

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County December 11, 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 4:00 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
Heather Corum Powell, Member
Jeffrey Stovall, MD, Member
Sanmi Areola, Ph.D., Director of Health
Jim Diamond, MBA, Finance and Administration Bureau Director
Abigail Holloway, Interim Human Resources Manager
Kimberly Smith, DMD, Director of Oral Health Services
Rachel Franklin, MBA, Bureau Director of Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness
John Finke, PE, Bureau Director of Environmental Health Services
Derrick Smith, JD, Metropolitan Department of Law

Welcome New Board Member, Dr. Jeffrey Stovall

Chair Franklin welcomed new Board of Health member Dr. Stovall to the board and invited him to introduce himself.

Dr. Stovall shared a few brief details about himself and career and received a warm welcome.

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 communications from the public on agenda items, to state such. There were none.

Deliberation of November 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Griffin made a motion to approve November 13, 2025, meeting minutes as distributed. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Employee/Team Recognition

Dr. Areola shared that Kinley Reed was chosen as the November Employee of the Month. (Attachment I).
Dr. Areola recognized and introduced the Occupational Health Team chosen as the November Team of the Month. (Attachment II)
Dr. Areola shared the WIC Vendor Management Team was chosen as the September Team of the Month. (Attachment III)

Oral Health Services Presentation

Dr. Kimberly Smith gave a presentation on Oral Health Services including the three programs, Lentz Dental, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and School-based Dental Practice Program (SBDPP) that provide services to the Nashville/Davidson County community. Dr. Smith stated opportunities for Oral Health is to add a registered dental hygienist (RDH) position at Lentz and WIC Dental, equipment to bring up to the industry standards, and artificial intelligence (AI) programing compatible with our dental software.

State of Public Health

Dr. Areola discussed his Performance Tracking Report for FY2026.

He discussed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recent changes to the universal recommendation for newborns to receive the Hepatitis B vaccine. Since 1991, the recommendation of ACIP and CDC has been for the first dose of Hepatitis B vaccine (Hep B #1) to be given within 24 hours of birth, Hep B #2 to be given at 1-2 months and Hep B #3 at 6-18 months.

ACIP changed the recommendation from universally recommending all infants be immunized with Hep B vaccine at birth for infants born to mothers with a known negative test for hepatitis B during pregnancy to shared decision making with parents regarding whether or not to give the birth dose. CDC accepted this recommendation December 11.

For infants born to mothers who test positive for hepatitis B or whose status is unknown, the currently recommended birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine and immunoglobulin continues with no change.

The ACIP also recommended that parents should consult with a health care provider on serology testing to determine whether a subsequent hepatitis B vaccine dose is needed after the first dose. CDC is reviewing this recommendation.

The public health concern is the impact on the success achieved since 1991, when the recommendation to administer a hepatitis B vaccine at birth was initiated which has resulted in reduced childhood transmission, cutting pediatric cases by 99%, and preventing children from severe liver complications and death.

Deliberation of Memorandum Air Pollution Fees for Calendar Year 2025

Mr. John Finke shared that the Memorandum Air Pollution Fee for Calendar Year 2025 (Attachment IV) is to discuss the previous 12 months. Mr. Finke stated the regulations define a fee that increases with the consumer price index each year. Mr. Finke stated the fee right now would be \$65.38 per ton of emissions from these facilities. However, the regulations require that we do not collect more than we need to operate these phases of our program. Mr. Finke stated they work with Finance at the beginning of the year to determine what our budget is for this part of the program. However, we get to the end of the year where we are now and we have seen what companies have carried their permits through the year, what their levels were, and we can back calculate to that price per ton that gives us the revenue we need. Mr. Finke then requested Board of Health approval of a one-year variance from section 10.56.080 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws that outlines the fees to set the annual fee at \$40.00 per ton.

Ms. Whitehead made a motion to approve Memorandum Air Pollution Fee for Calendar Year 2025. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Deliberation of Grant Applications

Mr. Jim Diamond presented one grant application item.

Tennessee Child Safety Fund

Term: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

Amount: up to \$20,000

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve Tennessee Child Safety Fund Grant. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Deliberation of Grants and Contracts

Mr. Jim Diamond presented two items.

1. **Strengthening US Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce and Data Systems - Foundational grant amendment**

Term: December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2025

Amount: NA

2. **Pet Panty grant**

Term: NA

Amount: \$500

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve items 1-2. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of Director

Dr. Areola referred to the update provided in the Board packet (Attachment V) and highlighted several items therein.

