

From: Sarah McColgan <smccolgan@mhoa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 5:29 AM EDT
To: Gilberti, Rick <RGilberti@bellingham.org>
Subject: Re: Tobacco?

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Rick:
I have given you access to Bellingham in POST. Please refer to the User Guide or the Help Desk if you have questions. You should be getting an email from Counter Tools to set your password.
Regarding the MOU, I'm wondering why you would want MHOA to be involved since you have taken the trainings, and your presence indicates that Bellingham has the staff and capacity to do the work. The MHOA program is for communities in shared services agreements that have identified tobacco control as an area where they would like to increase capacity. The services that are available without an MOU are the various trainings, including the ride-a-long which you had with our inspector. The actual inspections and compliance checks are primarily for municipalities that don't have the staff or funding to do this work, or as a part of the training for the staff, in the form of a ride-a-long. Let me know how you think Bellingham would fit into this. My concern is that we have a limited budget, and this part of our contract with DPH is only through 6/30/26. I need to give priority to municipalities who currently don't have the capacity to do the work. But again, maybe this needs further information on your part.

Sarah McColgan
Mass. Health Officers Association
Tobacco Control Program Director
(413) 636-6418

The Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) Tobacco Control Program is a technical assistance program available to public health departments in Massachusetts cities and towns. The Tobacco Control Program is funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Technical assistance provided by MHOA to local boards of health does not constitute legal advice. Contact your city or town counsel when legal questions or requests for legal advice arise.

On Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 9:25 AM Gilberti, Rick<RGilberti@bellingham.org> wrote:

Hi Sarah, I have taken all the video training you sent me for POST. I think I could input the data required for POST with no problems. Thank you for the fine amount information. I will pass it along to the Board of Health. I would also like the MOU from your office to present to my BOH. If you have any questions. Please let me know. Thanks, Rick

From: Sarah McColgan <smccolgan@mhoa.com>
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 11:17 AM
To: Cheryl Sbarra <sbarra@mahb.org>
Cc: Gilberti, Rick <RGilberti@BellinghamMA.org>
Subject: Re: Tobacco?

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Thanks Cheryl for forwarding the email.
Rick, KC is an inspector who works for Mass Health Officers Assoc. I'm glad to hear that you found your ride-a-long last week helpful. The MOU that Bellingham can enter into with MHOA a for one year and is to help increase the town's capacity to conduct tobacco control inspections and compliance checks. You've had the opportunity to do a ride-a-long with KC on inspections so I'm assuming you would like an MOU for underage compliance checks, but let me know if that's not the case.
Training is available for compliance checks. The next zoom based training is on November 20 at 1pm. Registration has not opened for it yet, but check the MHOA website in late-September. This will only be offered quarterly during FY 26. You will have the opportunity for a ride-a-long also with this training.
I am attaching the information for POST training. It involves self-directed videos. Once you have completed the videos let me know and I will give you access in the system for Bellingham only.
KC told me that you mentioned giving warnings to retailers when there is a violation. Even though Bellingham's regulations may not have been updated to mirror the 2019 state law, local boards of health are mandated to enforce that law, which does not include warnings. I have also attached a guidance document highlighting the board's responsibility for enforcement if there is a violation of 105 CMR 665.
Let me know if there is anything else I can do to help or if you have additional questions.

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On Thu, Jul 3, 2025 at 1:22 PM Cheryl Sbarra<sbarra@mahb.org> wrote:

Hi Rick,

I'm happy to help. I am adding Sarah McColgan to this email. She directs the Tobacco Control Program for MHOA and I believe she can help you with the MOU and answer some of your questions.

Happy 4th,

Cheryl

On Thu, Jul 3, 2025 at 10:57 AM Gilberti, Rick<RGilberti@bellinghamma.org> wrote:

Hi Cheryl, Thank you for getting back to me. I took the retail Tobacco training yesterday with KC Dufour. She was very helpful to my ongoing training as the new Bellingham Tobacco Agent. During my day yesterday I asked many questions about the different services offered by your office. I'm interested in the Post training. Bellingham would also benefit from having a MOU with the Tobacco Control office. I hope you could guide me through the process to accomplish these goals. I understand it being the day before the fourth this might have to be put off until next week. That's fine. Thanking you in advance, Rick
Sent from my iPad

On Jul 2, 2025, at 3:35 PM, Cheryl Sbarra<sbarra@mahb.org> wrote:

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Hi Rick,

I received your message and am happy to help. Just let me know what you need.

Cheryl

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