

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County August 14, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County was called to order by Chair Tené Franklin at 4:03 p.m. in the Lentz Public Health Center Board Room, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Present

Tené H. Franklin, MS, Chair
Marie Griffin, MD, Member
Carol Ziegler, DNP, Member
Rebecca Whitehead, MBA, Member
Morgan McDonald, MD, Member
Heather Corum Powell, Member
Sanmi Areola, Ph.D., Director of Health
Jim Diamond, MBA, Finance and Administration Bureau Director
Aaron Shelton, MBA, Human Resources Manager
Joanna Shaw-KaiKai, MD, Medical Services Director
Abraham Mukolo, Ph.D, Epidemiology, Strategic Performance, Policy and Evaluation Interim Bureau Director
Nick Tompkins, Public Health Infrastructure Grant Director
Derrick Smith, JD, Metropolitan Department of Law

Chair Franklin shared that Dr. Lloyd Williamson has resigned from the board due to her work schedule. In her resignation notice, she expressed appreciation of the department and members of the board. Dr. Williamson's term expired July 2026. Chair Franklin and Dr. Areola are in communication with the Mayor's Office in replacing the vacant position with a mental health professional.

Dr. Areola introduced Ms. Kristen Zak, Assistant to the Director.

Public Comment Period (Agenda Items)

There were no requests to comment.

Public Comment Period (Community Voices)

There were no requests to comment.

Declarations of Conflicts/Recusals or Communiques from the Public on Agenda Items

Chair Franklin asked that Board members who may have declarations of conflict or recusal, or who had had communiques from the public on agenda items, to state such. There were none.

Deliberation of July 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve the July 10, 2025, meeting minutes as distributed. Dr. McDonald seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Employee/Team Recognition

Dr. Areola recognized the School Health Summer Nurses for being chosen as the June Team of the Month (Attachment I). The team members present were Swan Lin Baker, Irina Gukasova, Amy Powell, and Stacie Allen.

State of Public Health

Dr. Areola shared the following:

- Shooting at CDC purportedly over perceived adverse effects of Covid vaccines has every top government leader concerned.
- mRNA research projects funds cut by \$500 million.
- Changes to substance use/Opioids funding by changes to Harm Reduction Policy.
- Restored funds from 3 federal grants come with tight timelines that make spending nearly impossible.

- Pfizer has communicated with CDC that the FDA recently notified Pfizer of its intent to potentially NOT renew the EUA for COVID-19 pediatric vaccine. This decision would affect Pfizer's pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 6 months to 4 years for the 2025-2026 season. Regarding Pfizer's pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11 years, Pfizer has communicated that, pending regulatory action, full licensure for this presentation is anticipated for the 2025-2026 season.
- CDC is in discussions with Moderna, which manufactures Spikevax (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA). Pending FDA approval of the 2025-2026 seasonal formulation for Spikevax, Moderna has confirmed they plan to increase vaccine supply for children aged 11 years and younger. Moderna is currently finalizing internal planning to determine specific volume and timing and is actively working to help mitigate any potential supply gap.

Update to the Mayor

Board members received a copy of the 2025 Health Update to the Mayor that was recently given to the Mayor's Office. Chair Franklin thanked the team that prepared the report. She reported that the Mayor's Office has been asked to give feedback. Dr. Areola shared that the department is now doing "Health Notes" weekly that is shared with the Mayor's Office and council members so that the work of the department is shared.

Deliberation of Grant Applications

Chair Franklin invited Mr. Smith to share with the members what Metro is doing regarding grant applications that are submitted.

Mr. Smith reported that Metro is engaged as a party in several lawsuits in the country with different federal agencies. Metro Legal is asking that all federal grants, federal grant applications, and federal notice of awards must be sent to the Legal Department well in advance of any deadline to submit an application or to accept an award, and certainly before any work begins under any grant award or agreement. The Legal Department must review all conditions being placed on federal grants. The department is working as quickly as they can when reviewing submissions.

Mr. Smith stated that a condition that Metro cannot accept and may have to forgo the funding in the application that was shared in the packet has been cited; therefore, the grant application to CDC to fund the fourth year of the Foundational Section of Workforce grant cannot be presented at today's meeting. Nick Tompkins shared that the application deadline is August 25th.

Mr. Smith stated that we are not recommending approval for any and everything without Metro Legal reviewing and approval is given to move forward.

Deliberation of Grant Applications

There were no grant applications.

Deliberation of Grants and Contracts

Chair Franklin stated a potential conflict of interest regarding item 12, Direct Appropriation to Tennessee Justice Center, and recused themselves from the discussion and vote.

Mr. Diamond presented 1 item, Item 12.

12. Direct Appropriation to the Tennessee Justice Center

Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Amount: \$60,000

Vice-Chair Griffin asked for a motion to approve item 12. Dr. McDonald made a motion to approve item 12. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 votes in favor and 1 recusal.

Mr. Diamond presented 19 items.

