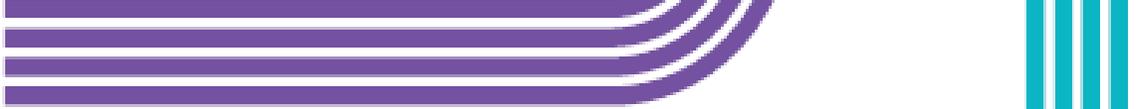
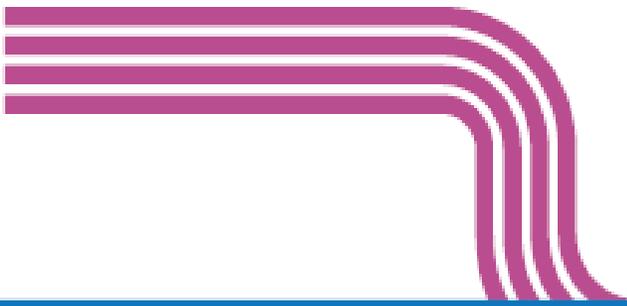
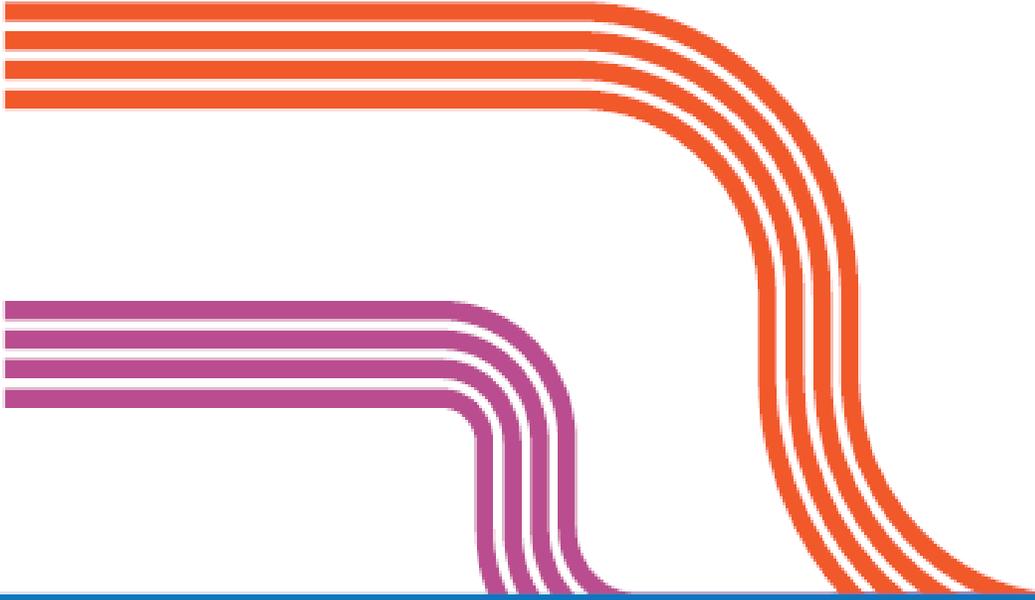


# Executive Office Report October 2019 Board Meeting



Congratulations,  
Debbie Samuels!  
2019 Shattuck Award Recipient



PRIORITY AREA

01



RACIAL JUSTICE AND  
HEALTH EQUITY

**Goal:** Make BPHC a model for racial justice and health equity that advances our vision of achieving optimal health and well-being for all Boston residents.

PRIORITY AREA

04



COLLABORATIVE  
PARTNERSHIPS

**Goal:** Proactively sustain, enhance, and create partnerships to improve the health of Boston.

## Opioid Affected Youth Initiative

BPHC's Child Adolescent and Family Health Bureau received a new grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to respond to the large, far-reaching and yet inadequately understood consequences of the region's opioid epidemic on children and youth up to age 18.

There will be a collaborative and data-driven citywide assessment and strategic planning process BPHC hopes to develop a greater longer-term capacity across organizations to reduce the impact of opioids on children in Boston.

BPHC has been awarded \$1 million over three years to carry-out this initiative.

## Proposed Flavored Nicotine and Tobacco Restrictions

The Communications Office coordinated the interviews and media responses before and after the Board of Health meeting.

Communications, Intergovernmental Relations Office and the Mayor's Press office worked together on a press release, which was sent out by City Hall after September's meeting.

A public hearing is scheduled for November 7 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at BPHC. Written comments may be submitted through November 8, by e-mail to [boardofhealth@bphc.org](mailto:boardofhealth@bphc.org) or by mail.

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## Governor's Executive Order - Vaping Ban

BPHC has conducted outreach to the 800 shops that can sell tobacco products in the City. I'm so proud of our Community Initiatives Bureau team, led by Leon Bethune, Nikysha Harding, and Eugene Barros, and also want to thank PJ McCann from our General Counsel's Office for the quick thinking and planning that has been instrumental for allowing us to carry out educational enforcement for all of these shops in less than two weeks!

The team also ramped efforts around tobacco cessation resources and services and began working with the Medical Reserve Corps to expand our reach.

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## Neighborhood Trauma Teams

The Communications office has also coordinated multiple interviews involving our Neighborhood Trauma Team Network, which continues to be mentioned by media outlets in articles about violent crimes in neighborhoods across the city. The Boston Herald and Boston.Com are currently both working on evergreen, long-form stories on NTT.

