Board of Health Annual Report 2016

Background

The Orange Board of Health staffs one full time Health Director, Andrea Crete who was promoted from Health Agent to Director by the Board of Health on October 4, 2016 and one part time Clerk, Margaret Dyer who served as the Board of Health Clerk for 19 years of dedicated service, retired on June 16, 2016. 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 2016 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 12 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 2016.

**Inspections:**

**Youth Access:**
Number of Inspections/year 2
Number of Store Inspections 24*
Number of Violations 1
Number of Warnings 1

Leominster Tobacco Control Alliance conducted a cigarette check in January and there was one sale to a minor. We conducted a cigar compliance check in June and had 100% compliance.

*There are 12 tobacco permit holders in Orange. Youth do not gain access to the private club and one new store opened late in 2016 and was not included in the checks.

**Retailer Inspections:**
Number of Inspections/year 1
Number of Store Inspections 14*
Number of Violations 4
Number of Warnings 4
Number of re-inspections 2
Number of Violations from re-inspections 0

Merchant Education packets, Under 27 materials, Attorney General Memo on new regulations, and DOR application instructions was 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 3
There were two complaints this year regarding smoking. One inspection at the cemetery and two inspections at the Mattawa Beach. No violations were observed in any of the inspections.

**Substance Abuse Prevention**

The North Quabbin Community Coalition (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 NQCC’s Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force held its 6\textsuperscript{th} National Night Out Event with sites in Orange, Athol and Petersham. They had well over 300 visitors between the sites and huge participation from their friends in law enforcement. Including but not limited to Chief Lundgren in the dunk tank at Butterfield Park!

They continued their messaging campaign with a strong presence in the River Rat Parade and the Celebrate the Harvest Parade, in spite of Mother Nature’s Attempt to thwart their efforts. They hosted Naloxone (Narcan) trainings in both Petersham and the Orange Armory Site in collaboration with the Orange Board of Health, The Opioid Task Force, and Tapestry Health which saw 28 participants at both sites, who all received kits. They also were told of a man who had attended the Orange Training having a successful save using the kit he had received. Much thanks to the Task Force!

The Task Force continues their work as well to promote the North Quabbin as a community that cares, and supports both prevention and long term recovery. They have had presentations by the Recovery Learning Community and are in talks with the Recover Project in Greenfield to discuss a North Quabbin based satellite site. They presented on the marijuana effects of the adolescent brain in both Orange and Athol for parents and professionals, and continue to support municipal decision making regarding signage and enforcement of this issue.

This task force is diverse and mighty and represents both Worcester County and Franklin to make sure those living and working in North Quabbin get the best resources both have to offer. They look forward to 2017 opening 2 additional treatment facilities in our local area, and hopefully continuing to educate and support our region.

Special thank you is given to the Orange Board of Health for their continued membership in the coalition, and all they do to support the overall wellness of Orange.

Please visit \url{www.nqcc.org} for more information.

**Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force**

- 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 Director 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 Director on current Budget Period Four (BP5) policies and deliverables.
- Conducted three Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) drills to meet the CDC 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 Director in preparing a successful request for funds to cover Director cell phone service costs.
- Attended a Hazmat Training which met a training deliverable.
- Continued to update PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) 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 Director, Andrea Crete monitors the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological 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 (C), contact (CT), probable (P), revoked (R), and suspect (S)): 68

Ehrlichiosis: 1 (P)
Group A Streptococcus: 1 (R)
Group B Streptococcus: 1 (C)
Haemophilus Influenza: 1 (R)
Hepatitis B: 1 (P)
Hepatitis C: 14 (2CT, 4C, 6P, 2R)
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis: 1 (C)
Influenza: 23 (C)
Lyme Disease: 20 (S)
Salmonellosis: 2 (C)
Varicella: 2 (1C, 1S)
Zika Virus: 1 (R)

**Flu Clinics**

Every year the Orange Board of Health Director, who is also the Vaccine Manager for the 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 13, 2016 a flu clinic was held at the Mahar Regional High School where 14 students were vaccinated. The Orange Board of Health held another clinic in partnership with Rite Aid Pharmacy on October 15, 2016 from 9AM- Noon open to anyone from the general public. Rite Aid Pharmacy vaccinated 62 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. The Board of Health will not turn anyone away regardless of residency.

**Community Improvement/Services:**

**River Rat Race**- The Board of Health had a presence in the River Rat Race Parade. The Health Director Andrea Crete marched in the parade alongside the North Quabbin Substance Abuse Coalition to show support on behalf of the Board of Health for those recovering from substance abuse and addiction, and for families coping with loved ones.
Family Fun Day – The Board of Health participated in the Family Fun Day event at the Athol – Orange Lodge of Elks on May 14th giving away 60 jump ropes to promote health and well being. Additional information was given out on tips to stay healthy and support for those suffering from substance abuse.

Nasal Narcan Training- The Board of Health sponsored a Free nasal narcan training at the Armory on August 30, 2016. This training was provided by the Opioid Task Force, and Tapestry Health which saw 28 participants at the training. Free nasal narcan was given out after the training.

