MPHA
Policy Agenda 2019–2020

Action for Equity in Health

Dismantling Structural Racism

Integrating Health into all Policies

Reducing Poverty
Public Health Infrastructure

Strengthening state and local public health departments that provide foundational protections including, communicable disease control, food and housing safety, and protection from harmful lead and radiation exposure

- Passage of the State Action for Public Health Excellence (SAPHE) Bill *
- Bureau of Environmental Health Funding *
- Passage of Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Response Policies

Access to Healthy Affordable Food

Ensuring that all communities have access to healthy affordable foods

- Successful Implementation of the Massachusetts Food Trust Program *
- Mass in Motion Funding *
- Closing the SNAP Gap
- Funding and Sustainability for the Healthy Incentives Program

Transportation Equity

Creating equitable access to reliable, safe, and affordable public transportation options and ensuring equitable implementation of policies to address the transportation sector’s impact on climate and air quality

- Funding and Modernization of Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) *
- Equitable Implementation of the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) Legislation

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Community Health Integration
Ensuring that the health care system addresses community health needs

- Funding for the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund (PWTF) *
- Enhanced Impact of MassHealth ACOs on Health-Related Social Needs *
- Alignment of Hospital Investments with Community Needs *
- Engagement of Health Care Institutions to Support Social Determinant of Health Policy *

Access to Quality, Affordable Housing
Ensuring that safe housing is available to people of every age, ability, income level, and background in every Massachusetts community

MPHA will support policies that increase access to affordable, quality homes for all residents by:

- Increasing resources to build new affordable housing and improve the quality of existing housing throughout the state
- Supporting the stability of tenants and low-income homeowners to prevent displacement
- Reducing exclusionary land use practices that inhibit development of new affordable homes near transit and jobs
- Expanding access to supportive services that prevent homelessness and help people maintain housing

* MPHA priority campaign
Who We Are

The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a private, 501c3 nonprofit, statewide membership organization that promotes a healthy Massachusetts through advocacy, education, community organizing, and coalition-building. Our focus is on policies and programs that address the root causes of illness, disease, and injury, particularly among individuals and communities experiencing racism and other forms of injustice.

MPHA was founded in 1879 and is an affiliate of the American Public Health Association.

Our Mission

The Massachusetts Public Health Association is the champion for public health in the Commonwealth. We are a catalyst for change, eliminating health inequities and creating healthy communities for all.

Our Vision

A Commonwealth where optimal health conditions exist for all.

Our Approach

Powerful advocates

State & local policy change

Healthy Communities and Health Equity

Policy Council

Jamie Berberena, Southeast coast Community Health Workers’ Collaborative

Mary Kay Browne, Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging

Damon Chaplin, City of New Bedford, Health Department

Sylvia Chiang-Raposo, Revere CARES/Revere on the Move

Karyn Clark, City of Worcester Division of Public Health

Kerrie D’Entremont, Greater Lowell Health Alliance

Zach Dyer, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Brenda Evans, Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers

Paulo Gomes, H&HS Consulting Group LLC

Irene Hernandez, Community Connections (Fitchburg)

OFFICERS

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Anne McHugh, Vice President, Boston Public Health Commission
Heather McMann, Treasurer, Groundwork Lawrence

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Cristina Huebner Torres, Caring Health Center (Springfield)
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Lesly Melendez, Groundwork Lawrence
Elecia Miller, City of Lawrence/Mayor’s Health Task Force
Allyson Perron Drag, American Heart Association and American Stroke Association
Catherine Ratté, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
Liz Sheehan Castro, Worcester County Food Bank
Risa Silverman, Western MA Health Equity Network/UMass-Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Jamiah Tappin, Health Resources in Action
Angela Wangari Walter, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

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