PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 22, 2023

Robert Goldstein, Commissioner

Today’s presentation is available on the mass.gov/dph website under “Upcoming Events” by clicking on the June 22 Public Health Council listing.
Kevin Cranston Award

Left: Commissioner Goldstein addresses the crowd at the MPHA Spring Awards Breakfast.
Right: Kevin Cranston (right) accepts the MPHA Paul Revere Award.
PRESS RELEASE

Massachusetts Department of Public Health offers summer safety guidance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
6/12/2023
Department of Public Health

BOSTON — With summer approaching, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) reminds residents to take recommended common-sense precautions to keep everyone, especially young children, safe this summer.
PRESS RELEASE

Commonwealth Provisionally Designates Boston Medical Center Team as Redevelopment Partner for the Shattuck Campus at Morton Street

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
6/21/2023

BOSTON — The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced a key step in advancing its plans for the Shattuck Campus at Morton Street by provisionally designating Boston Medical Center and its partners (BMC Team) for the redevelopment of the Campus. With this provisional designation, the BMC Team will begin refining its proposed redevelopment plans based on considerations such as public feedback and funding availability.
PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 22, 2023

Robert Goldstein, Commissioner
1. Health equity

2. Emergency response and preparedness
   – Emerging infectious diseases, biothreats, natural disasters
   – Growing health impacts of climate change
   – Threats to reproductive, gender affirming care

3. Workforce
   – Recovery and resilience
   – Recruit/retain a competent and compassionate public health/hospital workforce

4. Infrastructure
   – Updating and replacing physical plants
   – Data modernization, data sharing

5. Public service
   – Program delivery and streamlined public engagement
   – Fostering public trust
Proposed Structure

- Commissioner
  - Chief of Staff
    - Deputy Commissioner
    - Assistant Commissioner (BIDLS)
      - BSAS
      - BCHAP
      - BHFN
      - BHCQS
      - BHPL
      - BCEH*
    - Assistant Commissioner (OPH)
      - Office of HE
      - VEI
      - IHET
      - OPG
    - Assistant Commissioner (Health Equity)
      - Office of HE
    - Deputy Commissioner (Healthcare)
      - PHHS
      - SOPS
    - Chief Medical Officer
      - OPEM
      - OLRH
  - Sr Policy Advisor
  - Sr Dir of Strategy
- Deputy Commissioner (Healthcare)
- Chief Operating Officer
  - HR/IT
  - CFO
  - Deputy COO
- General Counsel

* Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health
Proposed Structure

- Commissioner
  - Assistant Commissioner (BIDLS)
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  - Assistant Commissioner (OPH)
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*Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health
Proposed Structure

Commissioner

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- BHFN
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- BHPL
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Assistant Commissioner (OPH)
- Office of HE
  - VEI
  - IHET
  - OPG

Assistant Commissioner (Health Equity)

Deputy Commissioner (Healthcare)
- PHHS
- SOPS

Chief Medical Officer
- OPEM
- OLRH

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Sr Dir of Strategy

Deputy Commissioner

General Counsel

Chief Operating Officer
- HR/IT
- CFO
- Deputy COO

* Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health
*Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health
Proposed Structure

*Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health
PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL
MEETING
JUNE 22, 2023

Robert Goldstein, Commissioner
The rate of opioid-related overdose deaths increased 2.5% in 2022 compared with 2021. This rate is 9% higher than the 2016 peak.
Preliminary data show 216 confirmed and 306 estimated opioid-related overdose deaths in the first three months of 2023.

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<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>171</td>
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</table>

Estimated 566 deaths

Estimated 522 deaths
Fentanyl remains a key factor in opioid-related overdose deaths (94% present in toxicology screen in 1st quarter of 2023).

Figure 4. Percent of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths with Specific Drugs Present in Massachusetts: 2014-2022
White non-Hispanic residents account for 86% of all deaths and only 69% of opioid-related overdose deaths.
From 2021 to 2022 Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic males had increased rates of death
From 2021 to 2022 Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic females had increased rates of death

Confirmed Opioid-Related Overdose Death Rates, All Intent, by Race and Hispanic Ethnicity

Female

Age-adjusted Rates per 100,000

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<tr>
<td>All Races</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>19.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>11.0</td>
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<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian non-Hispanic</td>
<td>99.2</td>
<td>70.7</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>24.4</td>
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</table>
In 2022, the most rural communities had the highest rates of opioid related incidents treated by EMS and opioid-related overdose deaths.
Opioid prescribing bounced back after COVID-19 related shutdowns, and has begun to stabilize
Some Next Steps

1. Harm reduction vending machines
2. Statewide overdose prevention hotline
3. Community Profiles on dashboard
4. Therapeutic outpatient services for youth and adolescents
PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 22, 2023