Foreclosure Presentation – In a effort to reduce homeowner foreclosures in the Town of Orange which increase the risk of vacant and abandoned housing, and to educated residents and homeowners on the process of foreclosure and provide resources to help, the Orange Board of Health sponsored a free informational presentation by the Attorney General’s Office of Consumer Advocacy on the foreclosure process on September 29, 2016. The Attorney General’s Power Point Presentation can be found on the Board of Health website under “Mortgage Foreclosures and Evictions” link.

Attorney General’s Abandoned Housing Initiative- The Orange Board of Health is partnering with the Attorney General Office’s Abandoned Housing Initiative to tackle residential abandoned/vacant housing in the Town of Orange. Many of these properties are in conditions of disrepair that make them unsafe, become an attractive nuisance to kids, vandalism, breaking and entering, squatters, and blight to the neighborhood. This initiative helps to bring these properties back into compliance thru enforcement and receivership. This is an ongoing project to increase property values in the community, prevent vandalism, decrease blight, and increase the overall image of housing in the Town.

For more information or to report a property you think is a candidate for this initiative, please contact the Orange Board of Health.

Electronic Payment System - In an effort to make business transactions easier and more convenient for some customers, the Orange Board of Health voted to be part of the Town’s Electronic Payment System via Unipay Gold. Business transactions can be made on the Board of Health’s website using the “Pay online for Applications” link. All Board of Health applications have been made available in PDF form on the Board of Health website as well.

Pre-Rental Housing Inspections Program- The Orange Board of Health has started offering pre- rental housing inspections for not just MRVP/Section 8 but for any rental property for a fee of $75 per unit. The program services include a dwelling unit inspection in addition to common areas, a re- inspection (if required), and a certificate of fitness for human habitation for units in full compliance with the MA State Housing Code 105 CMR 410.000. Landlords or an authorized agent may request a pre- rental inspection prior to new tenants moving in or 30 days before the start of a lease agreement. There are many benefits to this program. Landlords benefit by receiving guidance on housing code requirements, documentation of the rental unit at the beginning of tenancy that can be utilized against illegal rent withholding and tenant damage to the unit, and marketable units to interested renters.
Tenants benefit by being provided with a legal, safe and sanitary dwelling unit, and receive education on their responsibilities and rights as a tenant.

This program also benefits the community by receiving proper care and maintenance of residential properties, promoting healthy homes that protect children, seniors and other occupants, and ensuring legal and proper use of the dwellings in accordance with zoning, building, and sanitary code requirements.

Applications for pre-rental inspections can be found online at the Board of Health website under the “Downloadable Forms and Applications” link. Pre-rental inspections can be scheduled with the Health Director Andrea Crete by calling 978-544-1107.

**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, Title 5, Housing, Recreational Camps, Body Art, and Mobile Park regulations are provided by the Board of Health. Below is a summary of inspections for the calendar year 2016.

**General Inspections (includes re inspections):**
- 27 Nuisance Complaint Inspections (trash, odors, etc)
- 46 Housing Complaint Inspections
- 15 Pre Rental Housing Inspections
- 3 Recreational Camp Inspections
- 1 Public Swimming Pool Inspections
- 3 Tanning Facilities Inspections
- 5 Body Art Facilities Inspections
- 1 Campground Inspection
- 7 Motel/Inn Inspections

**Food Inspections:**
- 120 Food Establishment Inspections
- 6 Re Inspections
- 0 Food Establishment Complaint Inspections
- 10 Temporary Food Event Inspections

**Title 5:**
- 31 Septic System Inspections (New, upgrades, repairs)
- 18 Soil Testing (Percs, deep hole observations)
- 12 Septic System Design Plan Reviews
- 42 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 Orange. 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 4 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 2016:

45 Day Quarantines: 7
4 Month Quarantines: 1

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 ect) 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 2016: 15 (Barn inspections start in the fall, and go into the end of March, so this number does not represent the total inspections done.)

Budget Overview:

The Board of Health operates with a revolving fund with a spending limit of $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 2016.

- 1 Bathing Beach Permit
- 6 Body Art Permits
- 3 Cabins/Campground Permits
- 1 Dairy Pasteurization Permit
- 15 Disposal Works Construction (Septic) Permits
- 68 Food Establishment Permits
- 2 Frozen Dessert Manufacturing Permits
- 2 Funeral Director Permit
- 3 Mobile Home Park Permits
- 3 Motel/Inn Permits
- 9 Pre Rental Housing Inspection Permits
- 3 Recreational Camp Permit
- 10 Refuse Hauler Permits
- 7 Septage Hauler Permits
- 12 Septic Installer Permits
- 5 Septic Repair Permits
- 16 Soil Testing Permits
- 1 Semi Public/Public Swimming Pool Permit
- 1 Tanning Establishment Permit
- 44 Temporary Food Establishment Permits
- 42 Title 5 Inspection Reports (File/Review Fee)
- 13 Tobacco Retail Permits
- 10 Well Permits
Orange Board of Health Contacts

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Respectfully Submitted – Andrea Crete