



Session Two: Promoting Collaboration Within and Across Municipalities

11am-12pm

Samuel Wong
Moderator



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Office of Local and Regional Health
Shared Service Arrangements

Kristin Black
Director of Shared Services
Kristin.E.Black@mass.gov

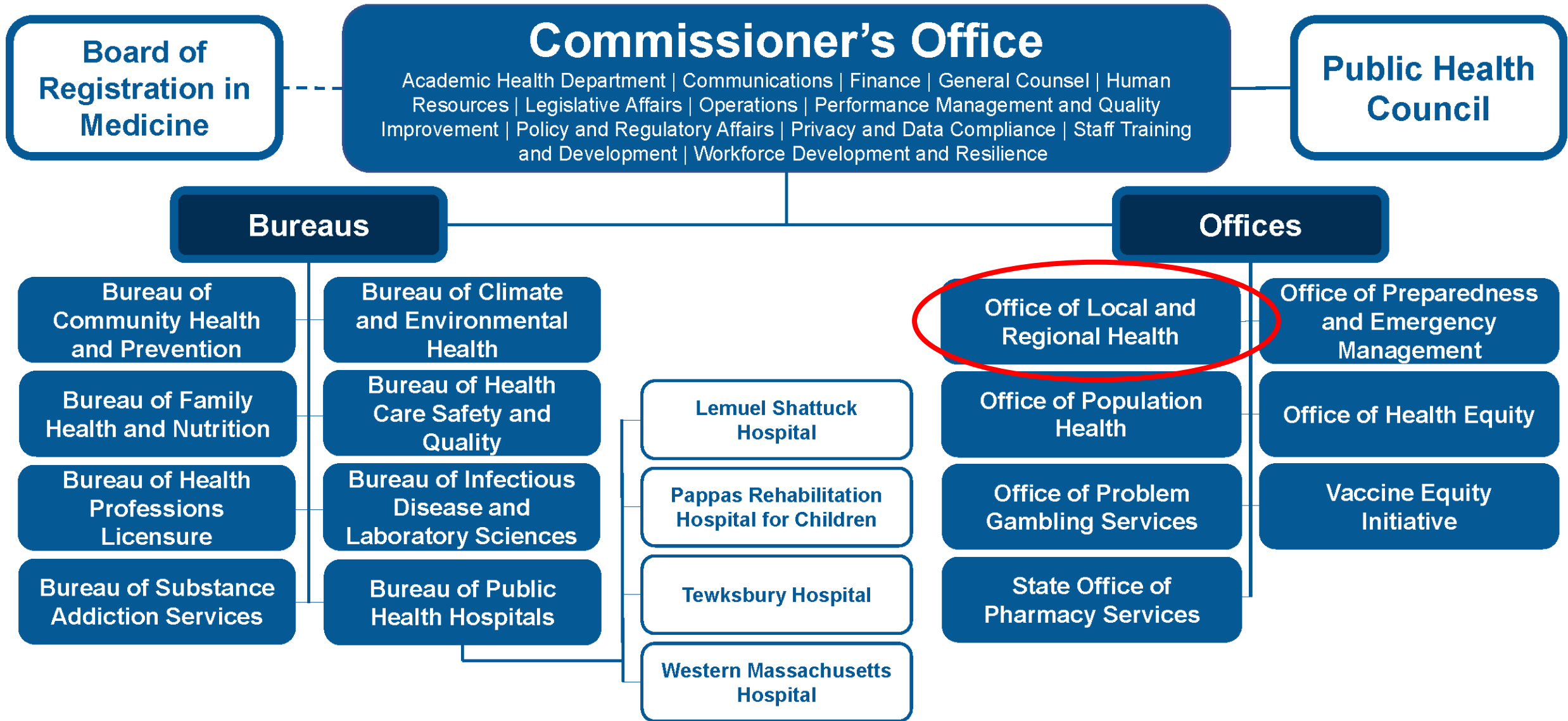
Massachusetts Municipal Opioid Abatement Conference
March 19, 2024

