



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

Norfolk County 7 Public Health Coalition Warming and Cooling Center Plans

Canton, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Norwood,
Wellesley and Westwood, MA

Timothy McDonald, Needham Public Health Director



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