



Board of Health

October 20, 2021
 18 Mulberry Street, Nashua, NH
 & Via Zoom
 12:30 PM

Our **mission** is to promote, protect, and preserve the health and wellbeing 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: Dr. Tony Storage

Note Taker: Foqia Ijaz

Minutes

Attendees *Board of Health: Dr. Storage, Dr. Charles Cappetta, Dr. Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum
 City Employees: Bobbie Bagley, Kim Bernard, Heidi Peek, Ren Beaudoin, Foqia Ijaz, Bob Mack.*

Updates and Announcements

Directors Report

- Vision and Mission of Division of Public Health and Community Services was read.
- Current global, national and local situational update on COVID 19 cases was given. There is substantial spread in several counties of the State of NH.
- Executive Council rejected 27M to the state to support vaccination efforts.
- DPHCS was awarded 25K through United Way for marketing of Adverse Childhood Experience and early childhood prevention efforts and \$8K for SUD efforts.
- Some of the New Hampshire Legislative Service Requests (LSR's) that impacted public health efforts were shared. Copy of full LSR report will be given to board members.
- Director along with managers continues to deliver essential public health services as chief public health strategist. The department has transitioned into recovery with COVID-19 mitigation measures.
- CDC PHAP – Mackenzie Varieur began with DPHCS on October 12, 2021. She has a two year commitment. PHEP Staff filled: Patrick Henry – Expected start date: October 26, 2021. Administrative Assistant support- Position filled: Mara Santos Lessard. Interviewing for Behavioral Health Specialist.
- Staff participating in several trainings including Equity, Working with Homeless Populations and HIV.
- Weekly Mentionables established to highlight staff achievements.

	<p>Questions/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: why is there a steady increase in the number of cases in NH? A: Most of the country has stabilized but State of NH has seen increase in cases. Increase is due to the low vaccination rate and there is no mask mandate. • BOH agrees with the legislation in LSR's that pertains to allowing public meetings to be conducted virtually as the Board of Alderman and the Mayor look to BOH to interpret science. It is important for the democratic process that all participants are able to participate in the meetings remotely. • There was a lack of civil dialogue at the executive council meeting. BOH is concerned about the misinformation relative to the vaccines. • Change in leadership of SNHH has been positive and has enhanced communication with partner organizations.
<p>Community Health Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide COVID-19 vaccines. Priority is unvaccinated adults. In the process of developing strategy to provide vaccinations to 5-11 year olds when FDA approves it. • Coordinated flu vaccine clinics in September and October in schools. Also giving flu vaccines in house. Continue to do STD and immunization clinics. • Hiring a part time public health nurse and a Disease Investigation Specialist/Behavioral Health nurse. • DHHS has stopped investigating individual cases from October 1st. We only follow clusters and outbreaks and track the cases in school district. • Now expanding STD and immunization clinic hours as the clinics are very busy. We will have clinic on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM-12:00PM. • Nashua's current situational update was given. Nashua is in substantial spread. <p>Comments/Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: How many doses of flu vaccine have been administered so far as compared to last year? A: In September CH department did five clinics at Nashua Schools-206 adults and 187 children were given flu shots. They had an employee clinic where 83 flu vaccines were given. The comparison between last year and this year will be sent to the Board. • BOH acknowledged CH department nurse Flavia Martin's work in helping school nurses set up for testing children in schools if they show symptoms. This will take the pressure off of the primary care providers.
<p>Epidemiology Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Consentino will be working as a consultant.
<p>Health Promotion and Communication Specialist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with Community Health Workers to promote COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Updated the COVID-19 brochure and redistributed in the community. • Created a billboard that will run in Milford to promote masking up and getting vaccinated. Created a billboard to promote HIV Testing that will run in Nashua

	<p>and another billboard will run in Merrimack to promote the flu vaccine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Nashua’s Wheels and Wings event on 9/25 to provide tours of our mobile outreach van and distribute information on preparedness month. Attended the United Way Community Baby Shower on 10/5. CH nurses administered 9 COVID-19 vaccines and distributed health information. • Sent Public Health Network Lead Grant report and presented on completed work plan activities. • Created a scarecrow for the Great American Downtown Scarecrow Contest on Main Street in Nashua to promote flu and COVID-19 prevention <p>Questions/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOH member-the guidelines are going to change very soon for COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots. New recommendations suggest that you can give flu and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. Statistics show that the COVID-19 virus is very dangerous for pregnant women. Vaccine for children is going to be approved soon. We will need to update the brochures again after the final recommendations.
<p>Public Health Network Services Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Goodman has transitioned into this role. She continues to hold Public Health Matters TV show. • Jane is the co-chair of Community Health Improvement planning committee and is presenting data to the PHAC Executive Committee on November 4th. • Jane is a co-lead on Kresge Foundation grant project to address health care trust issues in BIPOC populations. • Coordinated “tent Exercise for regional EMD’s and is organizing the Gilson Rd warehouse.
<p>Behavioral Health Specialist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Vasquez works mainly on two grants-Substance Misuse Prevention grant and Substance Use Disorder Continuum of Care grant. • She facilitates the Suicide Prevention Task-Force Meeting and Mayor’s Opioid Task Force Meeting. • She is very active in the community and did outreach in Latino Churches to start a family engagement night to increase positive parental involvement and knowledge of resources in the community. • She is on the Board of REVIVE.
<p>Environmental Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food service industry is decimated by COVID-19. There are food supply chain and staffing issues. We will not charge re inspection fees till the end of this year. • We are doing institutional inspections of septic plans. • Mosquitoes were negative for both EEE and West Nile virus in Nashua. • Doing inspections of temporary food events. • An update on re accreditation was given. It is due in January, 2022. We are

	<p>creating a new version. It will highlight all the work we do. We have till the end of March 2022 to complete the paperwork. There will be a virtual panel review after it is complete.</p> <p>Questions/Comments:</p> <p>Q: Can we share training or knowledge of resources with food establishments?</p> <p>A: We refer the owners to NH Cooperative Extension for courses in food safety and handling. We have offered zoom trainings. We updated our website and have links to training videos.</p>
Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight decrease in expenditure compared to the same month last year. Slight decrease in vouchers as we are referring clients to the cap agencies and other resources. • Working with local shelter providers to increase capacity for winter. It is hard to get additional space as the COVID-19 protocols are still in effect. Talks are going on for warming stations during the winter. • 13% of the general assistance budget is spent during the first quarter.

Additional Items

BOH member offered to address questions or concerns of public related to COVID-19 vaccines at the Public Health Matters TV show, radio or via a zoom session.

It was decided that BOH members will block off one hour from 11:45 AM-12:45 PM on third Wednesday of every month in their schedules for any emergency meetings if there need be.

**Full departmental reports can be found on City Website under October, 2021 BOH Meeting Reports*

**Full video recording of the meeting:*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHcaXdZC94&ab_channel=NashuaBOAMeetings

No public comments

Meeting adjourned at 1:49 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace. Moved by Dr. Cappetta and second by Dr. Storace.

Please complete the following evaluation to provide feedback for this meeting. Thank you for your input. www.surveymonkey.com/r/DPHCSMeetingEval



Follow-up Items		
Action Item	Person/Organization Responsible	Date Completed

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
November 10, 2020 at 12:30 PM

DRAFT