About Office of Local and Regional Health

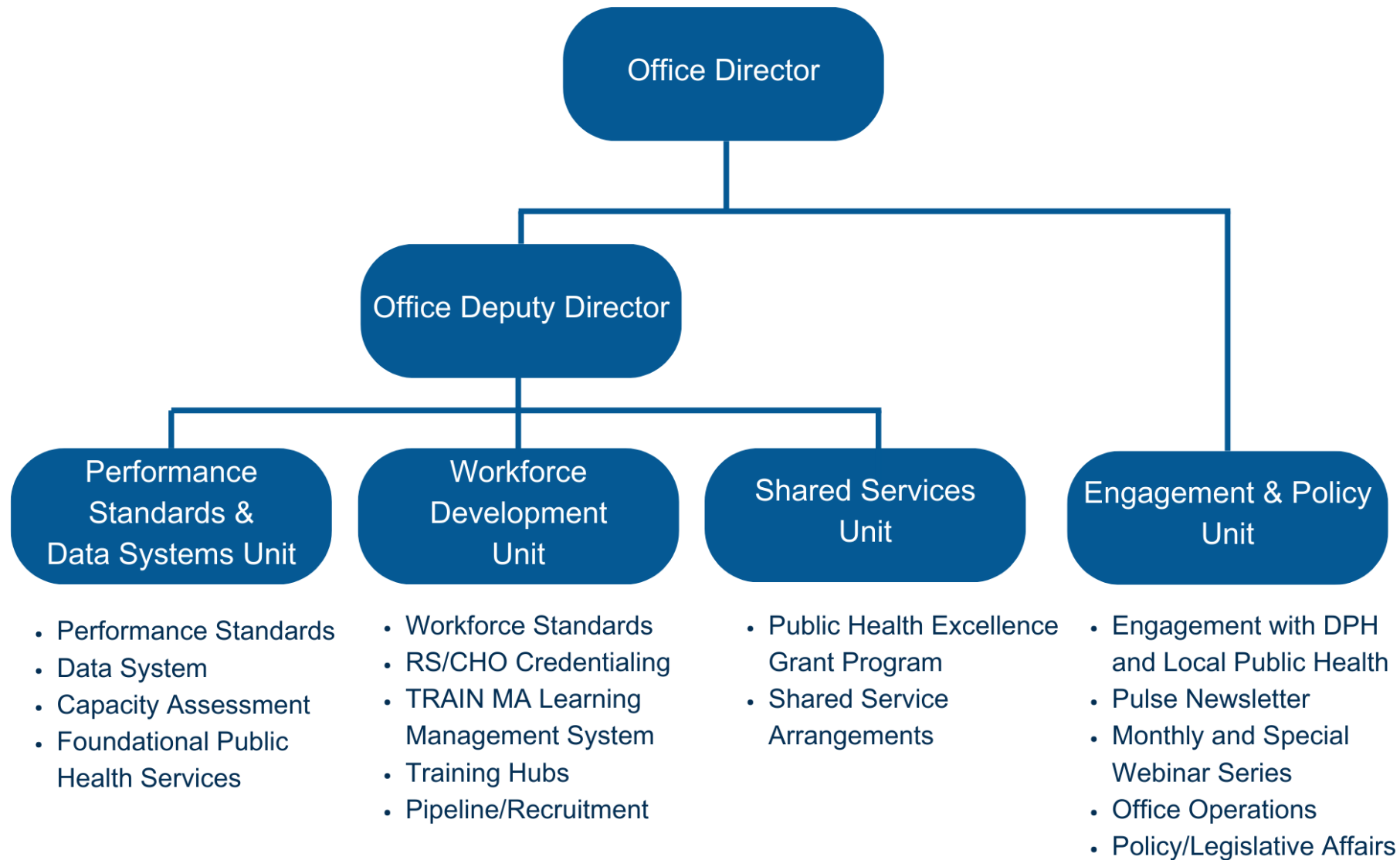
OLRH was created in 2013 to:

- **Provide a coordinated system**, which is dedicated to addressing local public health needs across Massachusetts
- **Connect our local health partners with DPH** programs, services, and resources
- **Enhance public health capacity** at the local and state level

