

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 17th 2025 2:00-3:10 PM

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Laura Nash	Regional Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Meg Dlusniewski	Shared Service Coordinator	NSPHC
Max Carcione	Epidemiology Intern	NSPHC
Hannah Laffer	Regional Health Inspector	NSPHC
Steven Kahn	Regional Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Caitlyn Matykiewicz	Community Health Worker	NSPHC
Matthew Woolaver	Regional Health Inspector	NSPHC
Skyler Lesser-Roy	Training Hub Coordinator	Northeast Training Hub
Terry Kennedy	Hub Trainer: Food	Northeast Training Hub
David Greenbaum	Health Director	Salem
Andrew Petty	Health Director	Marblehead
Tracy Giarla	Public Health Nurse	Marblehead
Lisa Tobin	Health Director	Lynn
Neia Illingworth	Public Health Nurse	Swampscott
Frank Giacalone	Health Director	Danvers
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers

Introductions

- Matthew Woolaver was introduced as a new regional sanitarian in the Salem office and introductions were made. Meg sent out an anonymous survey to be completed by PHNs and health directors to help improve the NSPHC.

Training Hub Updates

- Skyler Lesser-Roy gave updates on the training hub, including information on NSPHC housing and food training completion rates. The next Tier 2 Food and Housing courses will be taking place in the fall and will be filled based on the current waitlist. In terms of Tier 3 training, housing will be starting in August, and 6 individuals in the NSPHC are eligible for food.

Epidemiology Updates

- Laura Nash and Steven Kahn updated the group on several topics. The U.S. has surpassed its 30-year high of measles cases and spread has increased over the summer months. In MA, there has been an increase in hospitalizations due to measles, and most cases are diagnosed in those under the age of 19.
- Foodborne illness complaints have been increasing within MAVEN. Laura went over when to create a foodborne illness (FBI) complaint and clarified that these are needed for BOTH in-state and out-of-state food exposures. If you're struggling for time to create a complaint, you can task the Food Protection Program (FPP) user group for help.
- Steven provided a graphic showing different kinds of ticks and what risks they pose. So far in 2025, there have been no animal or human cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and there has been 1 animal West Nile Virus case.
- Steven discussed the health impacts of the "Big Beautiful Bill" as millions of Americans will lose Medicaid coverage. Both Salem and Lynn employees are looking into becoming Massachusetts Health Certified Application Counselors to help residents sign up for MassHealth. At the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting, officials did not recommend routine COVID-19 vaccination except for high-risk groups. There was also a debate over the use of thimerosal in flu vaccines. Finally, inflation rose 0.7% in the month of June, which worsened grocery prices and consequently limited SNAP benefits.

World Cup Working Group: NSPHC Outbreak Response Plan

- The World Cup is being held in 2026 in North America, and U.S. health agencies are gathering key stakeholders to prepare. Previous world cups have shown an increase in disease transmission and potential outbreak risks due to an influx in international visitors.
- As Boston is a host city, with 7 games in total, Laura and Steven would like to make an internal working group with all 8 communities in NSPHC, as well as an external working group with Regional Epidemiologists from across the state.
- The group discussed preparing for this event to ensure we're prepared to address increased amounts of FBI. Neia Illingworth mentioned that the current political state of the U.S. may keep travelers from coming forward if they get sick. There are other large events coming next year, including the 250th anniversary of the U.S., Salem's 400-year anniversary, and more.

Body Art

- A new checklist has been created to review permit applications, as well as implementation notes for any new regulations. There are also finalized apprenticeship task forms and monthly logs.
- We are currently looking for skin courses for tattoo artists to satisfy permitting requirements and will inquire with Quincy to see if their class is still active.

FY26 Budget

- Meg shared the budget for the NSPHC and confirmed that the budget is dynamic and will be frequently edited.

FY26 Workplan: Poll Results

- There is interest in promoting the SSA through press/news articles and presentations. There is also an interest in standardizing local regulations for fee schedules, private wells, body art, nicotine, and reviewing proposed developments.
- In terms of community partnerships, respondents were interested in access to and linkage of clinical care.
- Some highlights of the workplan include raising awareness of the benefits of LPH and shared services, providing home visits through NSMVP, improving job satisfaction, completing an annual report for key stakeholders, and more.
- The FY25 Annual Report is currently in draft form and includes both training hub and shared services information.

Republic

- Andrew Petty is meeting with Republic later today and wanted to collect input from the group. David Greenbaum mentioned that trash has been building up in Downtown Salem. It was discussed whether the area should issue Republic fines, Lisa Tobin recommended possibly withholding their waste hauler license. There were several questions about Republic's responsibility for collecting recycling.

Opioid Settlement Funds

- David informed the group about the new settlements that are coming out. Each town should have received an email.
- Lisa noted that Lynn has created a group to focus on community mediation, which is currently in a pilot program for its first year. The group consists of a 3-person team, and they currently have limited hours.

- Judith is interested in creating a task force to gather ideas on how to spend opioid settlement funds. Lisa and Neia shared that both Lynn and Swampscott have working groups for this concern.

Community Updates

- Salem has hired a new public health nurse who starts this upcoming Monday.