
METROWEST HEALTH FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 29, 2018

Contact: Martin Cohen
508-879-7625, ext.204
mcohen@mwhealth.org

MetroWest Health Foundation Honors Needham Board of Health and Natick's James White, Jr.

Framingham, MA – The MetroWest Health Foundation presented its 2018 Deborah Blumer Community Health Leadership Award to the **Needham Board of Health** and Natick's Director of Public Health, **James White, Jr.**

The Needham Board of Health was chosen for its decision in 2005 to set the minimum age for tobacco purchases in the town at age 21. As the first public health agency in the country to go to *Tobacco 21*, Needham set a standard that is now being replicated in cities and states across the country thereby reducing teen tobacco use rates.

James (Jim) White, Jr. is being honored for his leadership in launching the MetroWest Tobacco Control Program - a nine-town consortium that has helped align tobacco regulations and control measures across multiple jurisdiction. Through Jim' work, the MetroWest area leads the state in communities adopting 21 as the minimum purchase age for tobacco products.

The Deborah Blumer Community Health Leadership Award is named for the late State Representative Deborah Blumer, who served as the founding chairwoman of the foundation's board of trustees.

About the MetroWest Health Foundation:

The MetroWest Health Foundation is a catalyst for a healthy MetroWest, providing more than \$5 million in annual financial support for preventative and responsive health programs. Through its work on issues such as adolescent health, healthy aging and access to care, the foundation seeks to develop and support programs that have a positive impact on the health of the 25 communities in the MetroWest area of Massachusetts. To date, the foundation has provided more than \$56 million in financial support that helps residents and their families lead healthier lives.

###