Massachusetts Department of Public Health



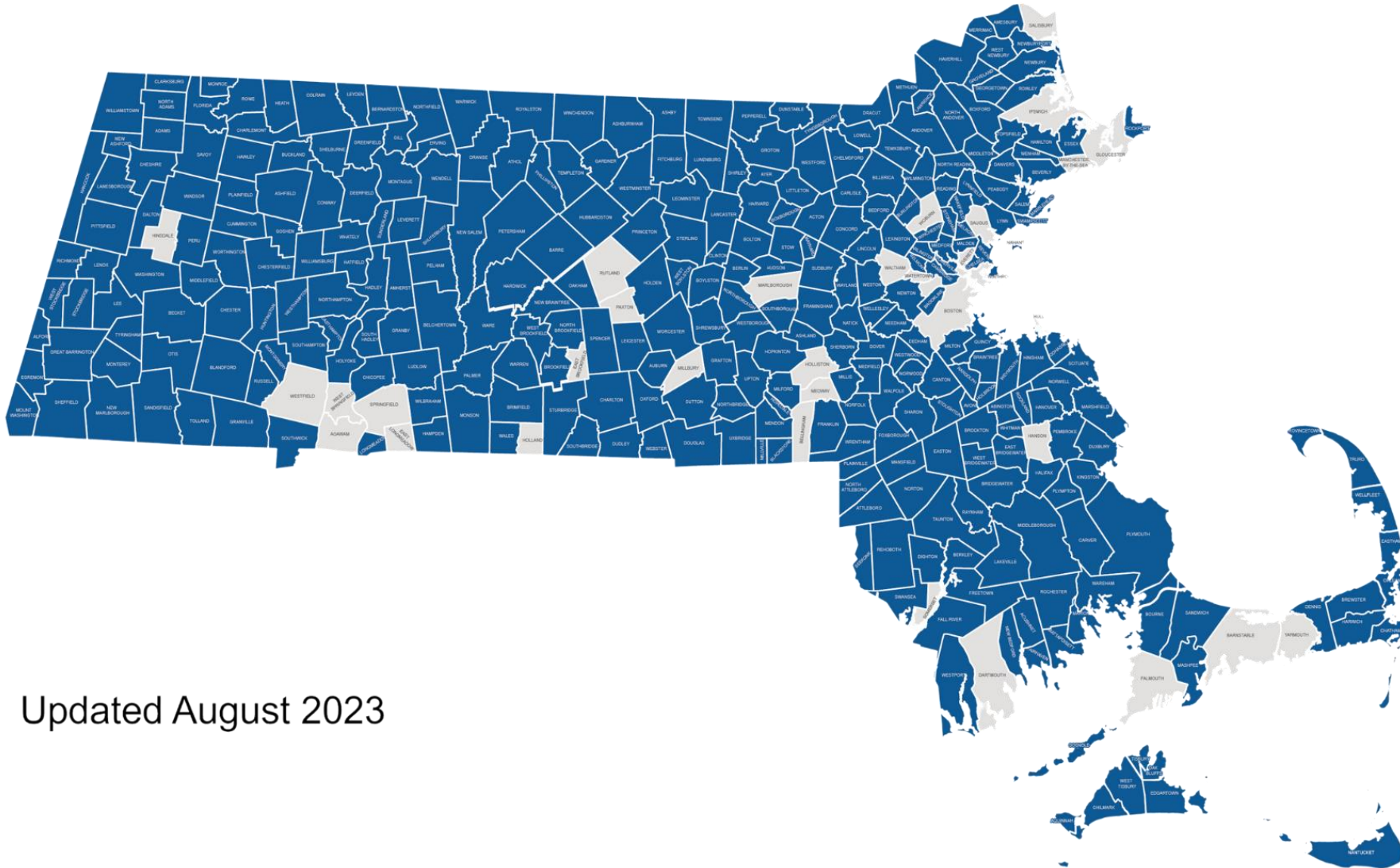
Organizational Structure



Public Health Excellence (PHE) Program Objectives

- To support the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health's recommendations for improved effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of local and regional public health by **promoting and expanding** the sharing of public health service(s)
- To **increase capacity** of local public health to better meet established performance standards
- Of Massachusetts's 351 individual municipal public health departments/boards of health, **320 are currently participating in 51 Shared Service Arrangements (SSAs)**

Public Health Excellence (PHE) Shared Services Grant Program



Updated August 2023

Public Health Excellence (PHE) Shared Services Grant Program

The PHE Shared Services Grant Program allows Shared Service Arrangements to expand and improve public health services by:



Hiring new public health staff



Training existing staff



Purchasing supplies and inspectional software

Shared Service Arrangements Benefits

By **pooling resources, functions, and expertise**, a Shared Service Arrangement can improve compliance with the Performance Standards and expand the public health services it offers residents.

