

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 20th, 2026, 3:00-4:26 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
Terry Kennedy	Regional Hub Trainer - Food	Northeast Training Hub
Stephen Casey Jr.	Regional Hub Trainer - Housing	Northeast Training Hub
Tammy Vo	Intern	NSPHC
David Greenbaum	Health Director	Salem
Kelli Padilla	Public Health Nurse	Salem
Andrew Petty	Health Director	Marblehead
Emily Smith	Public Health Nurse	Marblehead
Laura Ricci	Health Director	Beverly
Teresa Kirsch	Public Health Nurse	Beverly
Brenda Wolff	Public Health Nurse	Peabody
Frank Giacalone	Health Director	Danvers
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers
Breanna Livingstone	Registered Environmental Health Specialist	Danvers

PHE/Training Hub Updates

- The minutes from the August meeting were unanimously approved at 3:13 pm.
- The Northeast Training Hub Coordinator position is now vacant. The training hub is in the process of hiring a new coordinator. Tier 2 Food and Housing registration information was sent to training hub members.
- The Regional Public Health Social Worker recently passed her Certified Lactation Counselor exam.

Policy Updates

- The White House issued an Executive Order addressing the vaccine schedule for children. It recommends separating the MMR into three separate doses and divides vaccines into three categories: population-based, high-risk groups, and shared clinical decision-making. States are still responsible for key vaccine policies, and many are now relying on guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- The final rule changing public charge regulations goes into effect on 9/18. Public charge is a test used by immigration officials to determine whether a noncitizen is likely to rely on public benefits. President Biden issued a regulation in 2022 that excluded noncash assistance programs such as Medicaid and CHIP and prohibited consideration of other family members' use of these programs when determining adjustments to legal status. Immigration officers will now have broad discretion to consider these factors.
- Massachusetts is adopting new measures to prevent wrong-way drives on highways. This will include upgraded signage and pavement markings, eventually expanding to slotted pavement markers and guardrail reflector enhancements. Rhode Island implemented similar measures 10 years ago, followed by a decade with zero wrong-way driver fatalities.
- Public Health Commissioner Goldstein issued an emergency order temporarily placing all forms of kratom into Schedule I under state law. DPH has provided guidance for local Boards of Health, including templates for notifying establishments and enforcement measures.

Epidemiology Updates

- NSPHC Intern Tammy Vo reviewed her internship project analyzing mortality surveillance data in the North Shore. The project focused on identifying common causes of death, emerging disease outbreaks, health inequities and disparities across demographics, and on informing prevention strategies and resource allocation.

Workplan and Budget Updates

- The group reviewed budget spend-down to date by line item. The primary expenses so far have included MHOA conference registration and software license renewals for SAS epidemiology software and SurveyMonkey. The Regional Community Health Worker is attending a Safe Sleep conference in September and will become a certified Safe Sleep Instructor.

- The group discussed municipal-level challenges with ordering epinephrine autoinjectors for vaccine clinics and asked if these are an allowable expense under the PHE grant. If a municipality doesn't have any funding to purchase these, the SSC can submit a form requesting approval to purchase for an individual municipality.

SAPHE 2.0

- The group reviewed results from the SAPHE 2.0 reporting, aggregated at the SSA level, and discussed areas where the training hub can support additional staff training to improve ability to meet all standards.
- The group discussed asbestos abatement notification requirements. Another SSA in the training hub had DEP present about the requirements of that regulation. The training hub can help coordinate that training for NSPHC, which the group expressed interest in. The group also discussed challenges related to inspections of sharps collection locations and how the training hub can develop support materials, such as checklists.

Opioid Settlement Funds

- Steven is working on a local, up-to-date map showing Narcan availability and requested that municipalities send him the addresses of Naloxboxes.
- The group discussed how each municipality is spending opioid settlement funds, or the types of programs they are considering funding. Some municipalities plan to provide scholarships to sober housing, and others for rehab. Feedback from community members in Salem identified housing as a major need, and the city is forming a task force with people with lived experience to discuss how best to meet it. Marblehead has an opioid funds board that decides how scholarships are awarded on a case-by-case basis. Salem, Marblehead, and Swampscott have hosted recovery coach trainings.

Community Updates

- The group discussed West Nile Virus and the increased risk level in surrounding communities. Some have noticed an increase in the need for mosquito control services this year. The health departments notify homeowners about remediation, and Northeast Mosquito Control exterminates mosquito breeding.
- The group discussed developing communications materials around the messaging that the best time to get a flu vaccine is mid-September through October.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.