

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19th, 2026, 2:00-3:00 PM

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Meg Dlusniewski	Shared Service Coordinator	NSPHC
Hannah Laffer	Regional Health Inspector	NSPHC
Steven Kahn	Regional Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Laura Nash	Regional Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Caitlyn Matykiewicz	Community Health Worker	NSPHC
Skyler Lesser-Roy	Training Hub Coordinator	Northeast Training Hub
Terry Kennedy	Regional Hub Food Trainer	Northeast Training Hub
David Greenbaum	Health Director	Salem
Andrew Petty	Health Director	Marblehead
Tracy Giarla	Public Health Nurse	Marblehead
Laura Ricci	Health Director	Beverly
Teresa Kirsch	Public Health Nurse	Beverly
Lisa Tobin	Health Director	Lynn
Kitzia Diaz	Public Health Nurse	Lynn
Erini Kamarinos	Epidemiologist	Lynn
Sharon Cameron	Health Director	Peabody
Brenda Wolff	Public Health Nurse	Peabody
Jeff Vaughan	Health Director	Swampscott
Frank Giacalone	Health Director	Danvers
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers
Breanna Livingstone	Registered Environmental Health Specialist	Danvers

PHE Updates

- Meaghan Dlusniewski noted that the workforce survey is being sent out shortly. Please encourage all staff to fill this out, it should only take 20-30 minutes to complete.
- There is also a performance standards survey coming out, which Meg can help you with if you need.
- On March 17th, there's going to be a special webinar on health districts from MAHB.

Training Hub Updates

- Stephen Casey Jr. will be presenting on housing court at the [MHOA Quarterly Meeting](#) on 3/19 from 10-2 in Devens.
- Terry Kennedy will be presenting at the next world cup working group on foodborne illness.

Legislative Updates

- Skyler Lesser-Roy updated the group on GLP-1s and their status as covered by Medicaid and Medicare. NSPHC has a flyer prepared on sharps disposal if your municipality is interested.
- Temporary Protected Status for Haitians in the U.S. is being litigated but is currently still in effect as of 2/19/26.
- The governor's budget for FY27 included \$15 million for local public health, which completely funds the PHE grants and OLRH programs! To ensure that this funding stays the same as the budget is debated in the House and Senate, please call your legislators. Sample script to use to call your legislators: "my regional inspector inspected ___ restaurants and ___ houses/residential spaces this month... my regional public health nurse and/or epis investigated ___ communicable diseases, provided ___ vaccinations, my training hub is training ___ inspectors this month."
- The budget also included a proposed \$1,000 annual cap in dental coverage for adults on MassHealth, which dentists and patients alike are concerned about. Additionally, \$100 million in cuts to the group insurance commission (GIC) was proposed, which serves 460,000 state employees.
- Other Massachusetts health news includes Planned Parenthood's Worcester location offering vasectomies, a senate bill to ban medical debt sales, and a proposed merger of the burn units of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Mass General Hospital.
- Some good news across the country includes a new bipartisan bill that requires pharmacy benefits managers to pass rebates to payers, Illinois eliminating \$1.1 billion in medical debt, and new developments in the link between air pollution and Alzheimer's.

Epidemiology Updates

- Laura Nash updated the group on respiratory illness in MA. The current rate of ER related visits for influenza are relatively low and seem to be on the decline. Influenza-like illness activity has moved down to moderate and severity of illness is

low. Flu vaccination rates are now rising to be similar to last year's rates, while COVID-19 vaccination rates are consistently lower.

- There were 989 measles cases in the U.S. as of today. While there are still no cases in MA, South Carolina is the largest epicenter, with surrounding states and those in the SouthWest also impacted. We are now experiencing endemic transmission, and are likely to lose our elimination status for measles when PAHO meets in April.
- Steven Kahn highlighted a number of resources for the group to use when looking at disease spread, including the Johns Hopkins dashboard, the Center for Outbreak Response and Innovation (CORI) dashboard, and the Boston Children's Hospital dashboard.
- The NSPHC World Cup Working Group is meeting next on 3/5 from 3-4:30 to discuss environmental and food concerns.
- In other news, the FDA blocked a Moderna mRNA flu vaccine trial but may be reversing course again. Also, there was a class II recall of more than 20,000 peanut butter products across 40 states.
- Some good news includes no human H5N1 cases and detections in animals are down, and an antimicrobial stewardship program in MA has standardized antibiotic tracking across long term care facilities.
- Laura is working on a relevant report for food inspections across each municipality in the NSPHC.

Workplan Updates

- Meaghan Dlusniewski updated the group on the budget, and noted that upcoming expenses include NBO training for NSMVP PHNs, an MAHB certificate program for BOH members, a CSTE conference, and interpreters and printed health information for the upcoming community baby shower.
- Total inspections, MAVEN, and NSMVP coverage was presented.
- Five staff have complete certified application counselor training!
- Additional projects include a rodent dashboard for Beverly, Peabody youth health survey data, Salem naloxone dashboard, NSMVP annual report, Salem food code pro analysis, and the interview project.
- NSPHC day is tentatively scheduled for 4/1 at North Shore Community College in Danvers. Share your recommendations for awards, networking events, and topics for presentations!
- As of 2/18, 24 vendors and 32 families have registered for the baby shower, with a current total of 96 attendees. We will have a NSPHC/NSMVP table promoting

NSMVP, CACs, car seat safety checks, and lactation counseling. Donations are open and can be dropped off at the Salem Board of Health.

- Meaghan presented a final draft of the new NSPHC newsletter. We are planning to send out the newsletter through Constant Contact, so people can unsubscribe if they'd like to. Some attendees recommended including event recaps, pictures of staff, and World Cup planning efforts in future newsletters. These will be sent out quarterly for now.
- Meaghan will send out the results from the access to clinical care survey over email.

Opioid Settlement Funds and Community Updates

- There was a discussion on creating a regional model for rodent control so that each municipality can save money. Most towns are using A1 for this and have trouble with their data reporting being incorrect.
- David Greenbaum notes that there is a MMA webinar on 3/3. Mayor Pangallo will be presenting at this meeting on SAPHE 2.0 and is hoping for other municipal leaders to attend. There was a request for the creation of a template email with information on the NSPHC to send to leaders to encourage them to join.
- David Greenbaum asked if any municipality had a loose syringe drop off, unlike boxes at fire departments or in park bathrooms. Lisa Tobin added that Lynn has one that is maintained by Healthy Streets.