



Board of Health

February 11, 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), Henry Och
Board of Alderman: Amber Morgan
City Employees: Bobbie D. Bagley, Director; Mike McGuinness, Deputy Health Officer; Kim Bernard, Chief Public Health Nurse, Bob Mack, Welfare Officer; Foqia Ijaz, CS Administrative Assistant (via Zoom); Steve Bolton, Corporate Council Esquire

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 for Board Member Henry Och
Approval of Minutes- October, November, December 2025 and	Minutes approved.

January 2026	
Director's Report Presented by Bobbie D. Bagley	- The DPHCS vision and mission were read. Financial Update: \$1.2 million awarded through Congressional Community Project Funding. - Funds will support architectural and planning costs, extension of services, onsite resources, and winter warming center operations. - Total project cost exceeds \$5 million; additional funding applications are being submitted. - Some CDBG funding will be used to support the warming station. - Competitive grant applications are being submitted (see written report for details). - FY27–28 expected to reflect flat funding overall. - Anticipated decrease in Substance Use Disorder (SUD) funding. - Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding remains significant. - FY27 target was 3%; actual figures are slightly higher. - Opioid Abatement Trust Fund is being used for staffing support at the Warming Station. \$50,000 for additional expenses (e.g., housing support) Legislative & Advocacy Updates - Attendance was good at legislative breakfast with SUD partners and Mayor's Office. - Testimony provided at State House regarding HB1811. - Community members and Board of Health members are encouraged to submit testimony through the New Futures website. Staffing Update - Recruitment underway to replace Epidemiologist. - SWOT Analysis in progress; delayed pending new hire. - Results to be published on MySideWalk. Questions and Comments: - Inquiry regarding Solution Health restructuring. No impact on department budget or services; no funding relationship.
Situational Report provided by Epidemiologist Nishtha Sharma	- Flu cases are increasing statewide. 3 deaths reported in the state (including 2 children). 40 deaths reported nationwide.
CH Department Report provided by Chief PH Nurse Kim Bernard	- Expanded partnership with Gatehouse Recovery to increase HVC testing and education to improve outreach and follow-up. - DETOR Project went live in January in collaboration with Public Health, State, and National Public Health Lab to improve efficiency. - Engagement with UNH and NCC nursing students. - FY27 proposed budget increase: 3.3%. - Pharmacy inspection completed successfully. - Nurses attended vaccine forum in Boston. Boston Globe Article shared.

	Legislative Bills • HB1811: Opposed proposed changes to immunization requirements; testimony provided. • HB1616: Proposed ban on vaccine advertising/education; written testimony submitted. • HB1584: Addresses medical and religious exemptions. • HB1449: Proposal related to school vaccine clinic ban. • HB524: Proposal to eliminate vaccine association; testimony provided. Department follows Academy of Pediatrics guidance. Clinics • Valentine-themed free HIV and Hepatitis C clinic held; food and gift cards distributed. • School vaccine clinics discontinued due to risk concerns; clinics now held at Public Health and approved alternative sites. • New TB case reported.
Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Deputy Health Officer –Mike McGuiness	• FY27 software request submitted; current system does not meet operational needs. • Two emergency responses: ◦ Country club alarm malfunction ◦ Burst pipe incident • Hearing regarding continued sale of kratom products; FDA guidance states kratom should not be added to food or beverages. • Food additives training completed. • Increased temporary events and inspections. • Inspection backlog due to staffing shortages and vacations. • Follow-up on critical violations ongoing. • Rodent complaints ongoing; reproduction occurs year-round. • Two negative rabies cases reported. Questions and Comments • Technology request submitted for three consecutive years. • Estimated time savings: 1.5 hours per day. • Board requested calculation of annual time and cost savings.
Welfare Department report provided by Bob Mack, Welfare Officer	• Slight decrease in shelter costs. Reduction in applicants and interviews; department down one staff member. • Rent remains largest expenditure. • Currently assisting 4 families and 3 individuals in temporary emergency motel placements. • One family referred to shelter. • Participated in annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count. • FY26 expenditures: \$451,000 (73% expended). • FY27 proposed 3% increase; noted as insufficient. • New Welfare Specialist hired. Legislative Update • HB348 passed House; moving to Senate. ◦ Concern regarding municipalities assisting with at least 50% of poverty level. Funding Discussion

	Welfare Expendable Trust Fund was increased by \$100,000 in FY2026 rather than increasing the General Assistance Budget.
Other Discussions	- Ethics Committee discussion to be added to future agendas. - Plan to review mock TB case to apply ethical guidelines at the next PH Ethics Committee meeting. Discussion regarding TB case review; coordination to occur with Deputy Chief Public Health nurse. - Stephanie Ballentine elected as a new BOH member by the Board of Aldermen. She is a Nurse Practitioner, active partner with Public Health and MRC, and is recognized for strong understanding of Public Health operations.
Public Comment	No public comments

**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:
March 11, 2026 at 12:30 PM