The benefits to joining a Shared Service Arrangement include:

- **Funding:** Distributed **~\$24 million** to 51 Shared Service Arrangements
- **Performance Standards:** Support grantees in understanding and implementing the performance standards (available to all)
- **Support:** Access to a dedicated program coordinator

*as of February 2024

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance available with a network of skilled subject matter experts (SMEs) on topics including:

- Data Analysis and Epidemiology
- Racial and Health Equity
- Performance Standards
- Legal Matters
- Inter-Municipal Coordination



Shared Service Arrangement Success Stories

“To reach more members of the community, vaccination efforts were amplified and with positive outcomes; 2023 saw a 35% increase in the vaccination provided to residents across our communities. This included a 60% increase in the number of home-bound residents, one of our most vulnerable populations.”

Eastern Hampden Shared Public Health Services

“We were able to hire two nurses to provide much needed services in our partner communities. The nurses follow up on all infectious disease cases, provide educational programs, and organize vaccine clinics. They have also brought their passion into their work; one nurse started a “simple walking” program, another nurse teaches a Be-Safe program to curb gun deaths. We are fortunate to be able to provide these services to communities that have had limited public health services in the past.”

Valley Health Regional Collaborative

Learn More About the PHE Grant Program

The PHE Shared Services Grant Program is overseen by OLRH's Shared Services Unit.

If you are interested in learning more about the program or want to share feedback, **please contact Diana Acosta, Assistant Director of Shared Services**, at Diana.C.Acosta@mass.gov.

For more information about the Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant Program, please visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/shared-services>



Opioid Abatement Funds and Potential Municipal Partnerships

Cheryl Sbarra, Esq., Executive Director and Senior
Staff Attorney- sbarra@mahb.org

Massachusetts Association of Health Boards

March 19, 2024

Disclaimer

- This information is provided for educational purposes only and is not to be construed as legal advice.
- Your city or town attorney provides legal advice to your municipality.



Inter-Municipal Agreements (IMAs)

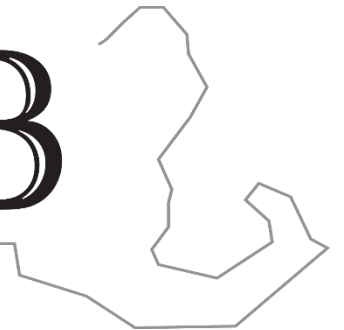
G.L. c. 40, s. 4A

- Authorizes Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a city or town to enter into agreements with one or more municipalities and other governmental units to jointly perform services and share costs which any one of them is authorized to perform.
 - CEO – Select Board, Mayor or another as designated by Select Board, Mayor or Municipal Charter
 - City/Town Manager, Administrator
- ***Public Health Excellence Collaboratives***



MAHIB

Assisting Massachusetts Boards of Health through training, technical assistance and legal education



Advisory/Governance Board Created in the IMA

- **Each** town has one vote on every decision:
 - What services you want to enhance, not supplant?
 - What type of professionals do you want to hire?
 - What is the PHE budget?
- The Grant belongs to all boards of health equally.
 - No one board can make any decisions without first consulting with the governance board, and then having it voted upon.



Opioid Settlement Funds



- Key findings after Attorney General's investigation:
 - **Manufacturers** used unfair and deceptive sales tactics to aggressively promote prescription opioids, including tens or thousands of in-person calls to MA prescribers.
 - **Distributors** failed to implement adequate suspicious order monitoring systems, ignored red flags and shipped thousands of suspicious orders to pharmacies.
 - **Pharmacies** dispensed opioid prescriptions without regard to their legitimacy.

Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation*

- Spend money to save lives.
 - **Supplement existing spending.** Do **NOT** replace it.
- Use **evidence** to guide spending.
- Invest in youth prevention.
 - **Evidence-based**
 - Remember lessons learned in tobacco control prevention efforts.
- Focus on racial equity.
- Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding how to spend funds.
 - Actively engage people who use drugs, families with lived experience, clinicians, public health professionals.
- *<https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/>



Municipal Abatement Strategies

- Funds must be used to implement strategies set forth in the State-Subdivision Agreement, *including reasonable workforce costs* necessary to support the programs and strategies.
- Strategies in the Agreement include:
 - Opioid use disorder treatment access;
 - Support for people in treatment and in recovery;
 - Connections to care;
 - Harm reduction;
 - Meeting the needs of justice-involved individuals;
 - Support for pregnant and parenting individuals and their children; and
 - Prevention.



MA State Subdivision Agreement Encourages Collaboration

- Specifically encourages inter-municipal collaboration.
- EOHHS and DPH through its **Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH)** “**will support municipal [opioid] abatement initiatives by providing strategic guidance** to help Massachusetts municipalities select and implement [opioid] abatement strategies and **effectively pool their resources** through inter-municipal Shared Service Agreements, as well as other technical assistance.”
(Massachusetts Abatement Terms).
- State support for municipal abatement and inter-municipal collaboration.



Inter-Municipal Agreements

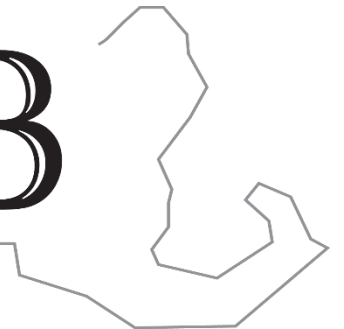
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- *Presents an opportunity to partner with other cities/towns to implement opioid abatement strategies.*



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Inter-Municipal Agreements (IMA) Options

- Amend current Public Excellence Collaborative IMA.
 - MAHB has a sample template.
- Create separate IMA for Use and Expenditure of Certain Opioid Abatement Funds.
 - MAHB has a sample template.



Issues to Consider

- Specific terms of IMA
- Identification of “host agent”
- Planning process
- Build a budget
- Renewed annually
- Governance board
- We can help!



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Any
Questions



MUNICIPAL OPIOID
ABATEMENT CONFERENCE

GREAT MEADOWS PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

MARCH 19TH, 2024

VIVIAN ZENG
SUDBURY HEALTH
DIRECTOR

KELLI M. CALO
SHARED SERVICES
COORDINATOR



OUR COMMUNITIES

Bedford
Carlisle
Concord
Lincoln
Sudbury*
Wayland
Weston

OUR TEAM



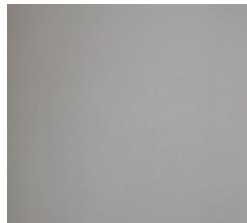
KELLI M. CALO (1 FTE)
SHARED SERVICES COORDINATOR



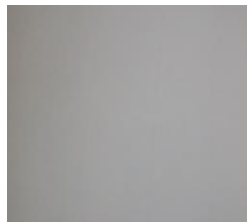
ANN LOREE (1 FTE)
REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



LAURA DUFF (0.5 FTE)
REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE



VACANT (1 FTE)
REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR II



VACANT (0.5 FTE)
REGIONAL HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST



REGIONAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Vivian Zeng, Sudbury
- Heidi Porter, Bedford
- Linda Fantasia, Carlisle
- Melanie Dineen, Concord
- Dan Pereira, Lincoln
- Julia Junghanns, Wayland
- Kelly Pawluczonek, Weston

REGIONAL SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION COORDINATOR



IMA

- Establish intermunicipal agreement to include Opioid Settlement Funds
- Have municipalities sign the amendment



