

Board of Health Meeting – January, 2019
Community Health Division, Lowell Health Department

Community Health Coordinator (CHC)
Kate Elkins

Healthy Living in Lowell

- The CHC produced a January episode of Healthy Living in Lowell focused the newly released Greater Lowell Community Health Needs Assessment. The show featured Kerrie D'Entremont from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance and Lisa Taylor-Montminy from Lowell General Hospital Community Benefits.
- A February show will focus on heart health and guests are still be selected for the episode.

Access to Equitable Physical Activity

- The City of Lowell was awarded a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation to establish more equitable opportunities for physical activity in Lowell over a three-year period.
- The walking routes project, now named, “Healthy Walking Trails” is moving along and the CHC will be working with the Planning and Development department to perform outreach in the Centerville neighborhood to get the project off the ground.

Employee Health and Wellness

- The CHC is working with the city’s health and wellness committee to plan for the 2020 calendar year of activities.

Vision 2020 Grant

- The Health Department was awarded funding from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance in October to implement a new vision program within the School Health Unit. This grant will assist with better screening equipment for our youngest children and an enhanced vision referral system. The CHC wrote the grant and is now assisting the School Health Unit with some of the grant objectives.
- A Welch Allyn SPOT vision screener has been ordered and testing will begin in the new year
- Prevent Blindness is consulting on improved referrals systems and work is underway.

Spacers for Kids Project

- The Greater Lowell Health Alliance awarded the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) with grant funds to launch a new initiative titled, Asthma Spacers for School Kids. This program aims to provide free spacers to school-aged children with a known asthma diagnosis in the Greater Lowell region.
- All spacers have been delivered to the health department and will be distributed in the new year; the CHC is assisting the School Health Unit with this effort. Please see news article that ran regarding the effort in the Lowell Sun on Sunday, Dec. 8 - <https://www.lowellsun.com/2019/12/08/devices-for-asthma-to-be-distributed-to-students/>

Additional Notes

- The CHC is planning a maternity leave for April – July and is actively working on planning for this process during this time.