



## **BOARD MEETING**

**By Remote Participation Pursuant to *An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures***

***Adopted During the State of Emergency.***

**Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

**4:00 p.m.**

### **Members Present**

Ms. Laptiste, Dr. Taveras, Mr. Valdez, Mr. Wilmot

### **Chairperson's Remarks**

PJ McCann: As members of the Board are aware, the Board will be meeting without a permanent Chair for this meeting. In the absence of a Chair, our bylaws call for the Board to vote to select a member to serve as a temporary chair, or chair *pro tem*, to keep Board business moving forward. Guale has graciously agreed to volunteer for this role. Selecting a chair *pro tem* requires a roll call vote, so unless there are any questions we will accept a motion.

A motion was by Mr. Valdez, seconded by Ms. Laptiste, and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Valdez: Good afternoon, fellow Board of Health members, Boston Public Health Commission staff, and members of the public. Welcome to the January meeting of the Boston Board of Health.

This meeting is being conducted by remote participation as authorized by state law and any votes will be taken by a roll call of the members.

In keeping with the Board's usual practice, members of the public are welcomed to observe the proceedings and Board staff will use the moderating features on the Zoom application to keep all on mute other than Board members and BPHC presenters.

This afternoon, we will hear a report from the Executive Office well as presentations about the FY26 budget process, the Live Long and Well population health equity agenda, and a spotlight on BPHC's newly organized Office of Violence prevention.

Now I will turn it to Dr. Ojikutu

## **Executive Office Report**

Dr. Ojikutu: She acknowledges the Homeless services bureau which has two large individual adult homeless shelters. In 2024 we sheltered more people than ever before. Our shelters offer case management, harm reduction, long term housing, recovery services support, and family reunification. Due to cold weather and advisory our census has been high, but we are not turning anyone away. She recognized Boston EMS graduation and thanked Chief Hooley. Yailka Cardenas became the Bureau Director for RSB last year and throughout the year we have tackled the opioid crisis by continuing programing and distribution of harm reduction. A new initiative that we launched last year was the Public Health Vending machines which include harm reduction supplies, hand warmers, PPE, socks and water bottles. Overdose mortality data will be released soon. The doula project is an important initiative. She mentioned the concerns with the new administration, the work will continue. She assures the board that as an institution we are financially stable.

Mr. Valdez: Thank you. Are there any questions from the Board?

Mr. Wilmot: 2024 was a dynamic and challenging year with Steward issue, want to acknowledge you and your leadership, facilitating community conversations and lead through a challenging time. And our focus is on 2025 leading through challenges.

Mr. Valdez: The Commission is involved in so much work to protect. The maternal health, doula program in particular is one that makes a great deal of difference.

## **Acceptance and Approval of Minutes from the November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting**

Mr. Valdez: If there are no questions, I will accept a motion to approve the minutes from the November 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Health meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilmot, seconded by Dr. Taveras and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Valdez: Now I will turn to Director of Administration and Finance Tim Harrington to lead an overview of the Fiscal Year 26 budget process.

## **FY26 Budget Process Overview**

Mr. Harrington led presentation and introduced Chris Valdez, Budget Director and stated that going forward Chris will be taking over the budget presentations. Dr. Ojikutu, Chief Financial Officer Steve Simmons, and Mr. Harrington will continue to have full oversight of the budget process each year.

Mr. Chris Valdez gives a brief overview of the FY26 budget process including timeline, preliminary figures, and notes on potential new investment items. In March will present a more detail maintenance budget and provide additional details of any new investment request.

Mr. Valdez: Any questions from the Board?

Hearing none, I will turn it back to Dr. Ojikutu to lead a presentation about Live Long and Well, Boston's first population health and health equity agenda.

### **Live Long and Well Population Health Equity Agenda Updates**

Dr. Ojikutu leads presentation with Director of Policy Krystal Garcia

Dr. Ojikutu: Will be issuing a detailed overview of the Live Long & Well agenda; what this population health agenda entails. Goal is to release the report soon.

Dr. Ojikutu mentioned that the long-term goal is to close the life expectancy gap citywide by 2035.

Ms. Garcia noted that a RFP for Live Long and Well was released on January 14<sup>th</sup> the application deadline is March 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be focused on communities with highest cardiometabolic disease burden. The maximum award per coalition is \$2.5m. We are hosting information sessions and office hours. More information is available online at [www.atriusfoundation.org/live-long](http://www.atriusfoundation.org/live-long).

Mr. Valdez: Hearing no more discussion, I will turn it to interim director of BPHC's Office of Violence Prevention, Mark Scott.

### **Spotlight: Office of Violence Prevention**

Rev. Scott leads presentation.

Rev. Scott states the leadership team is now full, the two vacancies have been filled by Kim Medoza Iraheta and Sukia Akiba. The office has five programs which include Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP), Community Health Response Network (CHRN), Life Course Health Unit (LCU), Capacity Building and Training Initiative (CBTI), and the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative (DSVPI). Also presenting today is Bronwen White, Kim Mendoza Iraheta, Sukia Akiba, Donald Osgood, and Roy Martin. Each presenter gave an overview of their program.

Mr. Valdez: I want to thank all of the presenters. On top of effort you put into your work, we appreciate you taking the time to prepare this information for us. My observation is real problems addressed by real solutions. That is happening every day. And the city of Boston is fortunate to have the Boston Public Health Commission.

Ms. Laptiste: As I saw the org chart, and the leaders, it is so nice to see. You have been in the work for a long time, and nice to see you pushing through. Ditto to everything.

Mr. Valdez: Thank you so much for providing this overview. Any questions from the Board. Hearing no more discussion, the meeting can stand adjourned.

### **Adjourn**

Attest: /s/ PJ McCann