Robert Goldstein, Commissioner
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL)

Overview for the Public Health Council

James Lavery, BHPL Director
Timothy St. Laurent, BHPL Deputy Director
Lauren Nelson, BHPL Deputy Director
BHPL sits within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Prior to 2023:

• 10 Boards of Registration and Certification
• Drug Control Program (DCP)
• *Board of Medicine
Drug Control Program

• Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)
• Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration (MCSR)
• Medication Administration Program (MAP)
• Pharmaceutical Code of Conduct (PCOC)
• Drug Stewardship Program
• Drug Control Enforcement Unit
On August 5, 2021, Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2021, “An Act Reorganizing Certain Licensing Agencies of the Executive Department” brought with it 13 new health licensing boards from Division of Occupational Licensure (DOL) to DPH.

11 of those health boards are now part of BHPL

*Registered Sanitarians and Certified Health Officers are now located in DPH’s Office of Local and Regional Health
Managing the DOL – DPH transition

• **Between June 2022 and December 2022**, BHPL and DPH managed the transition of DOL health boards to DPH in three (3) cohorts to provide the best experience for staff, licensees, and applicants

• To prepare for the boards and staff, BHPL created an **Implementation Plan** with several workstreams, including Operations, Communications, Legal and eLicensing

• BHPL devised an accompanying **Communications Plan**, which identified internal and external stakeholders impacted by the transition. The plan mapped their messaging needs and communication channels for which BHPL developed targeted messages

• **Daily Transition Management Group** calls were held with BHPL leadership to discuss status updates, identify challenges, mitigate roadblocks, and develop strategic solutions
BHPL oversees and supports **21 boards of registration** and certification in health professions across **126** license types and the **Drug Control Program**.

- **Board of Nursing**
- **Board of Pharmacy**
- **Board of Dentistry**
- **Multi-Boards**

- **Drug Control Program**
  - **1st DOL Health Boards**
    - *Transition – September 2022*
  - **2nd DOL Health Boards**
    - *Transition – November 2022*
  - **3rd DOL Health Boards**
    - *Transition – January 2023*
Below are the **license types** and **name** of the leader for each board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Name</th>
<th>License/Permits Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Registration in Nursing</strong></td>
<td>CNM, CNP, CRNA, CNS, CNM Temp, CNP Temp, CNS Temp, CRNA Temp, LPN, LPN Temp, PCNS, PCNS Temp, RN, RN Temp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Cambra, Deputy Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Registration in Pharmacy</strong></td>
<td>Pharmacist, Pharmacy Intern, Pharmacy Technician, Pharm Tech Trainee, Nuclear Pharmacist, Nuclear Pharmacy, CSP, Outsourcing Controlled Sub., Retail Drug Store Permit, Resident Outsourcing Facility, Wholesale Controlled Sub., Wholesale Dist. Permit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Sencabaugh, Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monica Botto, Associate Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Registration in Dentistry</strong></td>
<td>Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant, Faculty License, Limited License, Nitrous Oxide, Anesthesia, Dental Hygienist Anesthesia Permit, Conscious Sedation, MDF DN, PDO DH, PDO DN, Facility Permit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Young, Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Mills, Associate Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drug Control Program</strong></td>
<td>MCSR Advanced Practice RN, MCSR Dentist, MCSR LL Dental Intern, MCSR LL Faculty, MCSR Nurse Midwife Advanced Practice, MCSR Pharmacists, MCSR Physician, MCSR Physician Asst.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Johnson, Director</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Board Name</th>
<th>License Types</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multi-Boards</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration in Naturopathy</td>
<td>Naturopathic Doctor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration of Nursing Home Administrators</td>
<td>Nursing Home Administrator, Administrator in Training</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Certification of Community Health Workers</td>
<td>Community Health Worker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors</td>
<td>Genetic Counselor, Provisional Genetic Counselor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration of Perfusionists</td>
<td>Perfusionist, Provisional Perfusionist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration of Physician Assistants</td>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Respiratory Care</td>
<td>Respiratory Therapist, Limited Respiratory Therapist</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transferred Cohort 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration of Dietitians and Nutritionists</td>
<td>Dietitians and Nutritionists</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration of Chiropractors</td>
<td>Chiropractors, Chiropractor Facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists</td>
<td>Hearing Instrument Specialists, Apprentices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Board Name</td>
<td>License Types</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transferred Cohort 2</td>
<td>Board of Registration of Optometry</td>
<td>Optometrist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Burke, Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Board of Registration in Podiatry</td>
<td>Podiatrist, Podiatrist Limited License</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology</td>
<td>Audiologist, Audiology Assistant, Speech Language Pathologist, Speech Language</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Audiology</td>
<td>Pathology Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians</td>
<td>Optician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transferred Cohort 3</td>
<td>Board of Allied Health Professionals</td>
<td>Athletic Trainer, Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapist Asst,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Bialas, Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Therapist, Phys. Therapist Asst, Phys Therapy Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Erin Murphy,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Executive</td>
<td>Board of Registration of Psychologists</td>
<td>Psychologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Registration of</td>
<td>Board of Registration of Social Workers</td>
<td>LICSW, LCSW, LSW, LSWA</td>
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<td>Social Workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Registration of</td>
<td>Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health and</td>
<td>Applied Behavior Analyst, Asst Applied Behavior Analyst, Educational</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allied Mental Health and</td>
<td>Human Services Professions</td>
<td>Psychologist, Marriage and Family Therapist, Mental Health Counselor,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services Professions</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation Counselor</td>
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</table>
## Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) Overview

