



Opioid Fatality Review Committee Workgroup

Wednesday, January 7, 2026
2:00-3:30 PM

Facilitator: Bobbie Bagley

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Presentation by Laurel Elkin, Deputy Chief Forensic Investigator-Office of the Medical Examiner

- An overview of the Medical Examiner's Office was presented, including its structure, staffing, and the process used to investigate deaths related to drug use.
- The procedures for investigating drug-related deaths were explained, including the collection of blood, vitreous, and urine samples for toxicology testing. It was noted that while autopsies are common, there are circumstances that may prevent specimen collection. The role of the CDC-funded laboratory, NMS Labs, in testing for a wide range of substances, including novel substances, was also discussed.
- Data on drug-related deaths in Nashua was presented, showing a downward trend over the past five years. It was reported that 26 drug-related deaths have occurred in 2025, with one case still pending toxicology results.

Other Discussions

- Discussion on the process of reviewing overdose deaths, highlighting the collaboration with EMS, police, and hospitals to gather extensive data.
- The aim is to identify potential interventions that could have prevented the fatalities.
- Questions about the committee's legal authority to request information from hospitals and other relevant agencies.
- After discussions with The Legal Department, the committee would be formalized, enabling it to make requests to hospitals and other relevant entities.
- Discussion on involving legal representatives from hospitals to clarify data-sharing needs.
- Clarification of the committee's structure and authorization for data requests.
- The need to clarify whether the Opioid Fatality Review Committee operates under the Board of Health or the Mayor's office, as this affects the appointment process. The idea of placing the committee under the Mayor's office was supported for greater authority. Legal counsel can be consulted to ensure all procedural bases are covered. It was noted that operating under the

	Mayor's office would lend more weight to the committee's efforts. • The significance of analyzing overdose data to identify trends and improve prevention efforts was highlighted. • It was pointed out that focusing on Nashua residents would provide more relevant information for the Committee's goals. • The discussion included the thoroughness of reviews conducted to understand individual histories and interactions with various services.
Appointment Process	• Resumes will be requested to ensure all requirements are met. • Candidates may be asked to interview with the Personnel Committee. • If approved, Personnel will recommend moving the appointment forward. • The appointment will then go to the full Board of Aldermen for approval. • Once approved, individuals will be sworn in by Attorney Bolton.

Follow-up Items		
Action Item	Person/Organization Responsible	Date Completed
Committee members to send resumes.		

Next Meeting February 4, 2026 1:30 PM