



City Council
Health & Human Services Meeting

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Councilor Brian Santaniello

~Final~

October 6, 2025

2:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

2:00 PM Meeting called to order on October 6, 2025 at Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Roll Call

Present: Councilor Santaniello, Councilor Davila, Councilor Walsh, Cindy Murphy, Dan Murphy, Seth Kaufman, MD, Rawad Elias, MD, Seth Kaufman, MD, Rawad Elias, MD, Sakr Bachir, MD, Anna Marie Golden (BHC), Kendal Lashane (BHC), Tyonne Hinson (BHC), Holly Mason (BHC,) Jorge Perez, Reminder (Media), WesternMassNews

Virtual: Commissioner Caulton, WWLP 22 News

Public Portion

1. Discussion On Breast Cancer And New Treatment Plans.
2. Discussion On The Effect Breast Cancer Has On Minority Groups Versus Others.

Minutes

Overview

The Committee received a briefing from Baystate Medical Center and community partners on breast cancer awareness, treatment disparities, and emerging care approaches. Discussion centered on higher mortality rates among minority women, barriers to early detection and treatment, and the role of technology in improving

outcomes.

Key Points

- Breast cancer mortality remains significantly higher among Black and African American women, with additional disparities affecting Latina, Asian, and immigrant populations.
- Early screening and intervention were emphasized as critical, with current medical guidance supporting routine mammograms beginning at age 40.
- Triple-negative breast cancer was identified as a major challenge due to its aggressive nature, limited treatment options, and higher prevalence among African American women.
- Primary care providers play a key role in risk stratification, early detection, and referral.
- Fear, cost, and access barriers continue to delay diagnosis and treatment for many patients.
- Baystate Medical Center highlighted ongoing efforts in clinical trials, financial counseling, and survivorship support.
- Artificial intelligence is being explored to enhance detection and treatment planning, with consensus that human oversight remains essential.

Next Steps / Action Items

- Helen Carlton to coordinate targeted public service announcements on early breast cancer detection, focusing on Black and Latina women in Springfield.
- Baystate Medical Center to continue offering clinical trials to ensure local community representation in research.
- Baystate Medical Center to maintain financial counseling services for patients facing treatment-related costs.
- Cindy Sherda Murphy to continue peer-to-peer survivorship support through *Each Moment We're Alive Cancer Support Systems*.
- Baystate Health Centers to continue initiatives aimed at improving breast cancer screening rates in immigrant communities.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]