

KAREN WALSH PIO - Chair
TONY JUDGE - Vice Chair
CHARLES SCOTT - Clerk
MICHAEL ROSNER, M.D.
STEPHEN FRANTZ

SHARON HART, Director of Public Health

NOTICE

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
&
AGENDA**

August 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Webinar from your Computer:

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

Passcode: 149375

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84745785766?pwd=TgdmaoLbq4A3pka1tdW4M1wwPVRWbS.1>

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Webinar ID: 847 4578 5766

Passcode: 149375

NOTE: Not all the topics listed in this notice may actually be reached for discussion. In addition, the topics listed are those which the Chair reasonably expects will be discussed as of the date of this notice.

To: Board of Health Members

From: Sharon D. Hart, Director of Public Health

**Re: A Board of Health Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025
at 6:00 p.m. at the South Hadley Library.**

1: The Chair will announce that the meeting is being recorded by either the Board/Committee or a member of the audience.

2: Chair to Call the Meeting to Order

3: Acceptance of the Minutes of the July 8, 2025, meeting.

4: Announcements/Open Forum (10 Minutes)

5: Director's Report

6: New Business:

(a): Human Rights Commission Update

(b): Letter of testimony banning marijuana billboards - Karen Walsh Pio

(c): Coalition Against Bigger Trucks: Local Officials Joint Letter Signup -

Karen Walsh Pio

7: Old Business:

(a): Review Lisa Mead's 6/13 suggestions on BOH updates - Stephen Frantz

8 : Set Next Meeting Date – (_____) at 6:00 p.m. at South Hadley Public Library

9: Adjourn meeting

South Hadley
Board of Health Meeting

Date: 7-08-25 Time: 6:00 p.m.

Members: Karen Walsh Pio: Present Tony Judge Absent Dr. Michael Rosner: Present
Stephen Frantz Present Charles Scott Present
Staff: Sharon Hart Present Jennifer Jernigan Present Hannah Durham Present
Guests: Steve McCray, John Howard (virtual)

1. Chair called the meeting to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Acceptance of the meeting minutes of 06-10-2025

Motion to accept: Michael Rosner, 2nd Charles Scott.
All in Favor: Karen Walsh Pio – aye
Charles Scott - aye
Michael Rosner - aye
Stephen Frantz – aye

3. **Announcements/Open Forum (10 Minutes) –**
 - **2-4-D and Dicamba Herbicides: Both chemicals are in common herbicides and legal in Massachusetts, however they do pose health risks to people and animals exposed. McCray’s Farm is exploring alternative herbicide options with their provider Nutrien Ag Solutions, however, herbicide application this spring proved very effective. McCray’s will oversee their fields with clover or alfalfa in the Fall, which hopefully will prevent weed growth in which case additional herbicide applications would not be needed. The original plan for herbicide application at McCray’s was reviewed and approved by Conservation. S.Frantz may share with the Board alternative options to 2-4-D and dicamba herbicides at a future meeting.**
 - **Clarification on focus of Nicotine-Free Generation policy: individuals born after a specific date will not ever be able to purchase nicotine products in South Hadley.**
 - **Clarification about sani-cans (portable toilets) requirements at large events: The number of sani-cans required is calculated based on attendance projected by event host and the capacity and availability of existing bathroom facilities (indoor and outdoor).**
4. **Director’s Report – Director Hart provided an update on the latest activities and initiatives.**

Housing:

Condemnation - 27 Fulton St. – utilities were shutoff for nonpayment. Town now owns.

- 43 Bardwell St – back egress unsafe

Re-posting condemnation – 79 Charon Terrace

Inspection – 34 Bridge St., Apt 5R

110 Mountain View

Spring Street

Taylor Street

Recreational Camps- Health department staff met with Andy Rogers, Danielle Bachand and Chuck Romboletti regarding the Recreation Department’s Basketball Camp. Review of state regulations and application process discussed. During our meeting, Andy Rogers, Human Services Director, had concerns regarding information not being given to him by the Massachusetts Parks & Recreation Department on requirements for permitting camps.

Zoom meeting – Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Kerry Wagner, Environmental Analyst. Meeting to discuss how information is being disseminated to

Recreation Departments regarding camp regulations. Recreational Camp Licensing Exemption for Programs “Sponsored” By Municipal Recreation Departments have not changed since 2006.

