



Board of Health

August 12, 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 (via zoom), Stephanie Ballentine, Christian Jimenez; Henry Och (Absent)*
Board of Alderman: Amber Morgan
City Employees: Bobbie D. Bagley, Director DPHCS; Heidi Peek-Kukulka, Health Officer; Flavia Martin, Deputy Chief Public Health Nurse, Bob Mack, Welfare Officer; Other Staff Present: Jessica Connors, Housing Services Officer and Sakshi Gurung, Epidemiologist
Community Member: Ms. Lee

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.

Updates

- Dr. Chuck Cappetta, Chair of the Board of Health, announced the resignation of Dr. Stephanie Wolf Rosenblum. Dr. Wolf Rosenblum submitted her resignation to the Mayor and the Chair of the Board of Aldermen, and the resignation was accepted by the Mayor in July.
- Dr. Cappetta acknowledged Dr. Wolf Rosenblum's more than eight years of service on the Board and recognized her talent, expertise, diligence, and contributions to the Board's work. She extended her best wishes to the Board.

	The Board is now a four-member board, with plans to identify a replacement physician. A potential candidate is being considered, although no additional details were available at the time of the meeting.
Approval of Minutes June 2026	Motion moved to approve by BOH Members
Director's Report Presented by Bobbie D. Bagley, Director DPHCS	- DPHCS vision and mission were read. Staffing Updates - The Department welcomed the new Epidemiologist, Sakshi Gurung, who began work on August 10, 2026. She will provide the Epidemiology Report beginning with the September Board of Health meeting. - The Department also welcomed a new Housing Services Officer, Jessica Connors, who began in July. Her onboarding and orientation are underway. She has participated in internal meetings related to the Housing Revolving Fund, HMIS, and the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care, as well as external meetings involving housing stability and related community partners. - The Public Health Strategist position remains open. An end-of-year update regarding the position is expected in September. Financial and Grant Updates - Successfully closed Regional Public Health Network Services Grants Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Health and Human Services grant. - Regional Public Health Network Services grant funds cannot be rolled over at the end of the fiscal year, so some unspent funds will not be available for future use. - Community Health was not required to submit a new application this year but will need to do so next year. Community Services completed its renewal application for the Regional Public Health Network Services grants and submitted its year-end financial information to the State. - The Department is fully funded for FY2027 and expects to be able to provide the services required under its current grants, despite having fewer grants than in previous years. Community Health also expects to have sufficient operational funding for FY2027. Public Health Issues - Reported an increase in cyclosporiasis cases in New Hampshire as part of a larger national outbreak. A total of 79 cases have been reported: - Domestically acquired associated with recalled product: in 2026-38 cases - Domestically acquired, unknown source: in 2026 – 35 cases - International Travel-associated in 2026 – 6 - Discussed a recall involving jalapeños and products containing jalapeños, including certain burritos and wraps. The Department had not received reports at the time of the meeting indicating that the recall had resulted in Salmonella cases in New Hampshire.

Legislative Update

- The Board discussed recent federal executive actions and proposed changes involving childhood vaccination schedules. It was noted that concerns regarding potential changes to the vaccine schedule, including proposals involving separate administration of vaccines currently combined in the MMR vaccine. Such changes could have significant cost and logistical implications for healthcare providers and public health agencies.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics had not changed its immunization recommendations, and the expectation is that most providers and families will continue to follow the existing recommended schedule.

Reports of Community Services Department Activities

- The Director reported on end-of-year highlights the work of the Community Health Workers over the past year. A total of 860 contacts for assistance have been reported for FY 26.
- The report will also be shared with the Human Affairs Committee at an upcoming meeting. The Director noted that there appears to be a need to provide some members of the Board of Aldermen with additional information about the efforts put forth regarding the need for a Resource Center. The upcoming presentation will also provide background and information regarding the Resource Center, including the community's needs, the work completed to date, and considerations regarding the operation and management of the center.
- The Director noted that Community Health Workers have provided substantial assistance to individuals experiencing housing instability and other complex needs
 - 91 referrals made for GNMH services
 - Assisted with 14 jobs obtained
 - Assisted with 137 housing applications
 - Made 27 shelter referrals
 - 69 housing placements (811 -2; Assisted living -1; Safe Haven -1; Apartments - 51; Permanent Housing - 5; Transitional Housing - 3)
- The Health Promotion Communications Specialist was recognized for her work in improving the Division's website accessibility and ADA compliance, coordinating upcoming events, and supporting staff participation in community activities, including the upcoming Back-to-School event.
- The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator worked with 21 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and successfully obtained needed equipment through state funding. The PHEP Coordinator and Director attended the FY2027 kickoff meeting and received updated information regarding required services and work plans.

Staff Recognition and Training

- The Director announced that New Futures named her Advocate of the Year. The award will be presented in September. Staff members were invited to attend the recognition event.
- Community Health Workers completed their Community Health Worker (CHW) certification requirements and CRSW certification. The Department is following up with remaining staff regarding outstanding certification requirements.

- Dr. Cappetta congratulated the Director on the award and recognized the Department's continued advocacy and work on behalf of the community.

Communicable Disease

- The Department reported that Nashua has had one individual associated with the national cyclosporiasis outbreak. Three Salmonella cases were reported in total, and the Department continues to monitor the situation. Any new cases will be investigated with questions regarding potential exposure to the recalled jalapeño products.