PRIORITY AREA

03



INFORMATICS  
AND DATA

**Goal:** Grow capacity to use technology and data to drive programming and partnerships to improve health outcomes.

## Measles Case

Last week, BPHC confirmed the first case of measles diagnosed in a Boston resident since 2013. Information was shared through a press release, Medical Intelligence Center advisory, and extensive media coverage. We urge anyone who does not know their measles immunization status to get vaccinated with at least one dose of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. Those who have had measles in the past or have received two doses of measles containing vaccine are unlikely to become ill even if exposed.

PRIORITY AREA

02



WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT

**Goal:** Promote and sustain a work environment where staff thrive and achieve personal and professional growth.

## EMT and Paramedic Benefits

- On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Chief Hooley testified at the State House before the Joint Committee on Public Service in support of Senate Bill 1583 and House Bill 2360, which would ensure that EMTs and paramedics are covered by the same surviving family benefits as other public safety employees.

PRIORITY AREA  
**01**



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PRIORITY AREA  
**04**



**COLLABORATIVE  
PARTNERSHIPS**

**Goal:** Proactively sustain, enhance, and create partnerships to improve the health of Boston.

## Sharps Stewardship Program

- On September 24<sup>th</sup>, our Recovery Services team also testified at a hearing regarding House Bill 2006, *An Act to establish a sharps stewardship program* which was filed by Representative Jon Santiago as part of Mayor Walsh's legislative package.

**PRIORITY AREA**  
**01**



**RACIAL JUSTICE AND  
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**Goal:** Make BPHC a model for racial justice and health equity that advances our vision of achieving optimal health and well-being for all Boston residents.

## Emergency Shelters

- We also provided written feedback to DPH on proposed changes to the sanitary code that may have unintended negative implications for our emergency shelters. Thank you to Gerry Thomas, Director of Homeless Services, and Leon Bethune, Director of Community Initiatives Bureau.

PRIORITY AREA  
**01**



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PRIORITY AREA  
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**COLLABORATIVE  
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## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, BPHC joined Mayor Walsh in submitting comments in opposition to the USDA's Proposed Rule regarding Revision of Categorical Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- In Boston alone, estimated city-wide age-adjusted rates of individuals living in households receiving SNAP is over 100,000. The proposed rule change to restrict eligibility will cause significant and public health harms and we were happy to stand in opposition to this change.

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**01**



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## Racial Justice and Health Equity

- City Council activity is also picking up, and BPHC staff will be participating in a few upcoming hearings. We have two on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>: Docket #0396, *Order for a hearing on black maternal health, and racial and gender equity in the healthcare system in the City of Boston* and Docket #1054, *Order for a hearing to discuss public health disparities in Boston's communities of color.*
- We also have a hearing on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> on the issue of domestic violence.

## **FY19 Financial Statement Review**

*Grace Connolly, Director, Administration and Finance, BPHC*

*Christian J. Rogers, CPA*

*Managing Principal, State and Local Government, CLA*

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## **State Law Update and Vote: Unclaimed Remains**

*Jim Imprescia, Revenue Administrator Compliance & Credentialing; Manager,  
Burial Permits*

*Tim Harrington, General Counsel*



# FY19 Financial Statement Review

Grace Connolly, Director, Administration and Finance, BPHC

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Managing Principal, State and Local Government, CLA

October 16, 2019



# State Law Update: Unclaimed Remains

Jim Imprescia, Manager, Burial Permits

Tim Harrington, General Counsel

October 16, 2019



# Context

- Shared goal of ensuring the respectful and timely handling of unclaimed remains.
- In response to increasing number of unclaimed decedents in Massachusetts funeral homes and morgues, in 2018, state law was revised to authorize local boards of health and health departments to authorize cremation when other measures have been exhausted. G.L. 114 § 43M
- The amended statute also states that “there shall be no liability for a board of health or an employee, agent, or licensee thereof that authorizes the disposal of unclaimed remains” in accordance with procedures set forth in the statute.



# Amended State Law Provisions

## G.L. 114 § 43M

A board of health may serve as the duly authorized representative for the purpose of requesting cremation of unclaimed remains by signing a cremation form under the following circumstances:

- i. The unclaimed remains shall be in a location that is within the jurisdiction of the board of health;
- ii. The board of health has received notice from a licensed funeral director that either no person has come forward to claim the remains or that no person may legally claim the remains;
- iii. The board of health shall wait 30 days after such notification under this clause prior to signing the cremation form; and
- iv. The unclaimed remains have been viewed by a medical examiner or forensic investigator designated by the chief medical examiner pursuant to section 14 of chapter 38, who has authorized such cremation only when no further examination or judicial inquiry concerning the death is necessary.



# Additional BPHC Conditions

- Ensured that diligent efforts have been made to have a next-of-kin or family relative authorize cremation
- No known advanced directive expressly prohibiting cremation
- No known veteran status



# Authorization

- Board vote to affirmatively delegate Boston Public Health Commission authorized signatories to sign authorizations for cremation of unclaimed remains.
  - Signatories include Executive Director, Deputy Director, Medical Director, Director of Administration and Finance, General Counsel positions.