



Board of Health

September 9, 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 Ballentine, Christian Jimenez; Henry Och*
Board of Alderman: Amber Morgan
City Employees: Bobbie D Bagley, Director DPHCS; Mike McGuiness, Deputy Health Officer; Flavia Martin, Deputy Chief Public Health Nurse, Mike Amichetti, Welfare Specialist Supervisor; Foqia Ijaz, CS Administrative Assistant; Sakshi Gurung, Epidemiologist

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 August 2026	• Approved
Epidemiologist Report Presented by Sakshi Gurung	• The United States is experiencing an increase in measles cases, with approximately 2,903 confirmed and suspected cases reported across 47 states as of September 3, 2026, the highest total in 35 years. The increase is attributed to both interstate and local transmission, declining MMR vaccination rates, and an increase in travel-related imported cases.

	• Respiratory illness levels remain low, with emergency department visits at approximately 0.1%. • As of September 3, 2026, New Hampshire has reported 100 cases of cyclosporiasis and three hospitalizations. Of these, 45 cases were domestically acquired and associated with the recalled product, 48 were domestically acquired with an unknown source, and seven were associated with international travel. • Wastewater testing for influenza, COVID-19, and RSV is being done.
Director's Report Presented by Bobbie Bagley, Director DPHCS	• DPHCS vision and mission were read. Financial Update • Nashua received \$146,000 from the State Treasurer as a part of the opioid settlement fund to the State of NH subdivisions. • Approximately \$446,000 is currently available in the trust fund. The Director made a request was made to the Mayor for \$150,000 to support the Warming Station. Community partners have applied for grants. There are two partner awaiting award approval. • The Board of Aldermen is expected to consider approval of the Resource Center at 45 High Street location of Harbor Care at the upcoming meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2026. The legislation for the Gap Analysis Committee for the Resource Center is also on the agenda. • Community Health Workers (CHWs) had 245 client interactions this past month. A client success story involving an 18-year-old unhoused individual was discussed. Staff made calls to identify housing options for youth, and were able to assist with finding housing through an organization. • The Housing Services Officer (HSO) has been involved in Resource Center activities, including the rental TBRA program and related meetings. • Health Promotion and Communication Specialist activities included developing Hepatitis C cards and a Back-to-School event. • Public Health Emergency Preparedness activities include CPR and First Aid training scheduled for the month of September -Preparedness month, for City Employees. • Part-time staff positions have been posted for the Resource Center and Per Diem positions are posted for the Warming Station. • A question was raised regarding the approximately \$446,000 balance and the proposed \$150,000 allocation for the Warming Station. It was noted that the department does not spend the entire balance of the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund because the timing of the next installment is uncertain. • The State allocates 15% of the Abatement Trust Fund Settlement funds to 22 subdivisions. Approximately 85% of the funds received by the State is granted out to support agencies providing prevention, treatment and recovery services, including police and fire departments. Communities are required to demonstrate using funds for opioid abatement activities.
CH Department Report provided by	• A new vaccine cooler has been received, with capacity to store approximately 100 vaccines. • Approximately 1,500 people attended the Back-to-School event attended by staff.

**Deputy Chief
PH Nurse
Flavia Martin**

- Lead outreach continues with Lamprey and other organizations, including lunch-and-learn sessions and distribution of educational materials.
- Annual Competency Day was completed as part of licensing requirements.
- Fit testing has been completed.
- A new per diem staff member has joined the department.
- Two staff members completed infection-control certification.
- The Hepatitis C Coordinator discussed the goal of reaching people where they are and providing treatment in community settings. Staff are working with organizations such as SSANA and other facilities to identify and treat individuals who may otherwise have difficulty accessing care. Testing and medications are brought directly to facilities when possible. Medications can also be delivered to the department. The program has gained good momentum, with increasing compliance and approximately six positive cases identified on average each month. Clients are advised at the four-week mark about changing personal-use items to help prevent reinfection. It was discussed that the Hepatitis C virus can remain on surfaces for an extended period, potentially up to six weeks.

Questions/Comments

- A question was raised regarding genotype testing. Current guidelines do not recommend routine genotype testing; however, Well Sense requires genotype testing.
- The program is funded through Opioid Abatement Trust Fund because the Hepatitis C cases being addressed are associated with opioid use.
- A question was asked about whether family practices can receive informational flyers. It was confirmed that flyers are available and will be distributed.

**Environmental
Health (EH)
Department
report provided
by Deputy Health
Officer –Mike
McGuiness**

Environmental Health reported a busy month with the following activities:

- Several inspection failures were reported, with follow-up site visits conducted.
- Complaints regarding rodents and hygiene were addressed.
- One license was suspended for nonpayment.
- Two emergency calls were received, and two businesses voluntarily closed.
- Temporary events were particularly busy.
- Septic system work continued.
- One school inspection was completed.
- The department did not meet its goal of completing all scheduled inspections due to staff shortage.
- A couple of pool closures occurred.
- No positive rabies cases were reported.
- The department continued work related to the lettuce recall.
- Environmental Health is working with other City departments regarding displaced residents and expects to have increased involvement in these cases. Several departments met following a fire at a hoarder property. Legal training was completed regarding RSA 147 and the displacement protocol. Housing, Fire, and Building Departments are working together on displacement cases, including reviewing applicable codes and RSAs. The application of certain codes and RSAs to owner-occupied properties remains challenging and may present legal issues.

Questions/comments

	• A question was raised about whether the legal process changes when a child or elderly person is living in the home. It was explained that the process does not change when the child or elderly person is a family member of the property owner. However, concerns can be reported to Child Protective Services or the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services when appropriate. • A question was raised regarding the previously approved software. • The new software has been included in the budget for installation and maintenance; however, additional funding will be needed for full implementation.
Welfare Department report provided by Mike Amichetti, Welfare Specialist Supervisor	• August expenditures were approximately \$94,000, compared with \$78,000 in August of the previous year, an increase of approximately \$16,000. • The number of applicants has also increased. • Shelter remains the largest expense, at approximately \$86,000, which is about \$10,000 higher than last year. • Utility assistance showed the largest increase, with approximately three times as many vouchers issued compared with the previous year. A total of 57 vouchers were issued for rent or motel costs. • Overall assistance numbers have increased. Approximately 47% of applicants received assistance, which is higher than last year. • The department assisted three families and two individuals before they were referred to shelter. • The Welfare Department updated its financial standards to reflect increases in the cost of living. The updated standards are available on the City website. • Total Welfare expenditures for July and August were approximately \$135,000, resulting in a slight budget overage. • The department continues to maintain relationships with community partners and service organizations.
Other Updates	• Discussion was held regarding appointing another Board of Health member to replace Dr. Stephanie Wolf Rosenblum. Appointment of the new member will come from the Mayor's Office
Public Comment	• No public Comments

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 PM following a motion and vote.

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
October 14, 2026 at 12:30 PM