Immunizations

- The Department reported that no changes to New Hampshire's current vaccine requirements are expected. State requirements, including school vaccination requirements, remain unchanged.
- Nashua continues to maintain high vaccination rates, with rates generally in the 93%–97% range depending on the vaccine. Statewide rates are approximately 87%–88%.
- Dr. Cappetta asked whether the Department could provide public messaging regarding the MMR vaccine, particularly in light of recent federal vaccine-related announcements. The Department indicated that it could work with the Communications team to repost the State's statement confirming that no changes are planned and provide additional information regarding the MMR vaccine.
- Community Health reported a busy summer with participation in multiple outreach events, including Superheroes in the Park, Pride Festival, National HIV Testing Day, Fairytale Festival
- A new weekly outreach location was established at Process Recovery Center for targeted Hepatitis C outreach. The Department's Hepatitis C treatment program is progressing, with the first client completing treatment and achieving an undetectable viral load. Additional clients are in the enrollment process.
- The Department also held its semi-annual meeting with its Medical Director. All FY2027 standing orders were reviewed, approved, and signed.

Workforce Development

- Community Health staff participated in several professional development opportunities during June and July, including:
 - National infection prevention and epidemiology conference.
 - TB training in Manchester provided through the Rutgers Centers for TB Excellence.
 - Staff retreat conducted jointly with Community Services.
 - Healthcare career summer camp for middle and high school students in partnership with Southern New Hampshire AHEC at the Gloria Timmons Community Center.
- Sexual wellness clinic attendance continues to increase, with Thursday evening clinics frequently overbooked. The Department is considering expanding clinic hours or adding an additional clinic day.
- A new per diem RN has started orientation, with another expected to begin soon.

**CH
Department
Report
provided by
Deputy Chief
PH Nurse
Flavia Martin**

	• A question was raised regarding STI clinics previously offered at Rivier University. Staff confirmed that approximately three clinics are generally offered during the school year, with the most recent clinic held in April. Staff agreed that providing STI services directly on campus remains valuable.
Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Health Officer – Heidi Peek-Kukulka	• The Health Officer reported that the owner of Root Awakening had contacted the Board of Aldermen and Mayor’s Office regarding the sampling of kava products at Holman Stadium, where alcohol is served. • Environmental Health expressed concern about serving kava in conjunction with alcohol and referenced information regarding the potential effects of combining the substances. The Department had contacted Holman Stadium to express its concerns. Further information is pending. • The Department has temporarily issued fewer tickets because Environmental Health is transitioning to a new process for collecting ticket fees. The existing ticket forms and code references were outdated. The Health Officer is working with Legal to update the forms and procedures. • The Department reported the first positive West Nile virus mosquito pool in Nashua for the season. The positive sample involved only a small number of mosquitoes. • The Health Officer emphasized that there was no need for public alarm and noted that the finding demonstrated that the City’s mosquito surveillance program is functioning as intended. Public messaging was issued encouraging residents to take appropriate precautions when outdoors and protect their homes from mosquitoes. • In response to the cyclosporiasis situation, Environmental Health has conducted several FDA recall effectiveness checks at the State’s request. The Department had not yet been asked to conduct a recall effectiveness check related to the jalapeños. The Department encouraged residents to properly wash produce and practice good hand hygiene. • Pool inspections remain busy. Environmental Health reported that pool gates that do not latch properly are an automatic closure issue because of the risk of children entering the pool area and drowning. • Recent pool sampling was completed, with bacterial testing results pending at the time of the meeting. Inspectors have also identified several pools with insufficient sanitizer levels.
Welfare Department report provided by Bob Mack, Welfare Officer	• Welfare expenditures remained relatively level, although there was a slight increase in the number of residents contacting the department and a slight increase in utility assistance requests compared with the previous year. • During June: 2 individuals were assisted with emergency housing/hotel placements, 2 families and 1 individual were referred to public shelters. • Approximately \$684,000 had been expended from the FY2026 General Assistance budget at the time of the report. • After outstanding vouchers were processed, total FY2026 expenditures were approximately \$708,000, or approximately 115% of the original adopted budget. • The Department is working with Finance to address the overage through a transfer from the appropriate trust fund.

	- Welfare staff also provided mutual aid assistance to the Town of Merrimack during the first week of June until Merrimack's Welfare Administrator returned. - FY2027 began with a slight decrease in expenditures compared with July 2025, although the number of contacts with the Welfare Department increased. Staff reported that client situations appear to be increasingly complex. - During July: 2 families and 2 individuals were assisted with emergency motel placements; 1 individual was referred to a public shelter. - Staff continued working with community partners and Community Health Workers to assist clients, particularly those staying in motels. - Clients were also referred to the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program. - Approximately \$41,000 had been expended from the FY2027 budget as of the reporting date. - Staff continued to participate in community and interdepartmental meetings, including the Financial Assistance Network, Greater Nashua Continuum of Care and its subcommittees, Housing Authority Commissioners meetings, and various internal City meetings addressing housing and assistance needs.
Ethics Committee Discussion	The Committee remains part of the Public Health Department. The Chair and Director will discuss how the Committee should be reconvened if an ethical issue arises requiring review.
Public Comment	- A member of the public, Ms. Lee, spoke about her personal experience being unhoused and raised concerns regarding the diagnosis and laboratory testing of cyclosporiasis infections. - She questioned whether local hospitals have the capability to conduct specialized testing for parasites and expressed concern about the challenges faced by unhoused individuals in accessing appropriate testing, treatment, and preventive resources. - The Board Chair acknowledged her concerns and explained that specialized laboratory testing may require specimens to be sent to outside or reference laboratories when testing is not available locally. The Chair noted that the process for sending specimens to regional or state laboratories can be complex and encouraged continued discussion and advocacy regarding access to appropriate testing. - The Board also acknowledged the particular challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness, including the difficulty of maintaining appropriate hygiene and access to clean water and other resources.

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

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
September 9, 2026 at 12:30 PM