



Board of Health

October 15, 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 (via Zoom), Henry Och*
Board of Alderman: Alderman Thomas Lopez
City Employees: Bobbie D. Bagley, Director; Heidi Peek-Kukulka, Health Officer; Michael McGuinness, Deputy Health Officer; Kim Bernard, Chief Public Health Nurse, Bob Mack, Welfare Officer; Foqia Ijaz, CS Administrative Assistant; Nishtha Sharma, Epidemiologist; LaTonya Muccioli, Housing Services 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-September 2025	Minutes approved.
National Association of Local Boards of Health	The conference was an important opportunity for Directors and Board of Health (BOH) members, particularly during these unprecedented times. It provided insight into how other Boards of Health are addressing funding cuts and implementing different strategies.

(NALBOH) Annual Meeting Update	• The keynote session emphasized the importance of framing our public health stories around resilience, resolve, and self-care, as well as partnering with organizations, community members, and leaders at both local and state levels. • There was extensive discussion about changes across various states, covering a wide range of public health scopes—from rural areas to large cities. The general theme centered on community partnerships, governance, and accountability. • Overall, it was a valuable learning opportunity. If the Board continues to advance its efforts, members may consider attending the conference next year. • Many Board of Health representatives discussed kratom. Approaches vary across communities—some have banned it, while others believe enforcement would be challenging. • There was also a session highlighting trends in ZYN/tobacco use, noting an increase particularly among younger populations. It was suggested to invite Breathe NH to provide a presentation on this topic at a future meeting. Questions and Comments: • A question was raised about whether there are any regulatory barriers or issues. Response: Partnerships play a key role—by strengthening and expanding our collaborations, we can enhance our skills, leverage shared resources, and ensure we have a seat at the table when important decisions are made.
Director's Report Presented by Bobbie D. Bagley	• The Mission and Vision Statement was read. Legislative Update: • Supplemental appropriation of unanticipated revenue into the Opioid Abatement Expendable Trust Fund. This resolution, totaling \$148,035.89, will be presented at the next Human Affairs Committee meeting. • New ordinances proposed to address encampments and campers are aimed at discouraging the formation of encampments and addressing long-term parked vehicles. Measures include no parking on Celina Avenue, prohibiting camping on public property, and regulating campers and recreational vehicles. • The ordinances have been referred to the Infrastructure Committee for review. • New ordinance proposed for outdoor City Hall restrooms will establish guidelines for the operating hours of the outdoor City Hall public restrooms. • Potential proposal to support the establishment of a Resource Center in Nashua. Questions and Comments: • Board of Aldermen wanted to ensure that the Board of Health is aware of the proposed ordinances. • There was a discussion on a potential Resource Center at Elm Street Middle School building but there is a concern about the potential impact on the surrounding neighborhood.
Presentation by Housing Services Officer LaTonya	• The Housing Services Officer provided a brief overview of how the criminalization of homelessness will have a negative impact on Public Health based on existing research. • People will likely go to remote areas that could present environmental hazards and make it challenging for first responders to assist in emergency situations

**Muccioli on
Criminalization
of
Homelessness**

- The research suggests that people living unsheltered have higher rates of chronic illness and co-occurring disorders than people that are sheltered. Street medicine is offered via St. Joseph’s Mobile Clinic at encampment sites, and banning camping will make it more challenging for street medicine supports to continue to reach people in need.
- There is no evidence to suggest that criminalization efforts reduce homelessness, the fines often go unpaid, and jail time may disrupt employment and efforts to exit homelessness
- Some best practices from other communities suggest that interim solutions are necessary when there is not sufficient housing and emergency shelter space. Some examples include:
 - Non-congregate shelter, such as motels. A community in Connecticut utilized this model to allow couples and people with pets to stay together.
 - Safe Parking Sites: Public Health has proposed this option to the City and Alderman multiple times. Data from Western cities indicated that 30%-50% of people engaged in safe parking programs became housed.
 - Tiny Homes: this was briefly discussed during the last Aldermanic meeting
 - Large Tents
 - Self-Governed Encampments: this is currently what is occurring at Pine Street Ext. If people do not keep their area/tent neat, other encampment residents will “kick them out” of the encampment.
 - Information was discussed regarding current safety issues identified at this encampment and the need for closure.
- Data from July 2025-Oct. 2025 was shared regarding the efforts of the Community Health Workers
 - 17 people have been housed in permanent apartments
 - 5 people have obtained employment
 - 11 people were placed into emergency shelter
- The Housing Services Officer will work on creating a 1-pager with a cost-benefit analysis and some brief information to share with the Alderman for the Committee on Infrastructure meeting.
- Proposal for a shelter at Elm Street gym did not pass and was sent to the Infrastructure Committee.