Behavioral Health 360: <https://solutions.crediblemind.com/behavioral-health-360/>

The program sets a national agenda that empowers local public health departments to improve the mental health status of their local communities. We are currently customizing the website to meet the town/cities specific needs and preferences. Roll out will be in August.

July is Tick and Mosquito Safety month: Information on recommendations to keep safe. Information is being posted at Town Hall, Council on Aging and the South Hadley Library - in English and Spanish. The information is also available on the Town website.

Conservation Department – Supplied the department with messaging, lint rollers, tick removal kits, use of tent.

Information message boards purchased, include resources for domestic violence, mental health support, veteran’s hotline, naloxone, substance use hotline, etc. and are now in public restrooms at the Council on Aging, Library and Town Hall. The information on these boards are being accessed by the community. I have been re-supplying them bi-monthly.

ADA Improvement Grant Program, Massachusetts Office of Disability (MOD) was awarded. Article in Town Reminder

Training for the Transcending Chairs took place this month at the South Hadley Library. **The remarkable training attendance underscores the dedication of town staff to help the community members that will rely on this ADA equipment in an emergency.**

Viral respiratory illness (COVID, RSV, Influenza) information.

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/viral-respiratory-illness-reporting?_gl=1*8r8lr2*_ga*NTIxNzA0MTQ2LjE2OTUwNDc3MTM.*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTczNjk3NDE2OS4xMi4xLjE3MzY5NzQxODguMC4wLjA

COVID: COVID levels within Wastewater are online: southhadley.org/1026/COVID-19-RESPONSE

We are continuing to get health messaging out to our community.

MESSAGING – Health messaging for South Hadley in English/Spanish

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS, FOOD INSECURITY, TOBACCO, DIABETES AWARENESS, COPD, CERVICAL CANCER, HEART HEALTH, COLORECTAL CANCER, ORAL CANCER, ASTHMA AWARENESS, SUN SAFETY, TICK & MOSQUITO SAFETY

GRANT(s)

Public Health Excellence Grant

The grant was renewed for 2025/2026 in the amount of \$509,000.00

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Grant

South Hadley received 8 air sensors (South Hadley (5) and Chicopee (3)) which can be seen on the following sites:

<https://map.purpleair.com/air-quality-standards-us-epa-aqi?opt=%2F1%2Fa10%2Fp604800%2Fc0#12.99/42.20416/-72.58806>
and Healthy Air Network [Healthy Air Network](#)

Healthy Air Network - Offered communication training for Public Health Staff.

MassDOT – Applied for a MassDOT grant to display Opioid Information.

This grant was received from MassDOT and will display the information on 250 billboards across the state for the months of August and September

TOBACCO – Grant has been renewed for 2025/2026. (\$209,000.00). We have done educational visits and compliance checks to retailers for the 31 communities in the grant for fall 2024 and spring of 2025. They are done twice a year for all 31 communities in our grant. All permitted merchants in South Hadley were found to be in compliance with the exception of one violation, Hype Solutions/Mobile – 483 Granby Road. This is the retailers’ first offense, under the State Regulation 105 CMR 665, the penalty is a fine of \$1,000.00, which has been paid.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Disease surveillance follow up – Sharon Hart & Fiona Cioch

Blood Pressure Clinics – Marge Bernard, R.N.

Fiona Cioch, Central Pioneer Valley Health District, Regional Public Health Nurse

will be providing the Blood Pressure Clinics at COA during Marge's absence and at South Hadley Housing Authority Lathrop Village.

Director also has Emergency Management responsibilities:

- **Emergency Management Preparedness grant (EMPG) – Grant received for Electric Vehicles (EV) Lithium battery response for FD#1 & FD#2 – Grant closed out**
- **Hazard Mitigation Planning grant (HMPG) – completed FEMA review**
- **Drone program – A drone was purchased for Town use (Police, Fire, & Emergency Mgmt.)**
- **Massachusetts Emergency Management quarterly meetings**

*** Animal Control responsibilities (education, training and oversight of the Animal Control Officer).**

STAFF

Rental Registry Regulation/application/letter – Georgina Maende/Sharon Hart

PHIT, Food Code/Housing Code Pro, Presby Septic, MAVRIC (vital records) and

TRAIN training – Jennifer Jernigan, Sharon Hart and Georgina Maende

Messaging and events (website) – Georgina Maende and Sharon Hart

Permits & billing/accounts- Hannah Durham

Opioid Program – Hannah Durham

In the works:

- Provide ServSafe training for COA staff
- Housing training for Landlords/renters
- In-person “drop-in” for community to talk with Public Health Staff

5. New Business:

a) Opioid and Substance Use Prevention Updates – Public Health Program & Administrative Coordinator Hannah Durham provided updates.

