



Board of Health

June 10, 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, Christian Jimenez

Board of Alderman: Amber Morgan

City Employees: Bobbie Bagley, Director DPHCS; Heidi Peek-Kukulka, Health Officer; Kim Bernard, Chief Public Health Nurse, Bob Mack, Welfare Officer; Foqia Ijaz, Community Services Program Administrative Assistant

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.
Introductions	Christian Jimenez was welcomed as the Board's Social Worker representative. He shared his background in case management, counseling, forensic social work, court-related services, housing assistance, employment support, parenting education, and supervised visitation.
Approval of Minutes May 2026	• Approved
Director's Report	• DPHCS vision and mission were read. • Division leadership participated in FY27 budget hearings.

Presented by Bobbie Bagley, Director DPHCS	• The Division received a \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to support Warming Station operations. • Staff are working to close out FY26 grants and budgets and maximize use of available funds before fiscal year-end to avoid returning unspent funds. • The Division continues monitoring national and international public health concerns, including Ebola and Hantavirus exposures. No current risk to New Hampshire residents was identified. • Tick prevention messaging is being widely distributed due to anticipated increased tick activity this season. • Staff continue monitoring measles outbreaks occurring elsewhere in the United States. • Information was shared about a presentation regarding changes to Medicaid and their impact on residents at Harbor Care. • Strategic Plan development remains on schedule, with completion anticipated by early July. • Opioid Abatement Trust Fund expenditures continue to support housing and community services initiatives. • Community Health Workers referred nine individuals for mental health services during May. Five individuals were successfully placed into permanent housing. • The Epidemiologist position has been filled, with the new employee expected to begin in July. The Housing Services Officer position has been accepted and is expected to start in late June. Recruitment continues for the Behavioral Health Strategist position. • Approximately \$300,000 remains available through local opioid settlement allocations. Additional state settlement funds are expected later in the year. Other Updates and Discussions: • Board members discussed prior tuberculosis isolation and treatment challenges. Continued exploration of legislative changes and collaboration with Manchester Health Department representatives was encouraged.
CH Department Report provided by Chief PH Nurse Kim Bernard	• Recognized National Nurses Month and thanked nursing staff for their service. • Visited Southern New Hampshire Medical Center to thank staff for their partnership and support during a communicable disease response. • Completed spring nursing student clinical rotations. Planning for student placements in the fall semester. • The Public Health Nursing team participated in several community events. • One Medical Assistant position remains vacant. Recruitment continues for per diem nursing staff.
Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Health Officer – Heidi Peek- Kukulka	• Environmental Health staff continue responding to numerous temporary food service events and seasonal inspections. • Collaboration with the Downtown Nashua Association remains strong. • Proposed amendments to Chapter 190 (Land Use Code) are being advanced. Changes include increasing the subdivision review fee from \$40 to \$50 and formalizing existing procedures.

	• Rodent activity continues to be a concern. Staff developed educational materials regarding safe cleanup of rodent droppings. • Newly hired Environmental Health Specialist has begun conducting inspections independently. • Staff continue monitoring: Senate Bill 418 regarding homestead regulations and Senate Bill 557 regarding kratom sales restrictions. • Pool inspections and seasonal preparations are underway. • Rabies activity remains low locally. • Board members discussed animal safety protocols at community events, including: Vaccination requirements for petting zoo animals, availability of handwashing stations.
Welfare Department report provided by Bob Mack, Welfare Officer	• Welfare expenditures have leveled off over the past several months, reflecting a slight decrease in assistance applications and expenditures. Similar trends have been observed in neighboring communities. • Rent and shelter costs continue to represent the largest expenditure category within the welfare budget. • As of the reporting period, approximately \$640,000 had been expended in FY26, representing 103% of the General Assistance budget. • The Welfare Expendable Trust Fund currently maintains a balance of approximately \$135,000, which will be used to cover expenditures exceeding the annual budget allocation. • No families required placement in emergency motels during the month. • One family was successfully referred directly to the family shelter program at the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. • Staff continue to collaborate with community partners, shelter providers, and transitional housing programs to prevent homelessness and connect residents with available resources. • The Welfare Department continued providing mutual aid support to the Town of Merrimack while its Welfare Administrator was on leave. A total of 12 cases were referred by Merrimack during the support period. Merrimack's Welfare Administrator has since returned, concluding Nashua's temporary assistance efforts. • The department continues to participate in and support the Financial Assistance Network, facilitated by Welfare Specialist Supervisor. The network meets monthly to coordinate resources and discuss eviction prevention strategies among community partners. • An update was given on the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program, a pilot initiative administered through Community Services and Housing Services. Three households have been assisted to date, including one household during May. The program received a one-time grant award of \$100,000. Community Health Workers are working with participants to identify long-term solutions, including increasing income, accessing benefits, and connecting with supportive services. Eligibility requirements are based on HUD guidelines, which can limit assistance for some applicants despite demonstrated need. Other Updates and Discussions:

	• Discussion focused on barriers within federal housing assistance programs and the challenges faced by residents who fall behind on rent before seeking help. • Welfare Officer gave the history and purpose of the Welfare Expendable Trust Fund. The trust fund serves as a reserve to cover welfare expenditures when annual appropriations are insufficient. Municipalities are legally required to provide welfare assistance regardless of budget constraints and cannot deny assistance solely due to lack of available funding.
Ethics Committee Discussion	• No update
Other Discussions	• Board Member Henry Och shared information on an upcoming community forum at Harbor Care scheduled for June 17, 2026, focused on proposed Medicaid changes and their potential impact on residents, healthcare providers, and community services.
Public Comment	• No public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM following a motion and vote.

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