



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

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BOARD OF HEALTH

David Casey, RN, Chair; Mary D. Hart, RN; Julie Hathaway, MD, PhD; Taylor Newton; Caroline Tassey, APRN

HEALTH OFFICER

William Ward, Director of Permitting & Inspections

The mission of the Board of Health is to educate the citizens of Burlington and to promote, improve, and protect their health and well-being while contributing toward building a health community and environment in which to live.

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BURLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH**

Robert Miller Center, 130 Gosse Ct

Thursday, 10 October at 6:30 PM

1. Approvals
 - Agenda
 - September 2019 meeting minutes
2. Public Forum / Emerging Issues
3. Chair's Report
 - Schedule next school safety review
 - Review of efforts – use of A3
4. Marijuana legalization info card
 - What next?
5. Discussion on Hepatitis A prevention
 - Oversee Public Bathroom Planning Coalition?
6. Public Outreach / Communications
 - Language for Front Porch Forum update
7. Celebrations
 - Celebration
8. Next Meeting – currently set as 14 November 2019
9. Adjournment

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**DRAFT MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF
BURLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH
Robert Miller Center, 130 Gosse Ct
Thursday 10 October 2019 at 6:30 PM**

Attending: *David Casey; Mary Hart; Julie Hathaway; Taylor Newton; Caroline Tassey; William Ward (leaves meeting at 8:25 PM); Cara Simoneau, Board of Health Administrator; Steve Cormier, Housing Administrator*

Absent: *N/A*

Meeting called to order by Chair Casey at 6:34 PM

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION TAKEN
1. Approvals Agenda September 2019 meeting minutes		Mr. Newton made motion to accept agenda. Ms. Tassey seconded. All in favor. Mrs. Hart made motion to accept minutes. Mr. Newton seconded. All in favor. The Board and staff made introductions. Director Ward introduced new Board of Health Administrator Cara Simoneau and announced

		outgoing Board of Health Administrator and current Housing Administrator Steve Cormier had been hired as the department's newest Health & Housing Inspector.
2. Public Forum / Emerging Issues	<i>No members or public present; no emerging issues discussed</i>	
3. Chair's Report Schedule next school safety review	Chair Casey commented on emailing about scheduling the next review and the Board agreed to Tuesday, 29 October 2019 at 4:00 PM. Ms. Tassey commented on meeting with Mariah Sanderson of Burlington Partnership for a Health Community concerning the Marijuana legalization info card. Chair Casey introduced the "<i>Communication Thoughts for Burlington Board of Health 'Legalization Guide'</i>" to the record, comprising various parties' comments on the Marijuana legalization info card. Ms. Tassey and Director Ward commented on the language of the card and on keeping feedback on file for reference at possible future printings. Chair Casey, Dr. Hathaway, and Ms. Tassey commented on the differences between state and federal statutes of marijuana. Ms. Tassey and Director Ward commented on places to distribute and reaching out to Champlain College as a potential location.	

Review of efforts – use of A3	Chair Casey introduced the “<i>Problem Solving A3</i>” worksheet to the record and the Board utilized them to work through issues of importance to them: Chair Casey worked through the Board’s budgeting process; Mrs. Hart worked through the pesticide application process; Mr. Newton worked through the public bathroom discussion issue; Director Ward worked through the school inspection process. Dr. Hathaway commented on the usefulness of this process. The Board and Director Ward worked through the entire A3 process, discussing each step as they worked through the process.	
4. Marijuana legalization info card What next?	<i>Agenda item passed over</i>	
5. Discussion on Hepatitis A prevention Oversee Public Bathroom Planning Coalition?	Chair Casey commented on meeting with Ward 8 City Councilor Adam Roof at the September meeting concerning this issue. Mr. Newton commented on the Board taking this on, especially as a long-term project. Chair Casey, Dr. Hathaway, Mr. Newton, and Ms. Tassey commented on what the City Council would like the Board to do, such as focusing on possible locations for public facilities. Chair Casey and Mr. Newton commented on the studies and surveys so far put out by the City Council concerning this issue.	

6. Public Outreach / Communications • Language for Front Porch Forum update	<i>Agenda item passed over</i>	
7. Celebrations • Celebration	Chair Casey announced his resignation as both Chair and member of the Board of Health, effective immediately. <i>**Director Ward leaves meeting**</i>	
8. Next meeting – currently set as 14 November 2019		
9. Adjournment		Ms. Tassely made motion to adjourn. Mrs. Hart seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM

Communication Thoughts for Burlington Board of Health “Legalization Guide”

Because this document is published by the Board of Health rather than the city or another municipal department people are likely to look at the information through a health focused lens. The information provided in the document may be seen as recommendations for “healthy use”, particularly when the document is called a “guide”. With that in mind we offer the following thoughts for revised framing:

Overall – it might be a good idea to look at the document again and go through it with an eye for reading level. When we are making stuff for the general public we try to stick to a 5th grade reading level (this is what the VT Dept of Health recommends to make info accessible for the most people). I usually have one of my kids read stuff for me and see if it make sense to them! 😊

Front Cover:

- Suggest calling the document something other than a “Legalization Guide” – “guide” suggests that the document is a guide to legalizing use, or to using. From a health focused the lens, any substance use is not in the best interest of health and should be discouraged. For example, we would not produce a “legal tobacco use guide” because while tobacco use is legal for adults we know that use is not in the best interest of individual health. Perhaps change to something like, “Vermont Marijuana Use Law”?
- The picture of VT with a large cannabis leaf on it could give the impression that cannabis use is a significant/normal/expected part of life in VT.

