



Board of Health

April 08, 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: Bobbie Bagley, Director DPHCS; Housing Services officer, Heidi Peek-Kukulka, Health Officer; Kim Bernard, Chief Public Health Nurse, Bob Mack, Welfare Officer; Mike McGuinness, Deputy Health Officer;

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 March 2026	• Approved
Director's Report Presented by Bobbie Bagley, Director DPHCS	• DPHCS vision and mission were read. Funding & Budget • The department is awaiting approval of a contract with NH DHHS, which will support the Public Health Advisory Council, Emergency Preparedness, Substance Use Prevention, Volunteer Management, and the Continuum of Care. Public Health Improvement funding is scheduled to end in June 2026, which will result in the loss of

the Public Health Strategist position and reduced funding for staff development. Budget meetings are scheduled to begin next week.

Staffing

- The Epidemiologist position remains vacant, and recruitment efforts are ongoing.

Warming Station Update

- The warming station is planned to close on April 15, depending on weather conditions. In March, the station served approximately 40 guests per night and a total of 205 unique individuals. One overdose was reversed during the month, bringing the seasonal total to six. Although costs have increased this year, they remain within the allocated budget. The closure aligns with the timeline of regional services.

Legislative Priorities

- The department continues to support initiatives related to family and kinship caregivers, particularly in expanding access to childcare, as well as Medicaid and Medicare programs. Support also remains for HB 348, which addresses local emergency assistance.

Other Updates

- A SWOT survey has been distributed, and analysis is currently underway. The strategic plan will be developed based on the findings of this survey.
- Have not been able to publish Community Health Improvement Plan as of yet as the Epidemiologist position is vacant.

**CH
Department
Report
provided by
Chief PH Nurse
Kim Bernard**

Program Updates

- There has been an upward trend in Narcan distribution, and vaccinations increased by 30 percent in March.

Tuberculosis (TB) Case

- An update on an active tuberculosis case was given. The individual initially left the hospital against medical advice but was later located, arrested on a warrant, and admitted for treatment. The individual will remain hospitalized until they are no longer infectious. Contact tracing is underway, and testing will begin approximately eight weeks after exposure. Efforts are focused on high-risk locations, including the warming station. Public education efforts are ongoing to address misinformation and provide accurate information to the community.

Workforce & Activities

- Staff attended the Immunization Conference and participated in community outreach through media on topics such as tuberculosis, vaccinations, and lead exposure. Staff also participated in community events, including the Gen Expo. A quarterly staff retreat was held, and CPR/BLS recertification was completed.
- The Medical Assistant resigned to pursue a career in law enforcement, and the Hepatitis C Coordinator is transitioning to a per diem role. Recruitment is currently underway for a Nurse Practitioner and a Medical Assistant.

Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Health Officer – Heidi Peek-Kukulka	Staffing • A new staff member has been hired and onboarded. Operations & Training • The FDA grant is being utilized to enhance staff training processes. • Preparations for the upcoming pool season are underway, including updates to equipment and chemicals. • Staff responded to an incident involving a vehicle entering a kitchen. No major issues were reported. Legislative Updates • Senate Bill 418, related to homesteading, raised concerns about the lack of licensing requirements for low-risk food operations. The bill had limited opposition at the hearing and is likely to proceed, which may require increased public education on food safety. • Senate Bill 557, related to kratom, has been revised to focus on banning synthetic and semi-synthetic forms. The language continues to evolve, and the department will continue to monitor developments. Questions and Comments: • Certain homemade foods, such as empanadas and samosas, are considered potentially hazardous and cannot be prepared at home for sale. The department emphasized a supportive approach by guiding individuals toward the use of licensed facilities rather than relying solely on enforcement. Staff highlighted the importance of maintaining a positive tone to encourage small business development.
Welfare Department report provided by Bob Mack, Welfare Officer	• There was a slight decrease in expenditures due to fewer rental vouchers being issued. Staff reported an increase in missed appointments and incomplete applications. This seasonal decline is likely related to the tax refund period. During the month, one family and two individuals were placed in emergency motel accommodations, while three families and two individuals were referred to shelters. Total expenditures reached \$557,819, representing approximately 90 percent of the budget. The trust fund balance currently stands at \$134,000. • The department continues to provide temporary support to Merrimack due to staff being on maternity leave. • We maintain strong collaboration with housing partners, shelters, and community health workers. • HB 348 has been amended to avoid strict caps on assistance and remains under review. SB 441 may create barriers to accessing treatment by requiring agreements before transporting individuals, and there are concerns that it could be difficult to implement effectively.
Ethics Committee Discussion	• No update

Other Discussions	• The closure of encampments has resulted in displacement, with many individuals moving to shelters while others have relocated to wooded areas, vehicles, or other unstable housing situations. Homelessness continues to increase statewide due to rising housing costs and economic challenges such as job loss or the death of a spouse. • Strict recovery program rules often result in individuals being discharged after relapse, which can lead to homelessness and a return to substance use. There is a recognized need for more flexible recovery models that allow individuals to re-engage in treatment after setbacks. • The point-in-time count identified approximately 47 unsheltered individuals, with 70 initially counted before removing duplicates, and approximately 299 sheltered individuals, including those in transitional housing. • Approximately \$1.2 million in funding has been secured for a new resource center. The proposed site at 114 Mulberry Street is pending closing. The facility will include a resource center, showers, laundry services, and space for service providers. Although the site is smaller than originally planned and will have limited capacity compared to the previous warming station, the primary goal remains to support individuals in securing permanent housing
Public Comment	No public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
May 13, 2026 at 12:30 PM