Preparing for Climate Effects at the Municipal Level: A Public Health Symposium

Friday, April 22, 2016
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Hosted at the Endicott House, Dedham, MA
Summary

- Need for warming and cooling centers
- Seven town coalition commitment to collaboratively adapt to climate change and to mitigate its effects
- Addressed community capacity to respond to the effects of rising temperatures - extreme heat and severe weather - and the resulting health effects
- Combined documents into a municipal template/toolkit that may be used by any city or town to customize the plans for their own community
Challenges

• Planning for needs of whole community
• Differences between centers and shelters
• Collaboration = lots of stakeholders with review rights
Actions

- Identified common need for plan
- Identified best practices
- Developed opening criteria, standard operating procedures, and planning recommendations
Community Impact & Benefits

- Effective use of resources
- Successful regional collaboration
- Enhanced local emergency preparedness