

# THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

## Bea Brunkhorst – Candidate for Board of Health

*Incumbent and Caucus Nominee*



### Events:

No events scheduled

### Contact information:

## 2016 Citizen's Caucus Statement

### Credentials:

- Resident since 1995
- Board of Health Member from 1998-2016 minus one year
- B.A. in Biochemistry from Douglass College, Rutgers University 1983
- Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Boston University 1990
- Scientist doing research and development in Cancer Immuno-therapy since 1992.
- Member of Bedford's Institutional Bio-safety Committees that are a part of the Recombinant DNA permitting process since 2000.

My background is in the Sciences, I hold my Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Boston University. For the past 17 years, I have been a Project Leader, Research Scientist and the BioSafety Officer at a local pharmaceutical company. My scientific work has centered around research on Cancer inhibitors that target tumors and mobilize our own body's defenses to fight the tumor.

As BioSafety Officer and Chair of my companies Institutional Biosafety Committee, I have been responsible for: helping to set safety policies, training, as well as coordinating recombinant DNA applications and interfacing with local Health officials.

**VISION:** Helping neighbors lead healthy lives in Bedford.

**MISSION:** We are dedicated to serve all Bedford residents, particularly the underserved, and to promote healthy people, healthy families, and a healthy environment through compassionate care, education, and prevention. The Board will create needed regulations, set policy, hold hearings, and consider variances.

Your health is our concern.

**Brief BOH update:** I am proud of our professional staff (Director Heidi Porter, Community Nurse Joyce Chang, Health agent Katherine Dagle, Admin assistant Gem Mercado). For example, our Director has been responsible for approx \$250,000 in grant monies and intern hours that have helped to fund such initiatives as Healthy Bedford one component is for exercise- through safe routes to school and development of a more walk able town for example. Other programs address Lyme disease through Tick awareness programs. Through the Director's efforts, our School Nurse Program has been evaluated which resulted in creation of a Nurse Supervisor position that helps make sure our program can continue to cover all children's needs in the school. Administered over 1000 flu vaccinations.

I would like to continue to work with the local boards to examine what we can do to insert Public Health needs into our guidelines for the Built Environment to improve overall health. This becomes important in the face of increase in obesity due to a more sedentary lifestyle for example.

We face continued threats from the opioid epidemic , new influenza strains, emergencies created by severe weather, obesity, suicide, heart disease, cancer and violence. I want to use both my scientific and partnership skills to help our BOH be ready for such threats.

I ask for your support on March 12th.

