



Board of Health

March 08, 2023
 City Hall Auditorium
 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. Tony Storace

Note Taker: Foqia Ijaz

Minutes

Attendees
Board of Health (BOH): Dr. Tony Storace, Dr. Charles Cappetta, Dr. Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum (via zoom)
Board of Alderman: Alderwomen Gloria Timmons
City Employees: Bobbie Bagley, Heidi Peek, Bob Mack Lindsey Bond (in person)
Foqia Ijaz (via zoom)

Updates and Announcements

Meeting Called to Order	Chair, Dr. Storace called the meeting to order at 12: 30 PM. The mission statement of the Division of Public Health and Community was read.
Approval of February 2023 Minutes	Minutes moved by Dr. Storace and 2 nd by Dr. Rosenblum. All in favor. Minutes approved.
Situational Update provided by Lyndsey Bond-Epidemiologist	<p>COVID-19 Update New Hampshire Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Cumulative Cases: 377,661 • New Cases: 66 • Patients in the hospital positive for COVID-19: 76 • Patients being treated for COVID-19: 30 • Cumulative Deaths: 2,995 <p>Nashua Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Cumulative Cases: 27,062 • Cumulative Deaths:187

- Patients in the hospital positive for COVID-19: 16
- Patients being treated for COVID-19: 8

CDC Community Level:

- Low community level in Hillsborough County. Follow recommendations by CDC.
- CDC RESP-NET- Respiratory Virus Hospitalization Surveillance Network chart was shared.

CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Update:

- There has been one confirmed measles case associated with a large gathering of 20,000 people at a university in Kentucky in February.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Which country did the index person acquire measles in? A: HAN did not say which country he brought it from.

Q: Is there education in the community about measles so that any potential spread can be contained? A: Pediatricians are told to be aware of it. We know it is there but not being discussed openly. DPHCS has not put anything out as it has not impacted NH. Vaccination rates are very high in NH.

- Continue to lead and support staff and collaborate with community partners to perform the core functions of public health to meet the scope of services as required by grants.

Financial Update:

- FY 24 Budget Guidelines have been distributed and the department heads working on their budgets.
- Hillsborough County fund request was submitted in the amount of \$688,600 to support housing stability through a proposed landlord incentive program. We will work with Nashua Soup Kitchen, Front Door, and Welfare department.

Legislative Update:

- Legalization and regulation of cannabis-HB639
- Governor’s Commission of Alcohol and Other Drugs-important to continue funding for work around the prevention of substance misuse.
- SB237- Child Care of NH Working Families Act ensures families qualify for child care scholarship programs.
- SB36 – Relative to systems of care for healthy aging.

Behavioral Health Team (BH): Facilitated the Mayor’s Substance Use Disorder monthly meeting and provided Narcan trainings in the community including at motels and hotels. The BH Strategist is a mentor for the New England Prevention Mentoring Program.

Epidemiologist: Epidemiologist is the lead for Community Health Assessment (CHA) planning activities. She presented the CHA cycle and introduced the Community Partner Assessment Survey to external partners. She participated in the Diversity training done by some of the DPHCS staff.

Health Disparity Community Health Workers: they provide translation and interpretation support for programs offered at DPHCS. They did outreach in the community to share information on SSANA and various other health topics.

**Director’s Report
Provided by
Director of
DPHCS-Bobbie
Bagley**

PHEP Coordinator: He provided safety training to staff and Rivier nursing students when they conduct outreach in extreme temperatures. He led a tabletop exercise for DPHCS Incident Response Team and participated in winter weather responses.

PHAC/PHN Strategist: Planning for Bi-annual Public Health Advisory Council Meeting scheduled for April 6, 2023. The theme of this year's meeting is The Healing Arts of Public Health.

Staffing Update:

- February Division-wide Staff Meeting was facilitated by Community Health Department (CHD) and each department gave an overview of its services.
- VMSG data tracking system training scheduled in March for Strategic Leadership Team.

