

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16th, 2026, 2:00-3:15 PM

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Meg Dlusniewski	Shared Service Coordinator	NSPHC
Hannah Laffer	Regional Health Inspector	NSPHC
Matthew Woolaver	Regional Health Inspector	NSPHC
Laura Nash	Regional Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Steven Kahn	Regional Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Tammy Vo	Epidemiology Intern	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Skyler Lesser-Roy	Training Hub Coordinator	Northeast Training Hub
David Greenbaum	Health Director	Salem
Kelli Padilla	Public Health Nurse	Salem
Lisa Tobin	Health Director	Lynn
Erini Kamarinos	Epidemiologist	Lynn
Kitzia Diaz	Public Health Nurse	Lynn
Jeff Vaughan	Health Director	Swampscott
Sharon Cameron	Health Director	Peabody
Brenda Wolff	Public Health Nurse	Peabody
Laura Ricci	Health Director	Beverly
Frank Giacalone	Health Director	Danvers
Breanna Livingstone	Registered Environmental Health Specialist	Danvers
John Coulon	Health Director	Nahant

The meeting was convened at 2:02. The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

PHE Updates

- Meg thanked everyone for coming to NSPHC day last month! The regional team is looking forward to making this an annual event.
- The annual NSPHC report, as well as end-of-year reports, are being worked on and will come out soon.
- Shoutout to Caitlyn for presenting at NACCHO360 this week!

Training Hub Updates

- Stephen Casey Jr. will be holding another Tier 3, Category 1 class starting in September which will take place in Stoneham.
- Stephen is working on scheduling another Tier 3, Cat 2 - looking to schedule this outside of Salem as the hotel I use in Salem was already extremely busy in May.
- The Hoarding Tabletop Exercise will take place on August 6th at 9:00am in Salem City Hall Annex. Non-Health Department staff like Social Workers, Community Health Workers, Fire/building department staff and other stakeholders are more than welcome to attend. If you have someone you think would be interested, please feel free to forward them the registration link or send their contact information to Steve.
- Another Tier 2 Housing training has been scheduled for October. OLRH will pull from the waitlist and contact eligible trainees closer to October.

Budget and Workplan Updates

- The FY27 budget and workplan haven't changed much from FY26, with the total budget coming to \$708,980.11.
- In reviewing the budget, it was noted that staff spend increased from last year as the contact tracing grant that covered part of the epi's salaries has ended. Additionally, the health communication line item is for translation and printing services, among other things.
- Laura Ricci noted that the municipal budget in Beverly was significantly reduced this year and asked if the PHE grant could cover MHOA and MEHA fees. Meg added that the training hub can pay for these fees this year, but only once municipal and PHE budgets have been spent down.
- The workplan and budget were approved. They will both be uploaded to box.

Legislative Updates

- Skyler Lesser-Roy updated the group on federal and local health policy updates.
- The FY2027 state budget was signed into law on 7/9 at \$63.4B, a 3.9% increase from FY2026. In regards to health, the budget extended the subsidized ConnectorCare program and capped annual MassHealth dental benefits at \$1,750/adult.
- The Massachusetts State House passed a bill including a 5-year pilot program for psychedelic assisted therapy that would be implemented by MDPH.
- "An Act to Restore a Sensible Marijuana Policy" will be on the ballot this November, which seeks to eliminate recreational dispensaries in the state, but is unlikely to pass.

- The MGB nurses strike ended with thousands returning to work 7/13, but there is still no contract agreement.
- A bill to protect healthcare workers is heading to the State Senate, after two recent incidents of violence against staff at Tewksbury State Hospital.
- The Supreme Court ruled that the Trump administration can end Temporary Protected Status for Haitians and Syrians, which will result in a healthcare worker shortage across the country. As a result, the Governor has released information for employers regarding immigration and work authorization, linked [here](#).
- 25 states and D.C. sued the Trump Administration over Medicaid work requirement language changes.
- HHS is no longer pursuing a rule that would block Medicare and Medicaid funding to hospitals providing pediatric gender-affirming care.
- In good news, opioid related overdose deaths in MA fell below 1,000 for the first time in a decade, California banned “sell by” dates to cut down on food waste, and U.S. life expectancy hit a record high in 2025.

Epi Updates

- Laura Nash updated the group on World Cup statistics in Massachusetts. 447,283 fans attended 7 games in MA, and 160,000 attendees from 108 different countries visited the Boston Fan Festival.
- Boston saw large increases in spending on hotels, bars, and restaurants. There were 107 medical service transports from Boston stadium, and there has been an uptick in respiratory illnesses due to the increased tourism. Exposure monitoring for measles is still underway, and syndromic surveillance found an uptick in west Nile virus, dengue, and imported malaria in relation to world cup travel.
- We are starting to see an increase in tick reports. 10% of ticks sent in have been lone star ticks, which cause Alpha-Gal syndrome, which is an increase from last year.
- On 7/15, DPH issued a wildfire smoke alert due to smoke from Canadian wildfires. Sensitive groups should be careful, limiting outdoor activities and keeping indoor air clean. Additionally, this summer has been the hottest on record in Boston, and the Northeast region is still in a level 3 critical drought.
- Cyclospora is a diarrheal waterborne/foodborne parasite that causes watery diarrhea, which only infects humans and isn't commonly transmitted from person to person. There have been 1,645 confirmed cases domestically, with 141 hospitalizations, and no deaths. Taylor Farms' lettuce is strongly suspected to be a

source of the outbreak. It's recommended to thoroughly wash fresh produce before consumption, but it may not eliminate the parasite entirely.

- In terms of measles, there have been 2,231 cases this year to date, with less hospitalizations compared to last year. There is a new outbreak in Virginia with 177 cases, and the Utah outbreak continues with 507 cases this year.
- Steven Kahn walked the group through his flu analysis of 5 of our municipalities. He used case data to create a heat map on GIS to show hotspots within the area. Most cases with in Lynn, and of school age. We hope to use this information to inform flu clinics for the fall. Kelli Padilla added that she's working with Rich Baker who wants to provide trainings on increasing vaccine confidence and vaccination rates.

Community Updates:

- Many municipalities are considering regulating Kratom projects. Salem held their public hearing on Tuesday, and regulations passed with no opposition, which will go into effect on 9/1.
- Beverly is planning to vote on these regulations next week. Peabody is having a public hearing on 7/30, and expects a vote that night. Danvers is apart of the complaint that went to the Attorney General and is waiting to get guidance from council. Swampscott and Lynn are going to look into these regulations in the fall.