



Board of Health

January 17, 2024
 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. Storace

Note Taker: Foqia Ijaz

Minutes

Attendees
Board of Health (BOH): Dr. Storace, Dr. Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum, (Via Zoom) Dr. Charles Cappetta
Board of Alderman:
City Employees: Bobbie Bagley, Foqia Ijaz

Updates and Announcements

Meeting Called to Order

Chair, Dr. Storace called the meeting to order at 11:55 A.M

Discussion on Ethics Committee Document

- Dr. Rosenblum said that she has been asked to chair this committee. The members of the ethics committee elect the chair of the ethics committee. Technically she will not be chair of the ethics committee until the ethics committee is appointed and they continue to desire her in a leadership position.
- There is a reference to the fact that it was updated in 2019, but some of it was written in 2002. Some of the language and concepts in there are a bit dated. We are not sure if all the ethical principles outlined will be applicable. The Public Health code of ethics depends on the core functions of public health and those core functions include how we assess and gather information so that we can inform policy development. It is one of our jobs to collect data.
- This is a population-based approach and that is why we have a seat of a community member in the committee. We think about the greater good of the public as a whole.
- It says a lot about training which hasn't been done. Confidentiality should be protected and even if we protect the name the circumstance or a description could identify. Some of the language is contradictory. For example, on page two it says once

an ethical analysis has been completed the ethical committee will submit a course of action to the strategic leadership team. However, the Board of Health ultimately makes the final policy decision and determines how to implement it. But on page three, under assumptions, it says the strategic leadership team will consider ethics committee recommendations. So where's the Board of Health in that statement?

- BOH wants to formalize the process. we don't want to change the policy if the document changes unless there is a gross change in approach. There can be links for references so that the document is not very lengthy. We can bring subject matter experts for specific situations. There can be a filter system for issues; not everything should come to BOH.
- On Page 5, the 2002 document should be referenced.
- Ethical analysis framework is not a policy. It can be put as an appendix
- All BOH members don't have to be part of the Ethics Committee. It should say at least one BOH member, public health practitioner, or mental health practitioner.
- Take out "Membership is by appointment of the Board of Health or election by staff, with equal representation."
- Suggested there should not be more than 9 members.
- Under the Process headline it says "To provide a process of open and transparent decision-making", and under Ethics Committee it says advisory not enforcement. Please clarify that.
- The development of policy to fulfill the decision made will be on the senior leadership team but if there is a discrepancy BOH and senior leadership can have another meeting.
- There should be ex officio member at the meetings. The head of HR comes to the committee to make sure we are not crossing barriers.
- We should get the training as soon as possible. Q: Is there a training module for BOH to do? A: yes there are training modules available.

- Special BOH meeting on February 21, 2024, at noon at 18 Mulberry Street, Nashua NH. The agenda item will be the discussion on the Ethics Committee Document and the training.

Public Comments

- No public comments

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace. Second by Dr. Rosenblum.

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
February 14, 2024, at 12:30 PM