



Massachusetts Medical Interpreter Training

Helping bridge communication barriers faced by patients accessing health care services.

Paving the Way to Health Care Conference 2018

Keynote Speaker: Abigail R. Averbach, MSc

Abigail R. Averbach, MSc, was appointed Assistant Commissioner and Director of the Office of Population Health for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) in October 2017. The newly established Office of Population Health was envisioned by MDPH Commissioner Monica Bharel to align MDPH efforts to achieve evidence-based, outcomes-driven improvements in health and health equity for communities and populations in Massachusetts. In this role, Ms. Averbach oversees the Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment, Office of Special Analytics Projects, Office of Health Equity, and the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics.



Ms. Averbach is a proven leader in the public health arena. Prior to joining MDPH, she served as the Director of the Office of Data Analytics at UMass Medical School, Commonwealth Medicine Division. She had several leadership roles over a 13-year career at Commonwealth Medicine including serving as Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of Massachusetts Client Relations. She is also an Instructor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at UMass Medical School. Prior to Commonwealth Medicine, Abbie worked at MDPH from 1995-2004 including serving as the Director of Research and Evaluation for HIV/AIDS. She began her public health career as an Epidemiologist at MDPH. Abbie lives in Worcester and is involved in a variety of community activities. She is a member of the Worcester Board of Health, serves on the Community Outreach Committee of the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, and is President of the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts.