



Board of Health

July 9, 2025

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, Dr. Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum, Henry Och
City Employees: Bobbie D. Bagley, Director; Heidi Peek-Kukulka, Health Officer; Kim Bernard, Chief Public Health Nurse, Bob Mack, Welfare Officer; Foqia Ijaz, CS Administrative Assistant; Nishtha Sharma, Epidemiologist.

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-June 2025

Minutes approved.

Director's Report Presented by Bobbie D. Bagley

- The Mission and Vision Statement was read.
- Public Health Network Services Grant was approved by BOA with minor changes.
- The State Budget was passed (link included in the report). While some amendments are favorable, others include funding cuts. Additionally, the federal bill is expected to impact the state budget—particularly in areas such as Medicaid.
- The Hospital Preparedness Budget was ended and the funds were moved to the Medical Reserve Corp Volunteer support line.
- Strategic planning work has begun.

	• Ethics Committee: Only one application has been received so far; however, there are only three open slots. Discussion included how to broaden outreach to encourage more applications. It was suggested to resend the application during the summer and bring the topic to the August PHAC meeting. A closing date for applications will be set. Members were encouraged to share the opportunity within their organizations and networks. BOA members may have potential candidates in mind. • New Fiscal Year was celebrated. The transition was challenging due to delays or lack of information received from the State. Questions and Comments: • An inquiry was made about any updates or information on kratom; none reported. The matter of kratom went to the Personnel Committee of the Board of Alderman; The Director will follow up with them.
Situational Report provided by Epidemiologist Nishtha Sharma	Measles Report: • Measles cases are rapidly increasing and as of July 2, 2025, there are approximately 1,263 cases across 39 states. There are currently 7 states with active measles outbreaks. There have been 3 confirmed deaths from measles. • There are 2,041 confirmed cases reported in Mexico- 92.4% had no vaccination history. There have been 9 deaths due to measles. • There are 3526 cases in Canada reported as of July 2, 2025. 1 Measles Death is reported. Other Activities: • A division-wide PMQI training session was successfully conducted. • Analyzed the comments and feedback of attendees at Behavioral Health Conference • with the help of statistical software. Discussion on measles: • How to better educate the community in response to recent measles outbreaks. Health Promotion and Communication Specialist is actively sending out informational materials. Immunizations are available and being provided. • It was discussed that additional community resources, including the Interfaith Council, may support outreach efforts. Community Health Workers (CHWs) are engaged in educating clients and spreading awareness. • In New Hampshire, the State Outbreak Team is activated in such situations. One suspected case was investigated but ruled out. • A strong network of partners remains in place. • A tabletop exercise focused on measles was conducted at the City Hall for local partners including hospitals. In the event of a confirmed case, messaging will come from the State and there will a coordinated joint response. Laboratory testing, carrier services, and coordination with community health centers and hospitals were also discussed as part of ongoing preparedness efforts in case of a measles outbreak. • There are no identified gaps in services.

