



Board of Health

March 11, 2026
18 Mulberry Street
Nashua, NH 03060
12:30 PM

Our **mission** is to promote, protect, and preserve the health and well-being of the Greater Nashua Region through leadership and community collaboration. Our **vision** is to have an informed, safe, healthy, and resilient community where all people can thrive and prosper. We subscribe to the following **values**: integrity, leadership, adaptability, and respect.

Facilitator: Board Chair, Dr Charles Cappetta

Minutes

Attendees *Board of Health (BOH): Dr. Charles Cappetta, Henry Och, Dr Stephanie Rosenblum (via zoom), Stephanie Ballentine*
Board of Alderman: Amber Morgan
City Employees: LaTonya Muccioli, Housing Services officer, Heidi Peek-Kukulka, Health Officer; Kim Bernard, Chief Public Health Nurse, Bob Mack, Welfare Officer; Foqia Ijaz, CS Administrative Assistant; Mike McGuiness, Deputy Health Officer; April Torhan, EH Specialist

Updates and Announcements

Meeting Called to Order	Board Chair, Dr. Cappetta called the meeting to order at 12: 30 P.M referencing NH RSA 91-A:2, II.
Approval of Minutes- February 2026	• Approved
Director's Report Presented by LaTonya Muccioli,	• The Vision and Mission were read. • Financial Update: The DHHS Regional Public Health FY 27–28 budget was submitted. The Community Services (CS) budget was presented to the Mayor's Office.

**Housing
Services
Officer**

- A new contract has been established with Wanderlust to support behavioral health needs at the Warming Station (WS) for on-call coverage. Two clients have already begun receiving services.
- Community Health (CH) and Community Services (CS) are collaborating on a tuberculosis (TB) case involving an unhoused individual. The Nashua Police Department (NPD) is attempting to locate the individual. Flyers and educational materials have been distributed, and an educational video on respiratory diseases has been created. Community Health Workers (CHWs) are conducting daily searches as well.
- Legislative Updates: HB 392 (NH) was defeated. would have eliminated New Hampshire's Office of Health Access at the Department of Health and Human Services.
- SB 498 has moved forward and will go to the Finance Committee. This bill would close the private health insurance coverage gap for children's behavioral health care coordination.
- Performance Management & Quality Insurance (PMQI): the committee met and discussed potential projects, including the strategic plan and SWOT analysis. A session with Growth Partners is scheduled for March 16.
- Warming Station: \$60,000 from the OATS Fund will be used for storage and supplies for the Warming Station, as well as PPE. The Warming Station currently has 21 staff members plus United Way volunteers. There have been no new Narcan uses, and the average nightly attendance is 42 guests. The station will operate for six more weeks.
- Housing Services Officer assisted Office of Emergency Management (OEM) with development of disaster fund/donation management plan
- Health Promotion & Communication Specialist is planning for Public Health Week 2026.
- Epidemiologist position has been posted.
- Director received recognition by the NASW – NH for Citizen of the Year Award – nominated by Melbourne Moran. This ceremony will be held on March 27th at the 2026 Social Work Celebration and Awards Ceremony. This ceremony will take place 8:00 am – 11:00 am at the Double Tree Hotel in Concord, NH.

Questions and Comments:

- A concern was raised regarding Public Health Week and a bill prohibiting vaccine advertising. Would it affect activities? Response: The amendment to SB 1616, which would prohibit promotion, will go to the full House tomorrow. The BOH was encouraged to consider submitting testimony opposing the bill. Public Health Week activities will not be affected. Public health focuses on health promotion, not promoting specific vaccines or pharmaceutical companies. All artwork is approved by the state.
- It was noted that both past Alderman Melbourne Moran and present Alderman Tom Lopez are principles at Wanderlust; as such, a contract with Wanderlust could be construed to be a conflict of interest. Staff highlighted the fact that there is a paucity of behavioral health providers available and willing to support behavioral health needs at the Warming Station and expressed appreciation for the contract. In the interests of transparency and for risk management purposes, it was recommended by the BOH that legal counsel be consulted, not only for this particular contract, but also to establish a mechanism for reviewing future contracts that may present a potential conflict of interest. It is also anticipated that Alderman Lopez will be reviewing the matter with his aldermanic colleagues for the purposes of transparency.

