

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21st, 2026, 2:00-3:00 PM

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Meg Dlusniewski	Shared Service Coordinator	NSPHC
Hannah Laffer	Regional Health Inspector	NSPHC
Laura Nash	Regional Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Caitlyn Matykiewicz	Community Health Worker	NSPHC
Kendra Harris	Regional Social Worker	NSPHC
Skyler Lesser-Roy	Training Hub Coordinator	Northeast Training Hub
David Greenbaum	Health Director	Salem
Lisa Tobin	Health Director	Lynn
Erini Kamarinos	Epidemiologist	Lynn
Jeff Vaughan	Health Director	Swampscott
Andrew Petty	Health Director	Marblehead
Sharon Cameron	Health Director	Peabody
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers

The meeting was convened at 2:05. The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

PHE Updates

- The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' conference is June 1-4. Let Meg know if you'd like to attend, as we can use training hub funds to cover registration fees.

Training Hub Updates

- There were no updates from the training hub.

Legislative Updates

- Skyler Lesser-Roy updated the group on federal and local health policy updates.
- There were several updates on Tobacco policy. The FDA approved four new electronic nicotine delivery systems, which drew backlash. Locally, Northampton's

Board of Health approved nicotine-free generation standards for those born on or after 7/1/2025, and Stoughton's Board of Health has tabled the measure.

- Additionally, H5271 An Act to clarify the minimum age for the sale of and purchase of adult use products has been introduced in the state legislature, led by Representative Cahill of Lynn.
 - If passed, this legislation would supersede local nicotine-free generation policies and make all nicotine products available for purchase for adults 21 and over.
 - Lisa Tobin noted that she spoke with Representative Cahill and he expressed that the goal of this bill is to fix a flaw in state laws that allowed for NFG legislation and did not want to limit the scope of local boards of health. David Greenbaum was concerned that this would erode board of health rule.
- The MA Health Connector board voted to confirm federally defined preventive services to ensure that vaccines, screenings, and more services will be available without cost-sharing barriers. Additionally, Health Connector enrollment will be from 10/23/26-12/23/26
- The Supreme Court blocked a lower court decision in *Louisiana v. FDA*, leaving mifepristone accessible by mail for now. The court will be issuing a final ruling on mifepristone later this year.
- The President's Emergency Plan of AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) will now give countries lump sum instead of direct CDC support.
- The Chief of the FDA, Dr. Marty Makary, resigned after backlash over tobacco policy and a delayed internal review of mifepristone.
- Now for some good news! The NHS is rolling out an injectable version of the immunotherapy drug Keytruda, which can reduce treatment times by 90%. Mayo Clinic has developed an AI model that can detect pancreatic cancer up to 3 years earlier than a traditional diagnosis. CA has also started a program to provide 400 free diapers to at-risk newborns.

Epi Updates

- There has recently been a spike in tick exposures and related visits to the ED. DPH has created a syndromic surveillance report to track these cases. Prevention is the cure for tick related diseases!
- Although the current cruise ship outbreak has caused alarm, hantavirus continues to be low risk to the U.S. The virus is mainly spread through contact with rodents, and comes in multiple forms. The current outbreak is hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) and remains contained, with 18 American passengers quarantining at a facility in Nebraska.

- A large Ebola outbreak in central Africa has caused the declaration of a public health emergency of international concern. As of 5/21, there have been 536 suspected cases and 160 deaths, with cases going on undetected for months. The virus is spread through infected animals or person-to-person direct contact. Like hantavirus, this is low risk to the American public.
- The measles outbreak in South Carolina ended 4/28, but we are still seeing cases in Utah. Overall, hospitalizations have gone down from last year.
- The next World Cup working group is 6/4 from 3-4 pm. The NSPHC is working on partnering with hotels to help visitors navigate the healthcare system.
- Additionally, opioid deaths in the U.S. have declined for the third year in a row!

Workplan Updates

- Meg went over the budget, CAC appointments, inspectional progress, and MAVEN & NSMVP coverage.
- Upcoming expenses include MHOA early bird registration, and upcoming events include the Beverly and Peabody social services navigator popup events on 5/26 and 5/27, respectively.
- The group reviewed data from the first NSPHC newsletter and the next newsletter draft.
- In the works is a partnership with local PCPs to support vaccination efforts, a training on Roberts rules from MHOA, and getting in touch with the Dana Farber mammography van.

Opioid Settlement Updates:

- Judith noted that we are waiting on final numbers from a few communities for the diaper drive, but we seem to have exceeded total donations from last year. She will be sending a thank you letter to the Salem News for their support.
- Laura Nash noted that the state is going to put together a report on opioid deaths in the North Shore.