



Board of Health

January 14, 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, Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum (via Zoom)*
Board of Alderman: Amber Morgan; Tom Lopez (via Zoom)
City Employees: Bobbie D. Bagley, Director; Heidi Peek-Kukulka, Health Officer; Flavia Martin, Deputy Chief Public Health Nurse, Bob Mack, Welfare Officer; Foqia Ijaz, CS Administrative Assistant (via Zoom); Nishtha Sharma, Epidemiologist; Steve Bolton, Corporate Council Esquire
Members of Public: two members of public present.

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.
Steve Bolton, Esquire	Swearing in ceremony
Approval of Minutes- October, November, December 2025	• Approval of meeting minutes was tabled due to an incomplete quorum. • The meeting will proceed as an informational session.

Director's Report Presented by Bobbie D. Bagley	- The DPHCS vision and mission were read. Financial Update: - Board of Aldermen accepted the \$20,000 from the NH Charitable Foundation for the Grant Partner Program for Community Health Improvement Activities and Advocacy Activities - Aldermen accepted the \$10,000 from the NH Charitable Foundation for the Speaking our Minds Podcasts. - City budgets have been provided for each department. Budgets are due January 14, 2026. Legislative Update: - Mayor's Legislative Breakfast scheduled for January 21, 2026 - Mayor's Substance Misuse Taskforce Legislative Breakfast January 30, 2026. The theme this year is 'Adverse Childhood Experiences. Effect of trauma as a root cause of behavioral health, mental health, and substance use disorders. Strategies to address prevention and treatment'. - Department Heads are reviewing NH LSR's and will submit to Mayor's Chief of Staff. Other Updates: - Moving forward with the strategic planning and quality improvement efforts, with a PMQI meeting scheduled for January 21. completion of a SWOT analysis, and contracted technical assistance from Growth Partners to conduct provider and community partner surveys and compile findings. - Opioid Abatement Trust Fund's December and year-to-date spending to support housing stability and the overnight Warming Station was reviewed, noting \$56,162 spent since July 1 (including \$2,400 in December for housing support). - The Warming Station opened on December 1 opening with 22 staff on board with attendance of up to 55 individuals in one night, extended holiday hours, and successful staff interventions that prevented three overdose fatalities. - The Director is invited to sit on the Women's Foundation Board of Directors with a commitment of quarterly meetings. Questions and Comments: - The department is still working to finalize the full Strategic Plan; however, the SWOT analysis has already been written and the draft can be shared with BOH before publishing. - Prior to working at the Warming Station, staff complete an orientation that includes training videos, basic (non-certified) CPR instruction, overdose response procedures, Narcan administration, and protocols for contacting 911, with rapid response support from the nearby fire department.
Situational Report provided by Epidemiologist Nishtha Sharma	- Measles: - USA: 2155 cases with 3 deaths; in 43 States. - Mexico: 6266 confirmed cases, 23 deaths. - Canada: 5393 cases, 2 deaths. - All 26 acute care hospitals in New Hampshire reported influenza-related admissions. - Multistate outbreak of infant botulism with 51 reported illnesses.

	- Analyzed and summarized CHIP 2022 and drafted goals for CHIP 2026-2030. Presented upcoming CHIP priority areas with their strategies and objective in PHAC meeting. - Ongoing data entry of Warming station guests and monthly reports.
CH Department Report provided by Deputy Chief PH Nurse Flavia Martin	- Staff RN attends the warming station weekly in collaboration with St. Joseph Hospital Mobile Health Unit. - Hired a new per diem RN. - Our Medical Assistant retracted his notice of separation. - We had a soft rollout of the Hepatitis C pilot mobile program. We will be doing testing and treatment under the supervision of one of our providers. - Planning for our yearly Valentine's Day testing event. - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently reduced the federally recommended child and adolescent immunization schedule from 17 to 11 vaccines, removing hepatitis A and B, meningococcal, rotavirus, influenza, and COVID-19 vaccines. However, the State of New Hampshire continues to recommend all vaccines based on evidence-based guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the clinic's medical director supports providing the full immunization schedule. Questions and Comments: - The clinic has not observed any refusals of the hepatitis B vaccine; it continues to be administered to children, adolescents, and adults, especially since many vaccines remain required for school attendance. - The majority of influenza cases are type A, accounting for 98% of specimens tested at the Public Health laboratory, while type B represents 2%. - Three bills are under consideration at the legislative level. They aim to reduce or eliminate school vaccine requirements. Clinic staff plan to voice their opinions and may testify in support of maintaining these requirements.
Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Health Officer – Heidi Peek- Kukulka	- Vacancy for an environmental health specialist is still open. - The department responded to weather-related issues, including burst pipes and voluntary facility closures. - Routine inspections were completed, including schools and indoor pools, with no serious complaints reported. - Rabies activity has been minimal, with no recent positive cases after three positives earlier in the year (two raccoons and one bat). - Senate Bill 418, which would prohibit municipalities from requiring licenses for home-produced food products, is opposed by the department. - Senate Bill 557, which would prohibit the sale of Kratom products, is supported by the department. - Pending legislation includes A potential exemption for animals that cannot receive rabies vaccines and dog license fees, which are closely tied to rabies vaccination compliance. - Health officer training offered by DHHS was attended by two staff members to learn relevant RSAs and responsibilities.

	Deputy Health Officer and Code Enforcement staff conducted a site visit in response to a complaint regarding domesticated pigs being kept as pets.
Welfare Department report provided by Bob Mack, Welfare Officer	- Shelter-related expenses remain the department's highest cost, driven by high rents and increased requests for security deposits, particularly for individuals with Section 8 vouchers. - The department's goal is to keep people housed whenever possible; when that isn't feasible, temporary motel placements are provided. In December, 5 families and 1 individual were assisted with emergency motel placements, and 1 family was referred to public shelters. - Many individuals from city encampments utilize the Elm Street Warming Station, which continues to serve as a viable resource for safe overnight accommodation. - The Welfare Department will participate in the annual HUD-required point-in-time count of homeless individuals, with data entered into the Homeless Management Information System (people in motel placements are automatically included). - As of the report date, \$404,000 (approximately 65% of the FY26 budget) had been expended from the general assistance budget. The Welfare Expendable Trust Fund, currently around \$140,000, will be reviewed later in the fiscal year to cover expenditures if needed. - A Welfare Specialist resigned so the position is open. - The department continues to collaborate with community partner agencies to assist eligible individuals, provide alternative resources as needed, and work closely with the community health worker team for client support and referrals.
Other Discussions	For the Public Health Ethics Committee, the department will follow up to collect signed confidentiality forms from members, provide updates on training, and proceed with scheduling the next meeting in February 2026.
Public Comment	The owner of Root Awakening, requested a regulated, evidence-based framework for Kratom sales, highlighting that his café served over 11,700 traditional Kratom beverages in 2025 with no health complaints, follows strict safety and age protocols, and faces significant economic impact from the current prohibition; the business's engineering consultant supported him, emphasizing the café's positive role in helping recovery-focused and health-conscious community members while distinguishing it from high-potency, unsafe Kratom products.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
February 11, 2026 at 12:30 PM