CH Department Report provided by Chief PH Nurse Kim Bernard	• Data shows a successful 9th Valentine’s Day event, assisting 39 clients. • CHD team presented to division on roles and programming • Continue precepting undergraduate spring semester nursing students from NCC and UNH, 2 days/week • Submitted HIV grant budget for 2026-27 to NHDHHS • Legislative update: HB1811 was defeated in the NH House (bill to eliminate school aged vaccine requirements).
Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Health Officer – Heidi Peek- Kukulka	• Inspection failure rate remains at zero. Due to staffing shortages, fewer inspections are currently being conducted. A new staff member will start on March 16 and will be introduced at the next meeting. • Deputy Health Officer conducted an experiment using expired pool samples. • The department has received complaints related to residual garbage uncovered by the snow melting. • Legislative updates: ○ SB 418 – Homestead Food Products was signed and will go to the Senate Committee. ○ Kratom legislation is expected to pass, including a 21+ age requirement and prohibition of kratom in food products. • Mold issues are being addressed by identifying sources. Cold weather incidents such as burst pipes and fires have also been reported. • Staff continue to maintain professional credentials. • The department met with the Root Awakening owner. The state has declined approval for prepackaged kratom drinks in order to protect public health. • Staff also attended the Great American Downtown meeting regarding summer events and continue to collaborate on emergency responses. Questions and Comments: • Can restaurants be contacted regarding cleanup of the residual garbage? Response: The issue is primarily in residential areas. Restaurants are required to maintain cleanliness during inspections. • Is there any update on rabies control? Response: The Animal Control Officer has retired. A trained candidate is expected to be hired soon, and the department is working with the Humane Society.
Welfare Department report provided by Bob Mack, Welfare Officer	• Expenditures remained level compared to last February. Client numbers have not increased. While voucher numbers are lower, costs have increased. • \$507,000 spent, representing 82% of the budget. • Three families were placed, and two families were referred to shelters. • Collaboration continues with CHWs and shelter programs. • Legislative update: The New Hampshire Local Welfare Administrators Association (NHLWAA) is monitoring HB 348 as it moves to the Senate committee. They are concerned that the bill could negatively impact how general assistance services are provided across the state. The department is working with NH Legal Aid and the NH

	Municipal Association to adjust language to meet the requirements of RSA 165 and enhance partnerships. Questions and Comments: • Why is prescription assistance low? Response: Many churches and healthcare providers (e.g., Lamprey Health Care and St. Joseph Hospital) help with prescription cost.
Ethic Committee Discussion	Public Health Ethics Committee Meeting update: • A discussion was held about a hypothetical situation if the Ethics Committee had been active during the TB case. Two issues were identified: ○ Community resistance to requiring isolation or restrictions. ○ Potential harm to the community. • The Committee discussed additional factors to be considered when using the guidelines to evaluate cases, such as decision-making capacity, cognitive impairment, physical or mental health needs, and spiritual considerations when individuals cannot refuse to comply with public health requirements. • If It was noted that there is may be insufficient time for a full cognitive assessment when implementing public health requirements, as consultation with subject matter experts would be necessary. Intake processes may provide additional background information. It was noted that these considerations were addressed in the recent TB case. • A motion was made to amend the Ethics Guidelines document to include these considerations, and it was approved by the Board. • A question was raised about adding psychological considerations. The Board agreed to include behavioral considerations, and the motion passed. • Additional training opportunities will be explored, particularly regarding cognitive impairment cases. • A letter of support from the BOH may help with the future cases in which law enforcement or the State is reluctant to enforce public health requirements according to existing statute. A special meeting may be scheduled to approve the letter, endorsing enforcement of existing procedures. The motion was accepted, and the Administrative Assistant will circulate the letter for approval.
Other Discussions	• BOH welcomed the new board member.
Public Comment	No public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
April 8, 2026 at 12:30 PM

