Board of Health Annual Report 2017

Background

The Orange Board of Health staffs one full time Health Director, Andrea Crete and one part time Administrative Assistant, Tammy-Lynn Chace who was hired on May 2, 2017. 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 at 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 2017 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. Please visit the Board of Health website for any public health related topics, resources, and Board of Health applications.

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, Lisa Parker, 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 11 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.

**Youth Access:**

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<td>Number of Violations</td>
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Leominster Tobacco Control Alliance conducted a cigar compliance check in June and 100% compliance. Orange was not selected for the Synar Cigarette Check for the 2016 Calendar year. We were notified in December that one Orange retailer sold tobacco to a minor in an FDA inspection. That retailer has been added to our repeat violator/compliant list, which allows us to do additional compliance checks based on complaint.

**Retailer Inspections:**

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Merchant Education packets, New Orange Flavor Regulations, Restricted Flavor Guide and 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. One Retailer was missing a required cigar sign and the issue was corrected on the spot. An additional retail visit inspection occurred in September to ensure all retailers in Orange were in Compliance with new flavor restrictions.

**Smoke-Free Workplace Law or Secondhand smoke Inspections:**

Number of complaints requiring Inspections: 3

- Secondhand smoke migration outside of town hall entrance, which resulted in an employee notice and sign posting. No more reports of non-compliance.
- Smoking in an office of a storage company, non-compliance was determined, a warning and signs given. Compliance upon re-inspection with no more reports of violation.
- Employee smoking in a convenience store, non-compliance was determined, re-inspection determined non-compliance. A fine was issued and paid.

**Pricing Survey**

Number of Inspections: 11

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

- 9 Orange residents were referred to www.makesmokinghistory.org for cessation resources.
- 2 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.
- During a pricing survey, a retailer was found to carry small amount of Backwoods product that is on the restricted list. Retailer removed the product immediately and was compliant upon re-inspection.

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 7th National Night Out Event with sites in Orange, Athol and Petersham. They had well over 500 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!

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, in collaboration with The Franklin County Sheriff’s Office and The Opioid Task Force have launched The North Quabbin Recovery Center. The center is sited at 416 Main St. in Athol and will serve all North Quabbin residents, both peers and allies. It is scheduled to officially open Spring 2018.

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. In 2017 2 additional treatment facilities opened in our local area. Both have joined the task force to share updates and continue their strives to better serve our community.

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 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
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 Naloxone 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. This year the PHEP Coalition adapted their approach of how the planners serve each community, now each community has the opportunity to work with four planners on various different initiatives going on in the region. The planners are working on the following initiatives this year: Regional EDS Template, Staffing Imitative Project, SNS Drills, and Technology Equipment Trainer.

PHEP Accomplishments for Orange BOH include:

- Briefed the Health Director on current Budget Period Four (BP6) policies and deliverables.
- Conducted 3 Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) drills to meet the CDC deliverables requirement.
- Observed the recent Senior Center Flu Clinic set up and discussed revisions to Emergency Dispensing Site Flow for EDS plans.
- Assisted the Health Director in preparing a successful request for funds to cover Director cell phone service costs.
- 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 monitors the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN) for the Town of Orange, and 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)): 81

- Camplobacteriosis: 1 (C)
- Group A Streptococcus: 6 (2C, 4R)
- Group B Streptococcus: 1 (C)
- Hepatitis C: 10 (4C, 1R, 5P)
- Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis: 3 (1C, 2S)
- Influenza: 41 (C)
- Legionellosis: 1 (C)
- Lyme Disease: 17 (S)
- Pertussis (And other Bordetella Species): 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 when needed. 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 used money from their revolving fund to pay for flu vaccine to vaccinate individuals over 19 years of age. On October 16, 2017 a flu clinic was held at the Mahar Regional High School where 21 students were vaccinated. The Orange Board of Health held Flu clinics at the Armory on October 7, 2017 and November 11, 2017 from 8AM-11AM open to anyone from the general public where a total of 67 people were vaccinated.

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.

Food Protection Manager Serv Safe Training- The Board of Health partnered with the Orange Senior Center to sponsor a Food Protection Manager Serv Safe training with Exam at the Armory on October 14, 2017. This training was provided by Bud Konn with HR Food Safe which saw 15 participants at the training.

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 2017.

General Inspections (includes any re inspections):
- 24 Nuisance Complaint Inspections (trash, odors, etc)
- 24 Housing Complaint Inspections
- 26 Pre Rental Housing Inspections
- 2 Recreational Camp Inspections
- 1 Public Swimming Pool Inspections
- 2 Body Art Facilities Inspections
- 2 Campground Inspection
- 4 Motel/Inn Inspections

Food Inspections:
- 122 Food Establishment Inspections
- 12 Re Inspections
- 0 Food Establishment Complaint Inspections
- 7 Temporary Food Event Inspections

Title 5:
- 34 Septic System Inspections (New, upgrades, repairs)
- 20 Soil Testing (Percs, deep hole observations)
- 13 Septic System Design Plan Reviews
- 35 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. 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 2017:**

- 10 Day Quarantines: 6
- 45 Day Quarantines: 10
- 4 Month Quarantines: 4

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 2017: 0 (Christian Hains was nominated as Animal Inspector on December 27, 2017 by the Select Board to assist the Health Director in doing the annual barn inspections)
Budget Overview:

The Board of Health operates with a revolving fund with a spending limit of $30,000. 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 2017.

- 2 Bathing Beach Permit
- 3 Body Art Permits
- 2 Cabins/Campground Permits
- 1 Dairy Pasteurization Permit
- 16 Disposal Works Construction (Septic) Permits
- 78 Food Establishment Permits
- 2 Frozen Dessert Manufacturing Permits
- 2 Funeral Director Permit
- 3 Mobile Home Park Permits
- 3 Motel/Inn Permits
- 20 Pre Rental Housing Inspection Permits
- 3 Recreational Camp Permit
- 22 Hauler Permits (Septage and Trash)
- 4 Septic Plan Re-Reviews
- 10 Septic Repair Permits
- 20 Soil Testing Permits
- 1 Semi Public/Public Swimming Pool Permit
- 42 Temporary Food Establishment Permits
- 35 Title 5 Inspection Reports (File/Review Fee)
- 12 Tobacco Retail Permits
- 10 Well Permits

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Respectfully Submitted – Andrea Crete