Inside:

“CANNABIS in Vermont” – This is the only place in the document that the word “cannabis” is used. The law calls it “marijuana” so it might be good to just stick with that word. Technically, cannabis might be more accurate for what the law actually describes, but not everyone understands the nuance in that word so “marijuana” is probably a safer choice to make things clear.

“With marijuana use legal in the state of Vermont, the City of Burlington Board of Health has assembled this quick reference guide identifying some important features relating to marijuana. This guide has been developed for informational purposes only.”

Recommend changing to something like:

As of 2018 it is legal for adults 21 and older to have and use limited amounts of marijuana in Vermont. This quick reference guide explains key information in the law. Marijuana use is still illegal under federal law.

Why are we suggesting these changes?

-You have info about who developed the guide already on the back so you can get right to the point.

-It feels important right from the beginning to set the parameters for who marijuana use is legal for and how.

Marijuana and Driving

-As a health focused group it feels important to be clearer in this section that people should not use cannabis and drive. "Think about" alternative rides may not be clear. We do not tell people to "think about" alternative rides when they are drinking. We say, "don't drink and drive."

-Marijuana is the illicit drug most frequently found in the blood of drivers who have been involved in vehicle crashes, including fatal ones (from NIDA). It may be helpful to include this fact in this section.

-Unfortunately, because of how marijuana works in the body, the variety of ways it can be ingested, and the different levels of potency that different products/strains have, there is not a standard amount of time to recommend before someone should drive again after using... most of the stuff I've read says that impairment can last up to a max of 24 hours. So you could say something like, "Impairment can last up to 24 hours depending on the type and strength of the marijuana used. Please make arrangements not to drive after using."

Marijuana Possession

-the statement: "Persons under 21 years old are prohibited from using marijuana in Vermont." This feels like the most important info in the document but the color of the words makes it hard to read on the dark background. Is it possible to make it more prominent? It might be even better to say: "It is illegal for persons under 21 years old to have or use marijuana in Vermont." Just a little clearer and does not use "prohibit" which probably does not work for the 5th grade reading level.

Marijuana Use

- It feels like it would be good to include again here: "Marijuana use is legal in VT for adults 21 and older only."
- The two points about consuming in public feel a little unclear. It might be good to break it up like more like this and include info specific to Burlington:
 - Marijuana may not be used in any public place or in a vehicle.
 - Marijuana may not be used in any location where use of tobacco products are banned. In Burlington, all city parks, beaches and playgrounds are tobacco and cannabis-free.

-Because the guide is coming from a group focused on improving health in the city it feels like it would be good to put a health related statement(s) in this section about use. Some possible brief suggestions for wording that are backed by science:

- There is no recommended safe level of marijuana use for adolescents or pregnant or breastfeeding mothers. (US Surgeon General Jerome Adams, 2019). For more information to talk with a teen about the marijuana law or other substance use visit: **Parentupvt.org**
- Use caution if you choose to consume. Marijuana use can have a wide range of both short-term and long term physical and mental effects. For more information visit: **drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana** (you could also use the VDH website if you want to provide a more local resource, but I find the NIDA one to be better general

info. Here is the VDH link: healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drug-abuse/alcohol-drugs/marijuana)

The statement at the bottom of this section:

“Remember: these laws apply to both temporary and permanent residents of VT.”

-Technically the laws also apply to visitors to the state. It would be more accurate to say:

“Remember: Vermont’s marijuana law applies to both residents and visitors.

Back:

-Suggest removing the “Please Use Responsibly” or come up with a different phrase. “Please Use Responsibly” is an Alcohol Industry sponsored marketing tagline. They use it because by using the word “use” they are able to still encourage use but make it look like they are being responsible...because “responsible” use is not defined it has been shown to have no impact on actual behavior.

Problem Solving A3	Title:	A3 Owner: Supervisor:	Start Date: End Date:
Background		Analysis of Conditions	
What are you talking about and why?		Why are current conditions the way they are?	
What is the context for the situation?		What are the root causes?	
		What is keeping you from doing better?	
Current Conditions		Proposed Changes	
What is the problem or need?		What do you plan to do about the problem?	
What facts or data indicate there is a problem?		Why do you believe it will work?	
How big is the problem?			
What impact is the problem having?			
What are the details?			
What are the pain points			
Depict information visually where possible and stick to the facts. If there is a particular measure you are trying to improve, put the data here.			
Goals		Expected Results	Actual Results
What are you hoping to achieve?		What do you expect to occur as a result of implementing your changes?	What actually happened as a result of implementing your changes?
What does better look like?		Include qualitative and quantitative measures.	Include qualitative and quantitative measures.
To the extent you can, be S.M.A.R.T and stay away from solutions.			