



**Board of Health**

October 11, 2023  
 Room 208  
 229 Main 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: Melbourne Moran*  
*City Employees: Lyndsey Bond, Heidi Peek, Ren Bedouin, Bob Mack, Kim Bernard, Foqia Ijaz*

**Updates and Announcements**

<b>Meeting Called to Order</b>	Chair, Dr. Storace called the meeting to order at 12: 30 p.m. Heidi Peek read the mission statement.
<b>Approval of September 2023 Minutes</b>	Minutes moved by Dr. Storace. Minutes 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Rosenblum. All in favor. Minutes approved. The first bullet in the last section needs correction.
<b>Situational Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 30 people in the hospital in the State with COVID-19. Merrimack wastewater surveillance shows moderate levels. We have seen a little increase in RSV in the last weeks. The flu is not on the horizon yet.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions and Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some pharmacies have COVID-19 vaccine. Nashua Public Health does not have it yet. We expect it by the end of this month.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Health Department</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CH department staff continue to attend community events.</li> <li>We began having Flu immunization clinics.</li> <li>We were very busy with back-to-school vaccines.</li> </ul>

<p><b>(CHD) report provided by Kim Bernard</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had a successful State DHHS compliance visit for the Vaccines for Children program and for sexual wellness &amp; and TB grant-funded programs.</li> <li>• We had intern students from nursing programs at UNH, Rivier, and St. Anselm.</li> <li>• Staff presented to students at UNH surrounding harm reduction programs.</li> <li>• The Sexual Wellness program coordinator was elected as vice chair of the HIV Prevention Group.</li> <li>• An open position of full-time RN is not being filled due to low salary. We have decided to increase the number of per diem nurses.</li> <li>• Meetings attended were; Vax Well NH, homeless encampment review, PAL Board, and various other community meetings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions and Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: why is there an increase in lead cases? A: This is due to increased screenings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Deputy Health Officer-Ren Bedouin</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairly busy with food service. The failure rate is lower but food service establishments are still struggling. A lot of businesses are barely making it. Trying to employ a model of site visits instead of scoring and giving fines.</li> <li>• We are very busy with events. We are getting ready for Holiday Stroll.</li> <li>• Some feedback was given by the Office of Emergency Management on how events should be run and how to make them more expedient to meet deadlines.</li> <li>• Busy with septic-related visits around the Greater Nashua area.</li> <li>• Indoor pool testing is being conducted this month.</li> <li>• Low number of rabies calls.</li> <li>• We had a week-long response to the flooding and mold concerns in businesses. We worked with Fire Marshals and other City departments.</li> <li>• Gave a presentation to health officers at the Health Officers Association meeting. The first primary presenter could not make it. The Deputy Health Officer filled in and discussed bed bugs, rodents, and mold situations.</li> <li>• Updated Continuum of Care Plan for the EH department. BOH is in the charter in chapter 5 and they elect the Health Officer. EH has the ability to revoke alcohol licenses as mentioned in chapter 170. BOH will provide a hearing prior to that. Chapter 190 pertains to land use approval required for sub-division and waste disposal. Chapter 255 is related to septic waste. BOH establishes the standards of safety and protection. There is a chapter on the storage and transport of solid waste. It is well-written and will be used for ticketing.</li> <li>• Ongoing participation in encampment meetings and discussions regarding health and safety of unsheltered homeless individuals. The hygiene work group started meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions and Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please send completed documents to the BOH.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Welfare Department report provided by Welfare Officer Bob Mack</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenditure is comparable to this time last year. We monitor the cost of living as it has risen up. Number of contacts has gone up. There is an increase of 46% in eligibility interviews this year because federal assistance has ended. We issued the same number of vouchers as last year.</li> </ul>

- We have been doing homeless outreach and are involved with encampment issues. We are meeting weekly with agencies to reach out and engage people. There are about 70 people. They are rather transient. There is a public meeting tonight at Dr. Crisp School.
- The Greater Nashua Continuum of Care was successful in getting funding of about 1.3 million for youth in the Greater Nashua community. Stepping Stones is leading the charge and coordinating the planning group.
- We have expended about \$141.00 of general assistance fund. There are ebbs and flows. We tend to see changes due to income tax refunds and winter moratoriums for utilities.

**Questions and Comments:**

- Stepping Stones is a youth-serving agency that provides different-tiered group living for at-risk youth. The goal is to help people to move into stable situations. Q: Are kids under 18 eligible for programs at Stepping Stones? A: Not sure if they can get into a specific program but they can go to a drop-in center for help and support. The welfare Officer will get more information for BOH.

**Discussion on Ethics Committee**

- We are required to have an Ethics Committee for reaccreditation. This is an advisory committee and will not create legislation. Its purpose is to oversee our mission and goals. Our Strategic Leadership Team, Legal Department, and Risk Management Department are on it. BOH will have some participation in it as well.
- Currently we are having a hard time potentially displacing people from their homes. We are trying not to do it without providing resources.
- Sometimes we see clients that don't have resources. We need guidance for making decisions when it comes to ethics around that.
- Some things are legal but not ethically just. BOH is concerned about People utilizing the framework to make independent decisions which should involve others as well. Individuals will not make ethical decisions unless they are trained or deputized to make that decision.
- Define policies and establish guidelines to protect the people who you work with. They should be able to understand the difference between ethics and morals.
- We need to have updated resources for this document. The document should be refined and more thought should be given to it. BOH and DPHCS can meet and redo it.
- BOH had no training around ethics and are not qualified to make judgment for what is happening in homes.
- An email from Bobbie on 9/14/23 says that this document was submitted with reaccreditation application.
- BOH proposes that the Director and Legal Department speak about the origin of this document and look at examples from other health departments.
- There is no mention of ethics part in the mission of BOH. We need to come up with examples from other jurisdictions.
- There are HR policies about taking gifts. We will not be advising on situations.
- Will there be a legal liability?

- Administrative Function-page four says prior education and training is required.
- Table the conversation until the Director and Legal Department are present. We can call a special meeting. Dr. Storace will contact the Director and arrange that.

**Questions and Comments:**

- Will there be a community member in the Ethics Committee? A: Yes, there is a position for a community member.

**Public Comments**

- No public comments

*\*Full departmental reports can be found on the City Website under October 2023 BOH Meeting Minutes and reports.*

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace. Second by Dr. Rosenblum.

**Please join us for our Next Meeting:**  
November 8, 2023 at 12:30 PM

DRAFT