- **Community Outreach & Communication Planning: Meeting with community leaders, faith leaders, and school administrators to identify opportunities for education and outreach about opioid and substance use prevention and recovery support.**
- **Naloxone Distribution: South Hadley is a MA DPH BSAS Community Naloxone Program affiliate which provides free naloxone (Narcan) to eligible organizations and municipalities. Narcan will be distributed at future tabling events and hopefully through outdoor naloxone boxes accessible to all members of the public.**
- **International Overdose Awareness Day Event: Planning a memorial event in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day during the last week of**

August. Working with Conservation to determine location and to incorporate the planting and dedication of a memorial tree. Inviting harm reduction, peer recovery support, and peer grief support organizations to participate. Event details will be shared soon.

- Hampshire County Opioid Overdose Fatality Data and Local Drug Supply Trends:
 - Northwest District Attorney's office shared data on opioid overdose fatalities at last Hampshire HOPE Executive Committee meeting. In 2023, South Hadley 5 unintentional overdose deaths occurred in South Hadley and in 2024, 3 unintentional overdose deaths occurred.
 - Tapestry Health's Harm Reduction team manages a well-utilized drug checking program that detects the substances present in voluntarily-submitted drug samples. They have noted the emergence of a non-opioid sedative called medetomidine in the local drug supply - detected in 16% of samples submitted between January-May 2025. It is 100x more potent than xylazine and when used with opioids can significantly slow breathing and heartrate. It also presents dangerous withdrawal symptoms including tachycardia, hypertension, intractable vomiting, and tremors that do not respond to typical withdrawal medications. This underscores the importance of continued, consistent prevention, harm reduction, and recovery service support work in South Hadley.
 - In addition to county-wide overdose fatality data, there is data on opioid-related EMS calls, emergency room visits, and enrollment in medication-assisted treatment among South Hadley residents. Can share at a future meeting to offer another view on the impact of the opioid crisis in our community.

b) Hype Solutions/Mobil Correction Order

Hype Solutions/Mobil at 483 Granby Road was issued a tobacco violation for the sale of tobacco to a minor during youth compliance checks conducted by the Pioneer Valley Tobacco Commission. Per 105 CMR 665, the penalty for a first offense sale to a minor is a \$1,000 fine. Fines are paid at the Town Treasurer's office and go into the Town's general fund. All licensed tobacco retailers in South Hadley are provided a copy of local tobacco regulations and tobacco sales education during annual Pioneer Valley Tobacco Commission education checks.

6. Old Business:

a) Energy Facility Regulation

Review of old regulation regarding energy centers by Town Counsel confirmed that old regulation is no longer applicable thereby presenting opportunity for BOH to draft new regulation. Director Hart can draft a new regulation that takes into concerns noted by members of the public about the proposed (currently tabled) energy center at Mt. Holyoke College. BOH can also research energy center regulations in place in other municipalities.

b) **PFAS Draft Law Document – Stephen Frantz**
No update.

c) **Educational Event on State Sanitary Code – Charles Scott & Georgina Maende**

Paul Hoffman will be giving 2-hour presentation about state sanitary code (105 CMR-410.00) as it applies to housing on Saturday, Sept. 6 at South Hadley Library. All individuals who rent out property in South Hadley are invited to attend. Director Hart, Health Compliance Officer Georgina Maende, and Chuck Scott will connect with Paul beforehand to identify any specific topics of interest.

7. **Set Next Meeting Date: August 12 at 6:00 p.m. at South Hadley Public Library**

Motion to adjourn.

Motion Stephen Frantz; 2nd Charles Scott

All in favor: Karen Walsh Pio – aye

Charles Scott - aye

Michael Rosner - aye

Stephen Frantz – aye

8. **Board of Health meeting adjourned: 7:08 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Durham
Public Health Program & Administrative Coordinator

State *

Your answer

Email Address *

Your answer

Text of the Letter

Dear Members of Congress,

Representing local communities and Americans across the nation, we are concerned about our transportation infrastructure. We strongly oppose proposals in Congress that would allow any increase in truck weight or length. Heavier single-trailer trucks or longer double-trailer trucks would only make our current situation worse.