1. **Grant from Tennessee Department of Health – Presumptive Eligibility & Navigation Services**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
Amount: \$539,700
2. **Grant – Pet Community Center Direct Appropriate – Metro Animal Care and Control**
Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
Amount: \$20,000
3. **Contract with Tennessee Department of Health – Hospital Discharge Data Sharing Agreement**
Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
Amount: \$300 quarterly fee per data set
4. **Grant Amendment from CityMatch – Conference and Additional Funds to Integrate Support Services into Perinatal Systems of Care**
Term: September 30, 2023 – September 29, 2025
Amount: \$19,285 (new total \$180,028)
5. **Grant from Tennessee Department of Health – Grant in Aid**
Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
Amount: \$765,200
6. **Contract with Tennessee Department of Health – Tennessee Immunization Information System (TennIIS)**
Term: July 2, 2025 – July 1, 2030
Amount: NA
7. **Grant Amendment #1 from Health Resources and Services Administration – Nashville Strong Babies**
Term: July 2, 2025 – July 1, 2030
Amount: \$290,476 (new total \$787,676)
8. **Grant Amendment #5 from Health Resources and Services Administration – Ryan White Part A**
Term: March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025
Amount: -\$339,412 (final total \$4,966,828)
9. **Grant Amendment #2 from Health Resources and Services Administration – Ryan White Part A**
Term: March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026
Amount: \$339,412 (new total \$2,458,791)
10. **Direct Appropriation to the Mental Health Coop**
Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
Amount: \$5,990,900
11. **Contract with Neighborhood Health**
Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
Amount: \$355,200
13. **Grant Amendment #10 from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Community Health Workers**
Term: August 31, 2021 – March 24, 2025
Amount: NA (total \$3,000,000)
14. **Grant Amendment #11 from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Community Health Workers**
Term: August 31, 2021 – March 24, 2025
Amount: -\$1,130,788 (new total \$1,869,212)
15. **Grant Amendment #12 from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Community Health Workers**
Term: August 31, 2021 – September 22, 2025
Amount: \$1,000,000 (final total \$2,869,212)
16. **Grant Amendment #1 from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Air Pollution 103**
Term: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2027
Amount: \$71,614 (new total \$136,614)

17. **Grant Amendment #1 with NashvilleHealth**
Term: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026
Amount: NA (total \$1,000,000)
18. **Grant Amendment #1 from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Air Pollution 105**
Term: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2027
Amount: \$200,000 (new total \$300,000)
19. **Grant Amendment #2 from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Air Pollution 105**
Term: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2026
Amount: \$95,547 (new total \$395,547)
20. **Grant Amendment #3 from the Health Resources and Services Administration – Ryan White Part A**
Term: March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026
Amount: \$2,324,261 (new total \$4,783,052)

Ms. Whitehead made a motion to approve items 1-11 and 13-20. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Griffin asked if the sharing of hospital discharge data was new. Dr. Mukolo shared that it has been a two-year process. Dr. Griffin shared that most grants require an annual report, and she has never seen one since she has been on the board. This report could show the impact of funds received. After discussion, Chair Franklin recommended that the department do a one-page report annually on each grant. Dr. Areola stated that the department would prepare one or two reports to pilot and ask that the board let him know which format they prefer. Chair Franklin acknowledged that Dr. Griffin offered her expertise to assist if needed.

Report of Director

Dr. Areola referred to the update provided in the Board packet (Attachment II) and highlighted several items therein. In addition, he shared the following:

- He acknowledged that Dr. Varnier attended the Leading Edge training for high performing organizations last month.
- He has invited Erin Bortel to present at the next meeting on the customer satisfaction survey.
- Beginning next month, Metro IT and Metro Nashville Network will be broadcasting the meetings.
- Anna Boom has met with staff regarding change management and will be preparing a report.
- The students on the Youth Advisory Board are back in school; therefore, a representative from the YAB will start attending the BOH meetings in September.

Report of Chair

Chair Franklin reported that she will be attending the NALBOH Annual Conference in Savannah, Georgia October 6-8.

Chair Franklin thanked all for meeting with Ms. Boom. Ms. Whitehead asked how the information would be presented to the board. Chair Franklin shared that she visions the report being used as a tool for feedback and change moving forward. Dr. Areola shared that Ms. Boom's work can be expensive so that needs to be kept in mind in getting results either by report or in person.

Chair Franklin stated that she will communicate with Dr. Harris on how to integrate the YAB member into the board meetings so that their contribution to the department is complemented.

New Business

Review of Board Requests of the Department

- Regular updates on the proposed new Woodbine Clinic.
- Report to Board any MACC staff interactions with public where safety is concerned.
- Provide status of MPHD's financial health update to the Board on a quarterly basis.
- Quarterly updates on the culture of the department.
- Annual Board Report Draft to the Mayor to be given to the Board by March 2026 and beyond.

- Dr. Areola's priorities to be shared at every meeting until the Strategic Plan is in place.
- Consider having a member of the Youth Advisory Board present at the meetings.
- Dr. Areola to notify the Board what they can do to get the word out about what we are doing in the department and to share the talking points at the appropriate time.
- Provide a one-page report on each grant annually.

Adjournment

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Public Hearing Regarding Pay Grade Adjustment for Animal Care and Control Lic Vet Tech Sr Position

At the last meeting, Mr. Shelton asked the Board to have a public hearing regarding Pay Grade Adjustment for Animal Care and Control Lic Vet Tech Sr Position.

Chair Franklin opened the floor for comment. There being none, Chair Franklin closed the hearing.

Pay Grade Adjustment for Animal Care and Control Lic Vet Tech Sr Position

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve the Pay Grade Adjustment for Animal Care and Control Lic Vet Tech Sr Position. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Hearing Regarding Civil Service Rule 5.17, Paid Family Leave

At the last meeting, Mr. Shelton asked the Board to have a public hearing regarding Civil Service Rule 5.17, Paid Family Leave.

Chair Franklin opened the floor for comment. Dr. Shaw-KaiKai commented that by changing this rule that the 71% school based dental team and school health nurses would be in alignment with staff that are 80% and above.

Civil Service Rule 5.17, Paid Family Leave

Dr. McDonald made a motion to approve the Civil Service Rule 5.17, Paid Family Leave. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Personnel Changes

Mr. Shelton referred to the July 2025, Personnel Changes.

Adjournment

Chair Franklin adjourned the Civil Service Board meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held Thursday, September 11, 2025, at the Lentz Public Health Center Board Room, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Tené H. Franklin

Chair