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and NQ. The group also includes representatives from the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office, the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, both area school districts, law enforcement, treatment providers, community and state agencies as well as community members. This year the group hosted the 4th annual National Night Out Against Crime event with sites in both Athol and Orange. It was hugely attended and proved to be a positive experience for all who came to enjoy hotdogs, lemonade, games, informational materials, live music, and a welcoming atmosphere for all. The group is planning for the 5th annual event in August and will be adding an additional site in Petersham. The group also had a strong presence in the annual River Rat parade this past year. There were
20 volunteers who marched wearing and holding inspirational signs with statistics and messages about substance abuse. The group partnered with The YMCA Project Purple team and Rep. Susannah Whipps-Lee’s office to spread the message “Proud to be me, no additives needed.” June 23rd will be the next event hosted by this task force, with a Call to Action for anyone in the North Quabbin who would like to be a part of this conversation. Please visit www.nqcc.org for more information.

**Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force 2015-2016**

- Meets the first Tuesday of every Month 10-11:30am
- Participates in River Rat Race Parade for pro-social messages, as well as prevention, treatment, and intervention
- Hosts and Coordinates National Night Out Event Petersham, Athol and Orange
- Distributes information for parents at Family Fun Day, Munch N’ Move, The Big Read, and regularly from NQCC Office and Website
- Co-Sponsors Call to Action Forums with Rep. Susannah Whipps-Lee
- Supports/Promotes Project Purple
- Brings together substance abuse prevention work and resources from both East and West, Luk INC., FRCOG, OTF of FC and NQ,
- Shares and informs practice across task forces and working groups
- Promotes/supports the training and use of Nalaxone and Nasal Narcan
- Helps spread messages of District Attorney Dave Sullivan’s Text-A-Tip and Quabbin Mediation’s Active Bystanding Program

**Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Coalition:**

The Massachusetts Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition is comprised of 74 cities and towns throughout central Massachusetts and is responsible to facilitate and assist those communities with their Public Health emergency planning and preparedness.

Region 2 contains the largest number of communities and comprises the largest geographical land mass of the sixteen coalitions in the state. Established in 2004, each community appoints a representative to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee elects an Executive Committee that is responsible for the management and oversight of the coalition and its consultant staff. Staff includes a Program Coordinator, Program Consultants/Planners and a Training/Technical Consultant. The coalition is funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via the Massachusetts DPH. The host agency for the coalition is the City of Worcester.

The Town of Orange is served by the Region 2 PHEP Coalition. The Health Agent Andrea Crete is the representative for Orange to the Steering Committee. Forrest Price is the Board of Health’s Emergency Preparedness Consultant who works with the Board of Health on planning and preparedness plans, policy, and deliverables that need to be met in order to receive State funding for emergency preparedness needs.

**PHEP Accomplishments for Orange BOH include:**

- Briefed the Health Agent on current Budget Period Four (BP4) policies and deliverables.
- Conducted three Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) drills to meet deliverables requirement.
- Observed the recent Senior Center Flu Clinic and discussed future opportunities to build upon a partnership with Rite-Aid Pharmacy.
• Assisted the Health Agent in preparing a successful request for funds to cover agent cell phone service costs.
• Continued to update plans and deliverables for the Orange BOH as changes are noted.

**Communicable Disease**

A crucial part of public health is disease surveillance, investigation, and intervention. The Orange Board of Health Agent, Andrea Crete monitors the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) for the Town of Orange, completes follow-up investigations on communicable and other reportable diseases. The Board of Health contracts with Athol Hospital to perform TB testing and direct-observation-therapy (DOT) on tuberculosis (TB) patients to ensure compliance. The types and numbers of disease reports in the Town of Orange are listed below.

Total number of MAVEN cases (including confirmed, contact, probable, revoked, and suspect): 61

- Calicivirus/Norovirus: 1
- Campylobacteriosis: 1
- Dengue Fever: 1
- Diptheria: 1
- Group B Streptococcus: 1
- Haemophilus Influenza: 2
- Hepatitis B: 1
- Hepatitis C: 15
- Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis: 2
- Influenza: 12
- Legionellosis: 1
- Lyme Disease: 14
- Refugee: 2
- Refugee Family: 2
- Rubella: 1
- Streptococcus pneumonia: 1
- Varicella: 2
- Viral Meningitis (aseptic): 1

**Flu Clinics**

Every year the Orange Board of Health spends time organizing, getting paperwork in place, and planning for seasonal flu clinics. The Board of Health relies on volunteers from the Wachusett Medical Reserved Corps to help staff these flu clinics.

The State Department of Public Health allocates free flu vaccine to local public health departments every year. However this year restrictions on use of this vaccine were limited to children under the age of 19 years and uninsured individuals. Due to the restrictions on State vaccine usage, the Orange Board of Health partnered with Rite Aid Pharmacy to vaccinate individuals over 19 years.

On October 21, 2015 a flu clinic was held at the Mahar Regional High School where 28 students were vaccinated. The Orange Board of Health held another clinic in partnership with Rite Aid Pharmacy on November 19, 2015 from 12-2PM open to anyone from the general public and from 3-5PM open to all Municipal Town employees. Rite Aid Pharmacy vaccinated 27 individuals over the age of 19 years.
**Sharps Disposal Mandate**

Effective July 1, 2012, sharps, as well as unopened packages of hypodermic needles and lancets, shall not be disposed of in solid municipal waste, including household waste, and shall be collected and disposed of in accordance with 105 CMR 480. The Orange Board of Health Department is a drop off site to dispose of sharps, supplying sharps containers at no cost to residents to bring back when full.