**Situational
Report
provided by
Epidemiologist
Nishtha
Sharma**

- Measles:
 - USA: 1596cases with 3 deaths; in 42 States. One reason is the international travel
 - Mexico: 4,915 confirmed cases, 23 deaths.
 - Canada: 5060 cases, 2 deaths.
- Tuberculosis (TB):
 - Second screening to be done in October. HAN has been sent out by the State.

	• The respiratory illness season has started. There have been no significant increases in flu or COVID-19 cases, and hospitalizations are below levels from last year. • CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan): ◦ Work aligns with NH CHIP priorities; out of four focus areas, three are aligned: homelessness, emergency preparedness, and chronic diseases.
CH Department Report provided by Chief PH Nurse Kim Bernard	Highlights: • Responded to emergency situation surrounding active shooter. Lead reunification site, caring for affected individuals. • Roll out of Vaxcare program for immunizations - allows for broader reach to decrease barriers for those that have Medicaid and other insurance • Successful NH DHHS State lab inspection and VFC (Vaccines for Children) program audit • Staff presented on harm reduction at UNH • Staff attended several weekend events to educate the public surrounding public health services • Precepting UNH undergraduate nursing students for fall semester • New staff developing mobile HCV (hepatitis C) program to roll out Q2. • Completed offsite flu clinics locally • Workforce development: • Quarter 1 staff 1:1's completed • Affected staff participated in post emergency response debriefing sessions and received support resources/information. • Continue monthly staff enrichment programs including yoga and pet therapy • Implemented quarterly sexual wellness advanced providers call to discuss cases, treatment and quality improvements • Several staff attended trainings and conferences on pertinent public health initiatives, including the Sylie Ratelle interview course, holistic nursing, SANE (sexual assault nurse examiner) training, and billing and coding training. Questions and Comments: • Concern raised about limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine at an area pediatric practice. Families can be referred to the community health department
Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Health Officer – Heidi Peek- Kukulka	• Twelve food pantries are now licensed following the new mandatory requirements, with three additional pantries recently added. • Two voluntary closures of food service establishments occurred due to backup sewage issues. • A raccoon tested positive for Rabies; neighborhoods impacted were notified, and the Police Department also shared information. Two dogs were involved in the case. • Proposed Homestead licensing jurisdictions; however, licensing cannot exceed state requirements. • Inspections at 23 Temple Street; recommendations were provided. • The Board of Health to be included in the food service newsletter for updates.

Welfare Department report provided by Bob Mack, Welfare Officer	• The largest expenditures remain for rental assistance to prevent homelessness. Housing costs continue to rise, requiring higher support amounts. Approximately \$200,000 has been spent on general assistance, which is slightly higher than usual. • Six families were placed in emergency motels, with one referred to shelters. • Waitlists for Housing Authority vouchers indicate significant demand: Section 8 has over 5,000 applicants on the wait list, public housing has over 4,000 applicants on the wait list. Staff continue to work with landlords and other housing providers. • We encourage applications for fuel assistance. • Legislative Updates: HB-348 will move to the full House; potential issues include creating residency requirements and limiting assistance to 50% of the federal poverty level. This could limit assistance for transient individuals and may not meet the humanitarian purpose of RSA 165. Questions and Comments: • A discussion highlighted motel costs, approximately \$100 per night per room, totaling \$5,000–\$7,000 per night, or \$150,000 per month to house people in the encampments. This is not cost-effective. • The need for a resource center was emphasized.
Other Discussions	Ethics Committee: • Meeting minutes will be formally shared with the BOH. Action items include signing confidentiality forms and sharing training links. • The Board of Health voted in favor of the following amendment in the List of Values and Principles of the Ethics Committee document: ○ Relational solidarity-This “aims to expand the category of ‘us’ to ‘us all.’ Relational solidarity values interconnections without being steeped in assumptions about commonality or collective identity”. Increasing the number of Board of Health members: • It will be on the ballot for Nashua residents at the upcoming elections. • It was noted that other cities, such as Manchester and Rochester, have larger boards. • It was clarified that the role of the Alderman is to propose the measure to the public for a vote.
Public Comment	No public comment

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM.

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