



**Board of Health**  
 November 08, 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, Dr. Charles Cappetta**  
**Board of Alderman:**  
**City Employees: Lyndsey Bond, Heidi Peek, Bob Mack, 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 October 2023 Minutes</b>	Minutes moved by Dr. Storace. Minutes 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Rosenblum. All in favor. Minutes approved with correction on page #3 4 <sup>th</sup> bullet, 'limited training on ethics' instead of 'no training on ethics'.
<b>Situational Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 hospitalizations in NH peaked in mid-October with the highest day-32 hospitalizations. We now have 9.</li> <li>• Wastewater surveillance indicates a moderate level of detection</li> <li>• For this season, we have only seen some RSV hospitalization and little to no Flu.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions and Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we have enough COVID-19 vaccine available? A: The Chief Public Health Nurse will be able to answer that.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Health (EH)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are gearing up for the Holiday Stroll. The new Emergency Management Director</li> </ul>

**Department  
report  
provided by  
the Health  
Officer**

has reinvigorated the process. Things will run more smoothly. We are concerned about safety at large events. CERT is getting more volunteers for the holiday stroll. Mike McGuinness is very busy and is vetting all vendors.

- A few businesses closed but some new ones opened. The failure rate is normal.
- Pools and spas inspections are done.
- Deputy Health Officer Attended Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Operations (EHTER-OPS) in Anniston Alabama at the Center for Domestic Preparedness.
- Both Environmental Health Specialists attended a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Training at Solid Waste Management. We will do education for establishments. Some establishments use enzymes. It is not a good idea. We have to take a look at grease interceptors. NH Department of Environmental Services is addressing some of these issues.
- Ongoing participation in encampment meetings and discussions regarding the health and safety of unsheltered homeless individuals. We are mindful of the cold weather. Some people are isolated and are not connected with services.
- A state person gave us training for pool safety. We are concerned about unregulated pools.
- Most complaints these days are for trash. Some are about housing issues. A low pattern of complaints at this point.

**Questions and Comments:**

- The House Bill that restricted the Health Officer's Authority was tabled for now but will come back again.
- Revenue has increased due to new businesses opening. Inspection fees vary, they depend upon the size of the kitchen. The fees are from \$100.00-\$700. Religious organizations and nonprofits are not charged a fee.

**Welfare  
Department  
report  
provided by  
Welfare  
Officer Bob  
Mack**

- There is an increase in expenditures. Shelter is the largest line item. The number of contacts has increased by 42% and the number of interviews has increased by 46% as compared to last year. There is a lot of case management to do. The number of vouchers given has not gone up but the cost of vouchers has increased.
- The Welfare Department assisted 5 families and five individuals in emergency motel placements and referred 2 families and 2 individuals to public shelters during the month of October. About \$30,000.00 was spent on motel placements. This is \$10,000.00 more than last year.
- We continue to work with shelter programs and are working with Community Health Workers for outreach efforts.
- The winter overflow beds begin at the Nashua Soup Kitchen on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Soup Kitchen got the certificate of acceptance and is moving some individuals into semi-permanent apartments. Those individuals will be given housing vouchers after a year.
- We started putting data in the HMIS system. It is a national system. Not all states use it though. We can check on updates for people we helped.

- Winter moratorium will be in effect soon for fuel assistance. We predict to see an increase in people seeking assistance. We encourage people to keep making minimum payments.
- Welfare Department staff participate in various community meetings including the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care, Youth Homelessness Committee, GNCO Health Services Coordination Subcommittee, Homeless Encampment Response, Elder Wrap Around Group, Homeless Outreach, Cultural Connection Committee, and various other meetings focusing on homelessness and prevention within the City.
- Applicants are presenting with more complex situations requiring additional support and more time spent completing eligibility interviews and follow-up activities per case. This includes verifying information provided by applicants as well as working with partner agencies for supplemental assistance.
- We have expended about 48 % of the budget. It is predicted that we will most likely tap into the trust fund.

**Questions and Comments:**

- Welfare expenditures are higher as compared to last year at this time due to the expiration of Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds that were available during this time period last year, as well as the increase in general costs of living. It is hard to predict the trend. We are working with SNHS to push out information to people
- Hundreds of housing units are being planned or developed on exit 6. Tax credits are being given to the builders and EPA is putting up \$6 million for cleanup of the area. There will be over 200 rental apartments and over 100 condos and green space. There might be a 10% or 20% income subsidy for low income.
- Q: Is there an update on the asphalt plant? A: The Department of Environmental Services (DES) has not come up with any statement on approving the plans. Two different approvals are required. One is from DES and one from Nashua City. If DES approves it then the builders can go to court. They are supposed to hold a community-wide meeting before that.

**Other Discussions**

- Regarding the Ethics Committee, we plan to proceed with accreditation. During the pandemic, we organized a virtual meeting as a backup. We have the option to hold an in-person meeting next week, but we need input from legal and risk management first. Bobbie will be given the opportunity to develop the ethics portion of the document. Ren has submitted the ethics part, but we still need to finalize it. We can convene a meeting next week, but we need to work on the document first. The deadline to address this issue is December which falls after the official meeting. We plan to have a 30-minute Zoom meeting with Bobbie on November 15th from 12:00-12:30 PM
- Dr. Rosenblum will be working remotely next year as she is traveling. She gave the option of stepping aside from the position of Board of Health member. She is willing to continue serving as a Board of Health member as she has been requested to do so.

**Public Comments**

- No public comments

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace. Second by Dr. Rosenblum.

**Please join us for our Next Meeting:**  
December 13, 2023 at 12:30 PM

DRAFT