**Public Health Inspections:**

Local public health authorities are mandated through federal and State law to enforce codes, regulations and by-laws as necessary to ensure the health and welfare of its inhabitants. Various enforcement actions within the Food, Public-Semi Public Pools, Barns, Title 5, Housing and Camp regulations are provided by the Board of Health. Below is a summary of inspections for the second half of 2015 from July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 when the new Health Agent Andrea Crete became full time.

General Inspections (includes re inspections):
- 25 Nuisance Complaint Inspections (trash, odors, ect)
- 30 Housing Complaint Inspections
- 6 Pre Rental Housing Inspections
- 2 Recreational Camp Inspections
- 2 Public Swimming Pool Inspections
- 1 Tanning Facilities Inspections
- 3 Body Art Facilities Inspections
- 2 Mobile Home Park Complaint Inspections

Food Inspections:
- 51 Food Establishment Inspections
- 16 Re Inspections
- 3 Food Establishment Complaint Inspections
- 7 Temporary Food Event Inspections

Title 5:
- 23 Septic System Inspections (New, upgrades, repairs)
- 11 Soil Testing (Percs, deep hole observations)
- 12 Septic System Design Plan Reviews
- 20 Title 5 Inspection Report Reviews

**Animal Inspector:**

Rabies is a viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans. The virus attacks the central nervous system and can be secreted in saliva. Because rabies affects people as well as animals, control of this disease has become a top priority for the Division of Animal Health. Although bat strain rabies has been known to exist in Massachusetts since the 1960's, a small bat population in the state and infrequent exposures limited the need for widespread awareness and control. The raccoon rabies epidemic beginning in 1992 posed new problems for public health officials. Massachusetts law requires that owners of cats and dogs vaccinate their pets for rabies.

A municipal Animal Inspector is nominated under M.G.L. c. 129 and approved by the Department of Food and Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health. Andrea Crete is the Animal Inspector for the Town of
Animal Inspector duties include investigating into and issuing rabies quarantine orders; investigation of animal complaints; and conducting yearly barn inspections.

A Ten Day Rabies Quarantine is the strict confinement of an apparently healthy domestic animal that has bitten or scratched a human or other domestic animal. Quarantine is the confinement of a domestic animal from humans and other animals for the purposes of observing the animal for signs of rabies and minimizing chances of the animal spreading rabies to humans and other animals. This includes isolation and strict confinement. The Animal Inspector, after completing an investigation and determining that a domestic animal has bitten or scratched a human or another domestic animal, issues a written order to the person in custody of the biting animal requiring the animal to be placed under Strict Confinement for a period of ten days. The Ten Day quarantine applies regardless of the vaccination status of the biting animal.

If during this ten-day period the animal in strict confinement displays symptoms compatible with Rabies, the animal shall be euthanized immediately, and the Animal Inspector and Department shall be notified. Samples from any such euthanized animal, or animal which dies from any cause during the quarantine period, shall be submitted for rabies testing as described in 330 CMR 10.09.

A 45 Day Rabies Quarantine is when a domestic animal has a wound of unknown origin or has been exposed to a potential rabid animal and is up to date on rabies vaccination. The Animal Inspector, upon completion of an investigation and upon determination that a domestic animal has been exposed, will issue a written order to the person in custody of the exposed animal.

Where the Exposed domestic animal is Unvaccinated the quarantine period shall be 6 months with vaccination given a month prior to release.

For additional information on rabies quarantines please visit: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/animal-health/rabies-control-program/

**Rabies Quarantines for 2015:**

- 45 Day Quarantines: 9
- 6 Month Quarantines: 5

Additionally the Animal Inspector conducts yearly barn inspections filling out a Barn Book issued by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of collecting information on where farm animals (chickens, goats, horses, alpacas, pigs, turkeys, donkeys etc) are kept, noting the number and kind of each animal, minimum standards of shelter available, observations of the health status of the animals, and any cases of potential animal abuse or neglect.

Barn Inspections for 2015: 56

**Budget Overview:**

The Board of Health operates with a revolving fund capped at $20,000. Line item expenditures were created to ensure proper allocation of money within the department’s operating budget. The revolving fund is primarily funded by revenue from Board of Health permit fees. Below is a list of permits, licenses, and applications generating revenue to the revolving fund for 2015.

- 4 Body Art Permits
- 18 Disposal Works Construction (Septic) Permits
• 51 Food Establishment Permits
• 1 Funeral Director Permit
• 3 Motel/Inn Permits
• 12 Pre Rental Housing Inspection Permits
• 4 Recreational Camp Permit
• 7 Refuse Hauler Permits
• 5 Septage Hauler Permits
• 9 Septic Installer Permits
• 14 Soil Testing Permits
• 2 Tanning Permits
• 47 Temporary Food Establishment Permits
• 29 Title 5 Inspection Reports (File/Review Fee)
• 8 Tobacco Retail Permits
• 7 Well Permits

**Orange Board of Health Contacts**

Andrea Crete – Health Agent  
Office: 978-544-1107  
Email: acrete.orangeboh@gmail.com

Margaret Dyer – Clerk  
Office: 978-544-1107  
Email: pegcounter@yahoo.com

Jane Peirce – Board of Health Chair  
Email: jane.peirce@state.ma.us

Rebecca Bialecki – Board of Health Member  
Email: rebeccabialecki@gmail.com

Elizabeth Bouchard – Board of Health Member  
Email: eb121@ymail.com

Respectfully Submitted – Andrea Crete