

## New Bedford's Cheryl Bartlett to receive state honor in June

By The Standard-Times

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NEW BEDFORD — The Massachusetts Public Health Association is honoring Cheryl Bartlett, president and CEO of the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, at the organization's 16th annual Spring Award Breakfast on June 1.

Bartlett will be honored with the Lemuel Shattuck Award, which is given to a person who has made a significant contribution in the field of public health throughout his or her career, according to a news release.

She was nominated by Stewart Landers, director of US health services at John Snow Inc.

"Today, she continues her commitment to the underserved in her position as CEO of Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, a crucial health care provider for the vulnerable residents of the region."

"I am so honored to receive an award from an association of providers and advocates who believe, as deeply as I do, that everyone should have access to the highest quality health care," Bartlett said in the release. "Advocating for the expansion of health care access has been my life's work, and I am so proud that my home state remains committed to that ideal. Through these challenging times, Massachusetts continues to be a beacon of hope for all its citizens."

Bartlett was the first nurse to serve as commissioner of the MA Department of Public Health and is certified in four nursing specialties, according to the release. Under her leadership, Massachusetts was the first state to declare the use of opioids and associated overdose deaths a public health emergency and to provide universal access to nasal Narcan. She chaired the Northeast Governor's Opioid Task Force to develop the first in the nation regional plan to address substance use and distribution. She also led the Gov. Deval Patrick administration's Mass in Motion.