



CITY OF REVERE – Board of Health

Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2026

Call of Members: Dr. Drew Bunker, Kathleen Savage, Viviana Catano Merino

City of Revere staff: Lauren Buck, Michael Wells, Paula Sepulveda, Claire Inzerillo

Topic Discussed: Review and Approval Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the April 23, 2026 meeting were presented to the Board and approved.

Topic Discussed: Public Health Communicable Disease Monthly Report

Lauren Buck presented the communicable disease report for the month of May and provided updates from Health and Human Services.

Topic Discussed: Inspectional Services monthly report

- Michael Wells presented an overview of all inspections conducted by the Inspectional Services Department in the month of May.
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Topic Discussed: Research Study Team on HIV and Incarceration Presentation by Dr. Elise Warsel and Sarah Felman.

- Dr. Elise Warsel presented research on HIV prevention and care in Suffolk County jails, focusing on Boston, Chelsea, and Revere. The presentation highlighted the importance of HIV testing and PrEP education.
- The research team reported increased HIV testing after implementing an opt-out testing process in local jails and discussed the need for stronger community partnerships to support individuals with substance use disorder and those transitioning back into the community after incarceration.

Topic Discussed: Review of the draft Regulations Restricting the Sale of Kratom Products

- Lauren Buck introduced regulations The proposed regulations would establish a citywide ban of Kratom, create fines for violations, and would also have a grace period before enforcement begins.
- Claire Enzarello reviewed the three regulatory options available to the Board of Health, maintaining the current approach with no regulation, enacting a full citywide ban on kratom sales, or implementing a hybrid model regulating only synthetic kratom products.
- Board members discussed concerns regarding synthetic kratom products and the lack of FDA regulation. The Board also noted the challenges inspectional services would face in distinguishing between natural and synthetic products during enforcement. Members emphasized public safety concerns, including overdose risks, and expressed support for

moving forward with the proposed ban but stating that the regulations could be revisited in the future if state or federal guidance changes.

- Final vote on the proposed regulations will be on the June Board of Health meeting

Topic Discussed: Public Hearing on Proposed Regulations Restricting the Sale of Kratom Products

- 1 email received in support of the proposed regulations
- 14 emails received in opposition
- Allison Smith from Washington DC spoke in opposition to the proposed ban and proposed for regulation of synthetic products only

<https://www.youtube.com/live/SnhuyNBlero?si=wU4r4cYOyxVlw6Pm>