

Board of Health Meeting – October 2, 2019
Community Health Division, Lowell Health Department

Community Health Coordinator (CHC)
Kate Elkins

Sun Safety Initiative

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts awarded Impact Melanoma, a national nonprofit, with grant funds to launch a sun safety initiative in the City of Lowell. Initial data shows that about 4,000 applications of sunscreen were used during July and August in the public setting.

Healthy Living in Lowell

- The CHC produced a September episode of Healthy Living in Lowell on Emergency Preparedness. October's show will focus on Breast Cancer Awareness.

Move Your Way Campaign

- Community outreach is being performed to raise awareness of the 2nd edition of the United States Physical Activity guidelines through the "Move Your Way" campaign.
- In September, Lowell HD staff were present at two outreach events, including a family festival at Shedd Park and a teen event at Career Academy.

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.
- Shedd Park has been restriped for Pickleball. South Common will be restriped in October – with a possible grand opening event this fall. McPherson needs additional crack repair and will be a possibility for the spring.

Employee Health and Wellness

- The CHC is also working on the following employee health and wellness programs, with valuable input from a recent employee survey:
 - Informational e-Newsletter (monthly)
 - Challenge Activities for Employees (monthly)
 - Onsite health and wellness programming for fall 2019 including yoga, anxiety relief (fall 2019)
 - Employee Health Fair (fall 2019)
 - Employee Step Challenge (fall 2019)

Additional Notes

- The CHC worked on the following department-wide projects: Health Department strategic planning, Drug Free Greater Lowell website revisions, EEE mosquito sample alert and communications, Syringe Collection reporting, Medication Disposal planning, and preparations and communications for Flu Season.
- The CHC will have a public health undergraduate intern from UMass Lowell starting in September, for four hours per week, through May 2020.