CH Department Report provided by Chief PH Nurse Kim Bernard	• June was Pride Month, and an event was hosted in recognition. Additionally, National HIV Testing Day was observed on June 27th, with testing conducted at four locations: Holman Stadium, Milford, NSKS and inhouse. A total of 57 tests done. • Data trends indicate an uptick in vaccine-preventable diseases. There has been a decrease in vaccinations for children, and slight increase in adult vaccinations but adult flu vaccinations are at half the rate of last year. Increase in high-risk latent TB seen over the past year. • DHHS's vaccine manager has informed that a CDC-funded additional vaccine allotment request was denied. The orders were already being placed. This decision will affect vaccine administration service at CHD for our adult un/underinsured population. Patients may need to be referred to Manchester Public Health, Harbor Care or Lamprey for vaccines, but these facilities are also affected by the CDC funding. • DHHS responded via email that funding is uncertain moving forward for the rest of the CDC's fiscal year. New Hampshire is projected to receive \$305 k in CDC funding for FY26, with a small additional amount expected. • Contingency planning is underway. The team will pivot strategies and explore alternative options for vaccine access. CHD requests advocacy from BOH with state senators. Senator Rosenwald was acknowledged for securing \$10,000 in funding last year. • A request was made to send the relevant advocacy link to BOH members. Talking points will also be sent to the BOH members. • Meetings with partners will be held to identify referral pathways for those unable to receive vaccines through current programs. • Calls where vaccines are not provided will be logged for tracking and analysis. • The index case for the recent TB outbreak was recently identified in Manchester. In response, a Point of Dispensing (POD) event for TB testing is being planned in Nashua, specifically targeting the unhoused population.
Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Health Officer —Heidi Peek- Kukulka	• Routine inspections remain ongoing. Staff are currently very busy with temporary events. • The Greater Nashua Downtown Committee will host a farmer's market. • Septic-related activity is slow, primarily limited to real estate plan reviews. • Complaint investigations continue, with issues including dog waste, trash accumulation, and other nuisance concerns. • Pool inspections are currently underway and have required considerable staff time. • The first ferret in 10 years was tested for rabies. • Revenue continues to show steady growth. • EH Department needs a new software program that oversees all of our work. Currently, inspections and data are handled on paper, which limits the ability to generate reports or access historical records efficiently. The process is time-consuming. The initial budget request for this software was denied. An appropriation request has been submitted, emphasizing that the department generates its own revenue and should be able to reinvest a portion of it. A request was made for the Board of Health to support this

software licensing proposal. We will have something written up which will be discussed at the next meeting.

- Septic system evaluations continue, with three staff members conducting testing.
- The Deputy Health Officer resigned from his position and accepted a position with the Wastewater and Engineering Bureau at the NH Department of Environmental Services as the Residuals Management Section Supervisor. The position is being posted.

Questions and Comments:

- BOH commended The Deputy Health Officer for his outstanding service and wished him every success in his new position. Board members noted that, had they received earlier notice, they would have arranged a formal recognition for his contributions.
- Staff were commended for their efforts during this transition period until the Deputy Health Officer is replaced. Discussion included whether it is possible to deputize someone or provide training. Environmental Health staffing remains limited, with only three Certified Pool Operators (CPOs) in the region. The work is highly specialized. Staff continue to advise individuals outside Nashua's jurisdiction, but they do not conduct site visits in those areas.
- Are there any concerns regarding unpasteurized milk or homestead foods at the farmers market? A: we have one licensed homestead food vendor so there is no concern regarding that.
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**Welfare
Department
report
provided by
Welfare Officer
Bob Mack**

- There has been a slight decrease in the number of requests however, the percentage of people served remains consistent. We assisted five families with emergency motel placement and referred two individuals and two families to public shelters.
- To date, \$617,000 has been expended from the General Assistance budget which is 103% of the budget. We do have about \$85,000 in the Welfare Trust Fund which will be utilized to cover any overages for General Assistance expenditures.
- The Greater Nashua Continuum of Care has been participating in a strategic planning process to refine the structure and improve processes for addressing homelessness in our community. Through a grant from Nashua Rotary, the GNCOC Executive Board contracted with an outside consulting agency.
- Under Health Services Coordination Committee, a survey is being developed by the Epidemiologist and the Health Promotion and Communications Specialist to inform future planning.
- The NH House and Senate held a Committee of Conference on HB 132, which proposed changes to Section RSA 165:19 related to relation's liability to support, removing some of the more extreme language referring to imprisonment of legally liable relatives who refuse to assist.

Other Discussions	A concern was raised if there is an early warning system for emerging public health and safety concerns for the encampments along the river in Nashua. Response: The City currently maintains a robust messaging alert system that is regularly tested. A recent tabletop exercise (TTX) focused on communications response and system readiness.
Public Comment	No public comment

**Full departmental reports can be found on the City Website under June 2025 BOH Meeting Minutes and reports.*

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 PM.

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
September 10, 2025 at 12:30 PM