Local communities and our residents are what drive this country. We work every day to make sure the needs and safety of our residents are met. Allowing heavier and longer trucks will most certainly set us back in our efforts. Much of our transportation infrastructure that connects people to jobs, schools and leisure is in disrepair, in part because local and rural roads and bridges are older and not built to the same standards as interstates. Many of us are unable to keep up with our current maintenance schedules and replacement costs because of underfunded budgets.

The impacts of heavier or longer tractor-trailers would only worsen these problems. Millions of miles of truck traffic operate on local roads and bridges across the country, and any bigger trucks allowed on our Interstates would mean additional trucks that ultimately find their way onto our local infrastructure. Heavier and longer trucks would cause significantly more damage to our transportation infrastructure, costing us billions of dollars that local government budgets simply cannot afford, compromising the very routes that American motorists use every day.

On behalf of America's local communities and our residents, we ask that you oppose any legislation that would allow any increase in truck weight or length.

Sincerely,

Submit

Clear form



Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

Ms. Holden,

I am submitting testimony in support of the following two bills:

- **H.157, An Act Relative to Prohibiting Billboard Advertising of Non-Prescription Marijuana**, sponsored by Rep Patrick Kearney (full billboard ban)
- **S94: An Act Prohibiting Billboard Advertising of Non-Prescription Marijuana (full billboard ban; senate companion)**

I offer my professional credentials and my years of experience as giving me the expertise to render an opinion on these bills.

I am an MSW, a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and a Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor Level 1. I have been in practice in Massachusetts since 1975. For 8 years I served as the Director of Outpatient Substance Abuse Services for Providence Hospital in Holyoke MA. For 15 years I served as the Coordinator and then the Director of the South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition which was granted two rounds of federal funding under a Drug Free Communities grant. Our Coalition was recognized as being a Coalition of Excellence at CADCA in Washington DC.

I have also created substance abuse treatment programming, and personally treated a significant number of patients who suffered from addiction. I currently serve on my town's Board of Health.

It is my opinion that marijuana has been promoted in our country in a similar manner to nicotine and alcohol products. Research has shown us that both nicotine and alcohol products increased use and sales among young people the more that the products were advertised and exhibited to them.

TV advertising of nicotine products was curtailed in 1971 in response to the growing body of evidence that nicotine products were addictive and were causing cancer. The alcohol industry self-imposed an advertising ban for almost 50 years (1948-1996) in order to avoid even stronger restrictions being imposed, and at the current time the alcohol industry continues to self-regulate to prevent advertising to underage consumers. In reality alcohol also is addictive and in a January 2025 advisory, the Department of Health & Human Services detailed the evidence of all the cancers caused by alcohol.

The marijuana industry has now stepped into the breach but the regulations have not yet caught up to them. Community awareness lags in understanding the addictive properties of marijuana and the connection between "vapes" and marijuana use for underage users. As the first Youth Advisor to be recognized by The 84 (the youth-involved Massachusetts group fighting the tobacco industry) I had the privilege to work for more than a dozen years with high school students together with The 84, and watch the tide turn as it became "uncool" to smoke cigarettes. At the same time marijuana use became legal in Massachusetts and youth use rose in response to all of the buzz. Youth thought it must be "okay" if the vote made it legal now. Youth thought it must not "be as bad" as cigarettes. Youth observed their parents beginning to use marijuana socially around them. Every exposure to youth, through witnessing use or through newspaper and evening news stories, made marijuana use seem more normal and socially acceptable.

Exactly what billboards do.

There is no way to limit or regulate who can view a billboard. I feel they should be completely banned and I ask for support to pass these two bills.

Karen Walsh Pio, LICSW, LADC 1

Coalition Against Bigger Trucks: Local Officials Joint Letter Signup

In 2023, we sent Congress a letter with the names of over 1,500 local government officials titled "[Bigger Trucks: Bad for America's Local Communities](#)." With a new Congress and recently introduced legislation to allow longer and heavier trucks, we would like to ask if you will add your name to the newest iteration of the letter.

This will send a powerful message to lawmakers in Congress to maintain current truck size and weight laws and oppose longer and heavier trucks.

Thank you again for your advocacy against bigger trucks and for all you do for your community. Your voice and expertise is critical to pushing back against powerful bigger-truck proponents. More information on the fight against bigger trucks can be found at www.cabt.org.

gmaende@southhadleyma.gov [Switch account](#)



Not shared

* Indicates required question

Name *

Your answer

Position in Government *

Your answer

Municipal/County/State Government Entity *

Your answer

