

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 21st, 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
Kelli Padilla	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Kendra Harris	Public Health Social Worker	NSPHC
Skyler Lesser-Roy	Training Hub Coordinator	Northeast Training Hub
Terry Kennedy	Hub Trainer: Food	Northeast Training Hub
David Greenbaum	Health Director	Salem
Laura DelleChiaie	Health Director	Beverly
Andrew Petty	Health Director	Marblehead
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

Shared Services Coordinator Updates

- Meg Dlusniewski informed the collaborative on SAPHE 2.0 reporting requirements. Additionally, the L.L. Bean merchandise order is shipping next week, we're waiting to hear back on a car seat grant application, and the FY25 annual report will be sent out with these minutes.

Epidemiology Updates

- Steven Kahn and Laura Nash thanked Salem's epidemiology intern, Max Carcione, for all his hard work this summer. Max gave a presentation on the work he completed for the NSPHC, which included conducting a measles risk assessment, creating a rodent dashboard for Beverly, collecting data on Narcan usage, and more.
- Regarding fall vaccinations, flu and RSV shots are still available and covered by insurance for those eligible. The COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be licensed by the FDA on 8/22, but it is unclear if it will only be recommended for those 65 and older.
- Measles rates are slowing, with a total of 1,375 cases so far in 2025.
- One case of Powassan was reported in an infant in Martha's Vineyard.
- One extremely rare case of Vibrio was reported in Falmouth.
- RFK Jr. cut \$500 million in funding for clinical trials researching infectious diseases.
- To lower your risk for both arbovirus and west nile virus, it is recommended to repair windows, use mosquito netting, use mosquito repellent, and wear long sleeves and pants.
- It has been a busy season for tick bites, due to the abundance of rain in recent months, and we've seen an increase in Lyme, babesiosis, and HGA cases. Steven confirmed that we do not need to case investigations for Lyme disease, as we are in a high-incidence area.
- Next Thursday, the city of Salem's community impact unit is having an event for national overdose awareness day from 4-6 p.m. This event is open to all.

Training Hub Updates

- The first Tier 3 Category 1 housing class is finishing up now, and information on Tier 3 Category 2 will be sent out to eligible individuals in the future.
- Tier 2 housing will be in November in Springfield, but our hub only received 2 spots. We're hoping the next offering is closer and provides more open seats.
- Stephen Casey is hoping to conduct another Tier 3 Category 1 housing class soon and is also available for unofficial trainings or to accompany inspectors on any housing complaints for support. He's also awaiting a response from the housing court about scheduling a presentation in September.
- CLPPP is looking to have hub trainers teach the lead determinators course in the next year, but it has yet to be scheduled.
- Terry Kennedy asked directors and health agents to send the training hub any success stories or shout outs to highlight the great work their inspectors do in future newsletters.

Year to Date Updates

- Main expenses in the budget so far this year included CLC training, Yankee conference registration, licenses for several pieces of software, and translations. Meg confirmed we are on track spending wise, as the total budget is \$708,090.11. David added that when METRIK is released next year we won't have to pay for Relavent software. Steven added that three Salem employees will be on advisory committees for METRIK and will be able to give the collaborative more information on its rollout soon.
- Data across the collaborative was shared on inspections, MAVEN & NSMVP coverage, and community events. In terms of workplan activity updates, we have compiled a list of PCPs that are accepting new patients, Caitlyn has applied to become a MassHealth certified application counselor, and surveys on barriers to accessing care will be distributed at upcoming flu clinics.
- Kendra reminded the group of the employee recognition program, where both nominators and nominees are entered into a raffle. Terry offered to include employee recognition in the hub newsletter. Kendra also plans to host monthly drop-in virtual trivia.

Feedback Summary

- Meg shared a comparison of responses to the survey from July 2024-July 2025. Respondents noted that there was good collaboration across the NSPHC, and called for improvement in communication, especially between meetings.
- Meg also shared performance standards for community sanitation, disease control and prevention, environmental protection, housing, food protection, tobacco, administration, and other miscellaneous items.

Opioid Settlement Funds

- A new social services navigator, Grace Bonaiuto, has been hired in Beverly.

Community Updates

- As the Republic strike continues, police officers in Peabody and other surrounding towns are helping to manage picketers at Republic's facility so that trucks can leave the lot. Mayors across the north shore are meeting regularly to discuss the issue.
- Salem has a new MSW intern starting 9/2.