Dr. Areola shared that we have started Public Health Notes highlighting our programs and data. He also highlighted the Mayor's Community Violence Project with 31 members appointed to serve on the task force. Dr. Areola shared that we are working with two consultants, and their information is included along with the timeline. Dr. Areola hopes the Board will contribute to this project.

Dr. Areola shared that he included summaries for three of our grants - Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), CHANT, and the SBDPP, which was presented to the Board of Health today. He referred to the previous questions asked by the Board to capture a basic summary of funding and outcomes.

Dr. Areola shared the Measles update. Our staff reached out to over 700 contacts. No additional cases were reported. Dr. Areola expressed his gratitude to staff and partners.

Dr. Areola shared that Sarah Briley was chosen this year by the Tennessee Association of School Nurses as the School Nurse of the Year.

Dr. Areola mentioned the plan to purchase a 33-foot-long coach using our Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant funds. Dr. Areola asked Rachel Franklin, Bureau Director of Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness (CDEP), to add additional points to the purchase process. Ms. Franklin shared that with funds recently reinstated they are able to make this purchase become reality and are expecting to be able to get it in May of next year.

Dr. Areola mentioned the November Daisy Award winners, Emily Lowry with the School Health team and Gloria Morrison with the Fetal Infant Mortality Rate (FIMR) team.

Dr. Areola shared that we have deployed three new Narcan vending machines in the community.

Dr. Areola shared as organizational updates that our new Director of Metro Animal Care and Control (MACC) is Dannielle Carter. She began serving as interim in July of this year and was recently offered the full-time role after a national search.

Dr. Areola shared that Dr. Shaw-KaiKai has completed the third Continuing Education Series that allows our health department to learn through practice.

Report of Chair

Chair Franklin shared that Dr. Areola is going to share the budget with the Board prior to submission to the Mayor's office either in January or February. Chair Franklin stated that Dr. Areola has heard their request for advocacy and will be able to share talking points and notes with the Board in the new year.

Chair Franklin shared that the department is moving forward with the Metro Public Health Department foundation, and the Board should hear updates by March 2026.

Chair Franklin referred to the Health Announcements that was sent earlier for Ryan White Part A, in partnership with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to provide gloves, scarves, socks and coats for people living with HIV and are in need. Chair Franklin stated it will go through February.

Chair Franklin stated that the Board will have their Organizational Change Management Training next Thursday here at Lentz and all should have received their calendar invite.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Franklin opened the floor for nomination for position of Chair. Dr. Ziegler nominated Chair Franklin. Dr. Griffin nominated Chair Franklin, and Ms. Whitehead nominated Dr. Griffin. Dr. Griffin declined.

Chair Franklin asked the Board if there were any other nominations. Chair Franklin then closed the nominations and recused herself as Chair to pass to Vice-Chair, Dr. Griffin. Dr. Griffin called for vote of Ms. Franklin as Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Franklin opened the floor for nominations for position of Vice-Chair. Dr. Ziegler nominated Ms. Whitehead. Ms. Whitehead nominated Dr. Griffin. Chair Franklin nominated Dr. Ziegler. Chair Franklin asked the Board if there were any other nominations. Chair Franklin then closed the nominations.

Ms. Whitehead declined to accept the nomination. Dr. Griffin declined to accept the nomination. Chair Franklin called the vote for Dr. Ziegler as Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Franklin shared that the Board will review elections for Chair and Vice-Chair next year at this appointed time.

Chair Franklin thanked Dr. Griffin for her service as Vice-Chair.

New Business

Chair Franklin shared that the Board Requests of the Department are listed in the packet. Chair Franklin stated the Board has a running list but did not have any request out of today's meeting; with an exception to branding on the "tooth" Pearl E. White.

Chair Franklin asked Board members to be thinking of a time in March of next year for the Board Retreat as it will be a large portion of the day. Chair Franklin shared she had no details as the Director's Office will be taking care of the details.

Ms. Whitehead requested that the report for the Board be before the budget kickoff in January. Dr. Sanmi shared that they will be given to the Board in March. The budget priorities, what budget asks are and how they can advocate for their asks will be provided to the Board in January.

Chair Franklin asked that when the budget is presented in January, it makes sense for the Board to send in their questions as well.

Dr. Ziegler shared that she wanted to encourage the department to ask boldly in the requests to the Mayor's Office. Dr. Sanmi shared that they will prioritize. Dr. Ziegler shared what is declined by the Mayor's Office, to be sure to share with the Board so they may advocate for what is needed in the department.

Adjournment

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Dr. Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Personnel Changes – November 2025

Ms. Holloway referred to the November 2025 Personnel Changes.

Adjournment

Chair Franklin adjourned the Civil Service Board meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held Thursday, January 8, 2026, at the Lentz Public Health Center Board Room, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Tené H. Franklin

Chair