

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 18th, 2025, 2:00-3:15 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
Matthew Woolaver	Regional Health Inspector	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Caitlyn Matykiewicz	Community Health Worker	NSPHC
Kendra Harris	Public Health Social Worker	NSPHC
Amanda Dau	Social Work Intern	NSPHC
Skyler Lesser-Roy	Training Hub Coordinator	Northeast Training Hub
Terry Kennedy	Hub Trainer: Food	Northeast Training Hub
Stephen Casey Jr.	Hub Trainer: Housing	Northeast Training Hub
David Greenbaum	Health Director	Salem
Kelli Padilla	Public Health Nurse	Salem
Andrew Petty	Health Director	Marblehead
Tracy Giarla	Public Health Nurse	Marblehead
Laura Ricci	Health Director	Beverly
John Coulon	Health Director	Nahant
Lisa Tobin	Health Director	Lynn
Kitzia Diaz	Public Health Nurse	Lynn
Sharon Cameron	Health Director	Peabody
Brenda Wolff	Public Health Nurse	Peabody
Jeff Vaughan	Health Director	Swampscott
Neia Illingworth	Public Health Nurse	Swampscott
Frank Giacalone	Health Director	Danvers
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers

PHE Updates

- Meaghan Dlusniewski noted that if you have municipal funds for travel or office supplies, those should be used before PHE funds. She is available to help with budget support anytime. On January 6th, there will be a legislative meeting to inform local legislators of the importance of public health. Starting next month, Skyler will

also share a monthly legislative update to keep everyone apprised of any public health policy changes.

Training Hub Updates

- Skyler Lesser-Roy let the group know about upcoming Tier 2 offerings for food and housing. Tier 2 food will be held June 2-4 from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM virtually, and June 9-10 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM in person in Marlborough. Tier 2 housing will be held May 6th from 8:00 AM-3:30 PM in person in Marlborough, and May 19-21 from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM virtually. To qualify for Tier 2, you must be registered for Tier 1 on TRAIN and have completed all Tier 1 coursework by January 31, 2026. All qualified participants will be contacted by email with instructions on how to enroll in Tier 2 in February. If there are more qualified participants than seats available, a lottery system will be used to select Tier 2 seat placement.
- Stephen Casey Jr. gave a few updates on the progress of housing trainings. The hub had 5 people in our first Tier 3 Category 2 training. Once documents are reviewed, eligible trainees for the final category of Tier 3 will be contacted for next steps. We had 6 people complete Tier 3 Category 1 in August, and another Tier 3 Category 1 training is planned for January. Eligible trainees have been contacted, and 5 of the 6 happen to fall within the NSPHC group. Four individuals from the hub, including two from the NSPHC, completed the Tier 2 Training in November.
- Eileen Dacey presented on Animal Hoarding at the last NSPHC hoarding task force meeting in December; notes on this meeting and the presentation will be sent to attendees shortly. Pending availability, Stephen is hoping to have another NSPHC hoarding task force meeting in early 2026 (ideally February). If anyone has topic suggestions for this meeting, please let us know.
- The training hub aims to do more outreach to hub members after the new year for Tier 1 coursework. Additionally, we are happy to create a study group for anyone in the NSPHC who wants to study for the REHS/RS exam, as we have several study guides. Finally, please continue to let us know about milestones and accomplishments in your municipality for the training hub newsletter.

Epidemiology Updates

- Steven Kahn updated the group on major headlines including Mpox transmission, avian flu in Indiana, and hepatitis B policy changes. To avoid confusion, Steven and Laura have created a document explaining that babies can still get the Hep B vaccine at birth.
- Laura Nash updated the group on acute respiratory related emergency department visits, noting that flu cases are increasing.

- There is a new H3N2 strain of the flu going around this year, which is passing quickly and can be more severe. The standard flu vaccine is still our best method of prevention. Vaccination rates for flu and COVID-19 went up this month, but they're still lower overall than rates in 2024.
- The measles outbreak continues to grow, with two large outbreaks in South Carolina and Utah/Arizona. There has been an increase of 205 cases this month, and only 7 states remain without any cases. Canada has officially lost its measles elimination status, and the U.S. is not far behind.
- The WHO lifted the public health emergency for mpox in September of 2025, but cases continue to occur in the U.S.
- The NSPHC world cup working group has monthly meetings scheduled from January to June, covering communicable disease scenarios, environmental & food concerns, and more.
- For now, the CDC infectious disease data is okay to use. Do not use health equity or vaccination info, look instead to the WHO, PAHO, MDPH, and local health departments!
- Upcoming NSPHC projects include an NSMVP year-in-review, MAVEN end of year report, and an influenza spatial analysis.
- Andrew Petty noted that there will be several prep meetings for emergency preparedness for this summer's events, which include the World Cup, Salem's 400th birthday, Tall Ships, and the 250th Birthday of the Country.
- Steven gave a presentation on the new local public health playbook. The current state guidance for data sharing is not appropriate for local health departments as it is too restrictive and inconsistent across municipalities. As a result, the Massachusetts data sharing playbook has been created, aiming to work for any local public health department across the Commonwealth. It includes information on assessing data, communicating findings, and the importance of publishing data during an emergency. Click [here](#) to provide feedback on the playbook!

Opioid Settlement Funds and Community Updates

- Laura Ricci noted that the Beverly Senior Center Rec Room A is reserved for January 27th from 2-4 PM for our tobacco meeting. Staff are welcome to join this meeting.
- Steven created a poster with a fellow epidemiologist to help combat recent misinformation which all can use and will be attached to these minutes.

Local Public Health Advocacy

- David Greenbaum gave an update on the legislative briefing happening January 6th, 2026. There will be remarks from the Mayor of Salem, the lieutenant governor, and public health commissioner, then we will give a 10–15-minute presentation, leaving time for questions at the end. We are putting together slides and information which will be shared with DPH next week for any edits. If you know a community member that has had a positive experience from the work that the PHE group or Training Hub has done, please let us know. There won't be requests for funding at this meeting, just a highlight of what we do. We would love it if all the health directors, nurses, and other staff from the NSPHC could join. People are also welcome to invite their municipal executives.
- To brainstorm ideas for the discussion, Meg asked a variety of questions on what is most important for legislators to know about public health, projects we're proud of as departments, and when our work has benefited residents.
- Skyler presented a document on public health advocacy and some tips on how to talk to legislators, which will be attached to these minutes.
- We also plan to provide a script for each municipality to use for help with creating invitations.