

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Date: June 29, 2019

Mayoral Candidate Sheila Gilmour states that today's Boston Globe Article Highlights the Crucial Need for the City to do more to Combat the Opioid and Mental Health Crisis in Franklin County

The fact that from 2006 to 2012, the CVS pharmacy in Greenfield received the largest number of opioid painkillers of any neighborhood drugstore in Massachusetts speaks to the crisis we have in our rural corner of the state.

According to Mayoral Candidate Sheila Gilmour, "The Opioid Task Force in Franklin County is groundbreaking in their work to fight the opioid epidemic, but the City of Greenfield needs to be a more active partner"

She continues "This is not just about the opioid epidemic, it's about mental health and how we treat people with substance abuse disorders. The threat of Baystate closing our Mental Health Unit in Greenfield will only makes matters worse. That is why we must act now."

Franklin County residents in particular face higher than average risks of mental health and substance abuse issues, according to [the Community Health Needs Assessment prepared for Baystate](#).

- An estimated 12% of Franklin County residents have poor mental health on 15 or more days in a month, compared to 11% statewide.
- Hospitalization rates for mental disorders (including substance use) in Franklin County are nearly 50% more than the state.
- Opioid overdose fatalities in Franklin County were higher than that of the state with 13.2 fatalities per 100,000 as compared to 10.7 statewide.

"The City of Boston has set up an Office of Recovery Services that partners with other agencies to help those struggling with addiction to connect quickly to help. State and federal funding is

available for this type of city agency. As Mayor I would work with all stakeholders and legislators to set up a similar agency in Greenfield to complement existing services without duplicating them." Gilmour continues, "It won't cost taxpayers a dime, and we can save countless lives"

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Sheila Gilmour is a candidate for Mayor in Greenfield. She currently represents Precinct 6 on the Greenfield City Council, holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy & Administration and is an Air Force veteran, wife and mother. For more about Sheila please go to <http://sheilaforgreenfield.com>