REALLOCATE FUNDS

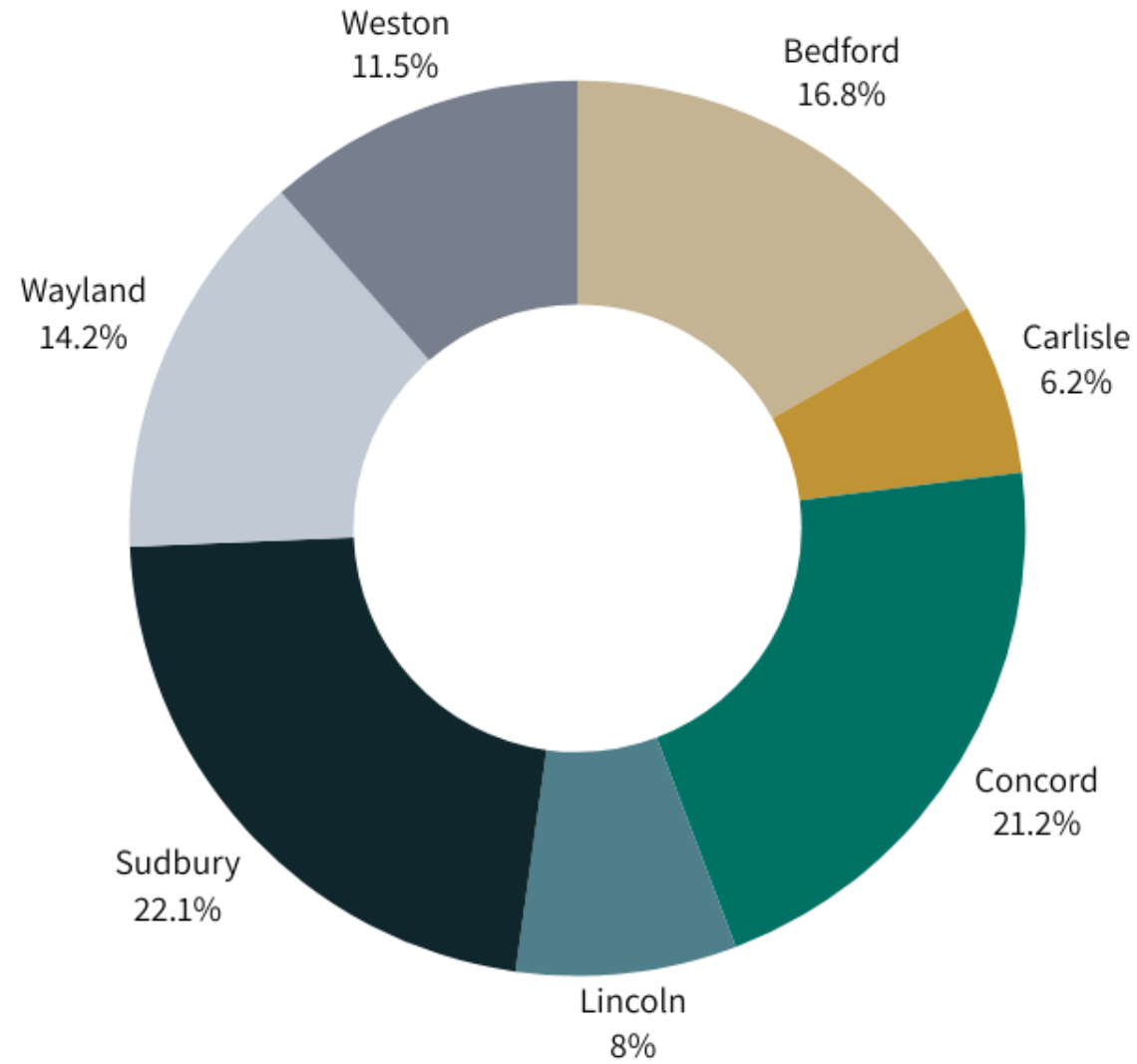
- Move Opioid Settlement Funds out of stabilization fund and into special revenue account
- Town Meetings (March to May)



HIRE COORDINATOR

- Hire and onboard Regional Substance Use Prevention Coordinator
- Funds from municipalities are strictly for the Coordinator position

COST BREAKDOWN



FY25 BUDGET

Substance Coord.	Use	Prevention
Salary		\$ 76,173.00
Fringe		\$ 15,234.60
Technology		\$ 3,000.00
Phone Costs		\$ 1,000.00
Mileage		\$ 1,000.00
Other		\$ 2,000.00
Total		\$ 98,407.60

CONTACT US

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Questions?

Conclusion

- Thank you for joining!
- Day 1 Evaluation

