



Board of Health

May 13, 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:

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: 31 P.M referencing NH RSA 91-A:2, II.
Approval of Minutes April 2026	• Approved
Director's Report Presented by Bobbie Bagley, Director DPHCS	• DPHCS vision and mission were read. Funding & Budget • Department program budgets were presented to the Board of Aldermen and initially accepted. Due to concerns regarding the city tax rate, adjustments were made to employee compensation plans. Instead of both step increases and cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), staff will be placed appropriately on the revised salary grid and

receive either the grid adjustment or COLA, reducing projected increases from approximately 13–15% to an estimated 5–6%. Final approval remains pending further Board of Aldermen action.

- The department officially received confirmation of a \$1.2 million Urban Development award for the proposed Resource Center project. Funding cannot be accessed until a suitable location is secured and HUD requirements are completed. The previously proposed location at 14 Mulberry Street was not approved by the Board of Aldermen following community feedback. Staff will continue exploring alternative locations and completing federal requirements.
- The State of New Hampshire is expected to receive approximately \$30 million over the next 10 years through the Purdue Pharma settlement. Fifteen percent of those funds will be distributed among regional entities, including Nashua. Funding will support opioid abatement work, warming center operations, and grants to nonprofit partners focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

Other Updates and Discussions:

- Staff continue managing a significant TB case response. The individual involved has been located, incarcerated, and is continuing treatment. Discussion on an after-action review process to evaluate the TB response, identify missed opportunities, and improve future protocols. Members supported collaborating with Manchester Health Department and local legislators to explore proposed legislation.
- The Board formally expressed support for moving forward with discussions regarding legislative options and future preparedness planning.
- A Health Alert Network (HAN) notice regarding hantavirus was distributed. At this time, no identified risk exists in New Hampshire. Education was emphasized to reduce public fear and misinformation.
- Discussion focused on whether local public health entities should have authority to issue isolation or quarantine orders. A suggestion was made for the Ethics Committee to proactively discuss ethical considerations and response frameworks before future outbreaks occur. Additional discussion questioned whether these matters would be more appropriately addressed internally by leadership and the Board of Health rather than through the Ethics Committee.
- The department completed a SWOT analysis and partner survey as part of its strategic planning efforts.

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

- The FY27 budget was presented to the Board of Aldermen Budget Committee.
- The department completed a successful quarterly pharmacy inspection.
- Staff attended a CDC site visit with DHHS and Manchester Health Department related to the TB program.
- The CDC indicated that national TB cases are increasing and acknowledged limitations in federal communication support following the closure of the CDC Communications Branch.
- Staff discussed missed opportunities and operational barriers experienced during the recent TB case investigation.
- Plans are underway to increase proactive TB testing efforts throughout the city.

	• The state has agreed to help cover costs for proactive TB testing through expanded lab support. • Staff highlighted increasing complexity among clients, including chronic disease, mental health, and case management needs. • Three nurses will attend upcoming state TB training sessions. • The department hired a new Hepatitis C Program Coordinator and a new per diem nurse. • Recruitment efforts continue for additional nursing staff and a medical assistant position.
Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Health Officer – Heidi Peek-Kukulka	• Environmental Health staff reported a significant increase in rodent-related complaints affecting food establishments and housing units. Some facilities have been advised to voluntarily close temporarily or face license suspension until sanitation and rodent entry issues are corrected. • Temporary event activity is increasing as warmer weather approaches. • The department renewed its emergency mosquito spraying permit for use during mosquito-related public health threats. • Recent state legislation regarding kratom products, including restrictions on synthetic and semi-synthetic kratom sales was discussed. • Concerns were raised about pending homestead food legislation that would reduce local regulatory authority over certain homemade food products, including acidified foods such as pickles. • The newly hired Environmental Health Specialist Filipe Maia was recognized for strong progress in training.
Welfare Department report provided by Bob Mack, Welfare Officer	• April expenditures decreased compared to the same period last year due to fewer client requests and fewer shelter/rental vouchers issued. • Welfare staff continue working with community partners on homelessness and eviction prevention efforts. • Two families were assisted with motel placements, and two families were referred to shelter programs. • Shelter availability for families has recently improved. • FY26 general assistance expenditures reached approximately \$602,000, representing about 97% of the annual budget. The department anticipates exceeding the budget and may utilize Welfare Expendable Trust Funds to cover overages. • Welfare staff participated in several community meetings, including, Governor’s Housing Stability Council, Homeless Encampment Response meetings. • Mutual aid support to the Town of Merrimack continues. Seven welfare cases had been reviewed since mid-March, increasing to approximately ten cases at the time of the meeting.
Ethics Committee Discussion	• No update

Other Discussions	• One application for a social worker position on the Board of Health was received and forwarded to the Personnel Committee for review. • Summer meeting scheduling was discussed: • Members agreed there would be no July meeting for summer recess. • Members discussed reaching out to former state legislator Cindy Rosenwald for guidance regarding legislative advocacy and potential contacts.
Public Comment	No public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 PM following a motion and vote.

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
June 10, 2026 at 12:30 PM