Community Health Department report provided by Chief Public Health Nurse- Kim Bernard

- Attended the DHHS VaxWell Meeting. ASPR (Administration for Strategic Preparedness), CDC (Center for Disease Control), and CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services) met to discuss the commercialization of the COVID-19 vaccine. The public health emergency for COVID-19 will expire on 5/11/23. The goal is to continue to supply to vulnerable populations at no cost. It will remain at no cost to Medicare part B and Medicare part D. Commercialization will align with fall 2023 and the new COVID-19 vaccine campaign to include coverage for new strains.
- State Mobile Services extended through the end of May. The wastewater surveillance dashboard is live on the NH DHHS website. Reached out to DHHS to add Nashua.
- State has 100K home tests available to the public at no cost. We are stocking them at DPHCS - please refer individuals to call us for pick-up information.
- MPox cases continue to decrease nationwide. We continue to vaccinate those at the highest risk.
- **Legislation update:** Testified in support of SB115 at NH State House Senate Finance Committee. It allows us to have funds to purchase vaccines. HB575 limits the rule-making authority of DHS surrounding emergencies. HB557 limits the purchasing and marketing of certain pharmaceuticals. We oppose these two bills. HB539 restricts the vaccine clinics at schools during school hours and requires parents to be present for administering vaccines. SB35 allows pharmacists to administer vaccines.
- **Staff Updates:** Continue to coordinate students. There is one open RN position. Did Q3 one-to-one meetings with staff. Scheduling staff to attend various conferences. Staff participated in Incident Response Team (IRT) (MACE) activation tabletop exercise. Attended Public Health Week planning committee meeting, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion strategic meeting with leadership and equity officer, presented at the division-wide staff meeting and attended Nashua PAL (Police Athletic League) February board meeting.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Any update on the Lead Bill? A: no update, will get back to BOH later.

Q: 100,000 COVID-19 tests have an expiry date. How are you planning to disseminate

	<p>them? A: staff bring the supply with them at outreach and make people aware that we have them at the clinic and can be picked up at the windows. Expiry date has been extended. Q: Can the social agencies or interfaith council be informed that this stockpile is available? A: This information is included in the weekly newsletter which is distributed to a large number of partner agencies. We drop them off at different agencies also.</p>
<p>Environmental Health (EH) Department report provided by Health Officer-Heidi Peek</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NH Health Officers Association and DHHS requested the Health Inspectors to participate in training videos for school inspections. • Food Service activity has to do with burst pipes due to freezing temperatures. There were two license suspensions and one voluntary closure. • Bad year as far as rodents are concerned. Deputy Health Officer attended Virtual Rat Academy through the NYC Bureau of Veterinary and Pest Control Services. • Still seeing some dog and cat bites. Being tested for rabies. Some of the guidelines are changing around testing for rabies. Concerned about untrained animals in public areas. • Staff are busy with FDA trainings. • Attended the Tabletop exercise by the PHEP coordinator.
<p>Welfare Department report provided by Welfare Officer-Bob Mack</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant difference between the shelter expenditure last year at this time to this year. Many households were receiving rental assistance through the Emergency Rent Assistance Program which accounts for the significant difference in rent assistance comparatively. • Welfare staff are working with SNHS case managers to assess the needs of those households in motel placements through the ERAP program. • Welfare Department staff participated in various community meetings including the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care (GNCOG). • The Welfare Officer participated in the Governor’s Council on Housing Stability. The Landlord incentive program is on the radar of that committee because people who have vouchers from NH Housing Authority have a really hard time finding rentals. There are some pilot incentive programs throughout the state. Another issue is the need for respite beds. Patients who don’t have any place to go once discharged from the hospital cannot be released. The committee is trying to find funding for more respite beds. • Housing Authority waitlist for a subsidized housing program opened up with a lot of people signing up for that. Number of other housing programs are being developed throughout the city.
<p>Public Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments

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

Full recording of the meeting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZjNm7Sqf8&ab_channel=NashuaBOAMeetings

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace. Moved by Dr. Cappetta and

second by Dr. Rosenblum.

Please join us for our Next Meeting:
April 12, 2023, at 12:30 PM