### Current number of licenses, registrations, and certifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Program</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug Control Program</td>
<td>64,132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Nursing</td>
<td>197,895</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Pharmacy</td>
<td>36,175</td>
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<td>Board of Dentistry</td>
<td>29,725</td>
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<td>Multi-Board</td>
<td>11,094</td>
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<td><strong>Transferred Cohort 1 – September 2022</strong></td>
<td>5,363</td>
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<td><strong>Transferred Cohort 2 – November 2022</strong></td>
<td>11,538</td>
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<td><strong>Transferred Cohort 3 – January 2023</strong></td>
<td>71,249</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>427,171</td>
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</table>
New e-Licensing Application and Renewal Platform (eLX)

DPH is upgrading its current eLicensing platform (MLO) to a more user-friendly and robust system called eLX.

Customer Service: eLX will enhance the interactions that licensees and applicants have with their boards, making it easier and quicker to apply for and renew licenses.

The Bureau has a strong support structure and we have been working continuously on quality improvement to ensure a more positive experience during the licensing process.
eLX – Project Overview

DPH eLX (eLicensing eXcellence) is a strategic initiative to unify DPH with a single License, Compliance and Enforcement system, vendor and standards.

### DPH eLX Objectives

<table>
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<th>Go Live Phase</th>
<th>Board</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>MCSR II / Foxpro</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Naturopathy</td>
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<td>GENETIC COUNSELORS</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>PERFUSIONISTS</td>
<td>6/5/2023</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>RESPIRATORY CARE</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Physician Assistants</td>
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<td>PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS - MCSR</td>
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<td>PHARMACEUTICAL DEVICE MFGR.</td>
<td>8/28/2023</td>
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<td>COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS</td>
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<td>Pharmacy MCSR</td>
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<td>NURSE AIDE REGISTRY</td>
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<td>11/13/2023</td>
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<td>Nursing MCSR</td>
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<td>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Physician MCSR</td>
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</table>
How the Boards Operate

• All members are appointed by the Governor (various terms)
• Monthly meetings (most boards, some meet as few as 4x/yr.)
• Each Board has between 5 and 17 seats, depending on their statute
• Member qualifications are set by statute
BHPL oversees:

• Drug Control Program regulations, listed in 105 CMR; and
• Board regulations, each listed in a separate CMR chapter

The PHC hears and approves amendments to DPH regulations in 105 CMR

Whereas, Boards are **statutorily enabled** to promulgate their own regulations pursuant to the following review process:

• Boards develop and approve amendments by vote
• DPH Commissioner’s office reviews and approves to present to EHS
• EHS and ANF review and approve for public hearing and comments
• BHPL holds public hearing and evaluates public comments
• Boards finalize post-comment changes and approve by vote
• DPH Commissioner’s office reviews and approves to present to EHS
• EHS and ANF review and approve for promulgation
Number of Certified CHWs – 1,099

Number of CHW Education and Training Programs - 10
(2 new applications submitted for review)

Number of Continuing Education Training Programs - 7
BHPL: Quick Facts

BHPL is also home to the:

• Pharmacy Substance Use Disorder (PSUD) Program

• Substance Addiction Recovery Program (SARP) for Nurses

• Public Records Unit, which responded to 786 Public Record Requests (PRRs) in 2022, with an average response time of 6.98 days

• MassPAT, which recorded over 11,871,000 searches in FY22, an increase of 2.5 million searches from FY21
Thank you for the opportunity to present this information today.

Please direct any questions to:

- **James Lavery**, BHPL Director, James.Lavery@mass.gov
- **Timothy St. Laurent**, BHPL Deputy Director, Timothy.St.Laurent@mass.gov
- **Lauren Nelson**, BHPL Deputy Director, Lauren.Nelson@mass.gov
Next Meeting:
July 12, 2023