

**Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County
January 8, 2026, 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, Vice Chair
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
Abigail Holloway, Interim Human Resources Manager
Avis Turner, MD, TB Elimination Physician and Family Planning NP Preceptor
Sabrina Cook, APRN, TB Elimination Program Director
Colton McKay, MPH, Epidemiologist
Derrick Smith, JD, Metropolitan Department of Law

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 December 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve December 11, 2025, meeting minutes as distributed. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Finance Budget Overview Presentation

Mr. Diamond presented the FY27 Budget Kick-Off presentation.

TB Elimination Presentation

Ms. Cook, Dr. Turner, and Mr. McKay presented the TB Elimination presentation (Attachment 1).

State of Public Health

Dr. Areola discussed his Performance Tracking Report for FY2026 (Attachment II).

Deliberation of Grant Applications

There were no grant applications.

Deliberation of Grants and Contracts

Mr. Jim Diamond presented four items.

1. Data Use Agreement with the Tennessee Department of Health

Term: Execution + three (3) years with option to extend for two (2) additional one (1) year terms
Amount: NA

2. Marjorie Neuhoff Foundation donation

Term: NA
Amount: \$10,000

3. **Nashville Strong Babies grant amendment**

Term: May 1, 2024 – March 31, 2029
Amount: NA

4. **Strengthening US Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce and Data Systems – A2 Foundational grant**

Term: December 1, 2025 – November 30, 2026
Amount: \$843,396

Dr. McDonald made a motion to approve items 1-4. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of Director

Dr. Areola shared that Mr. Larry Cole passed recently. Mr. Cole worked at MPHD for almost 45 years, starting on October 14, 1969, and retired February 28, 2013. Dr. Areola shared that he held many positions, including Director of Metro Animal Care and Control, Director of Mosquito Control Programs, and Public Facilities. He was very well known in the community. Dr. Areola shared we are mourning him as we celebrate his life the following Saturday at his funeral.

Dr. Areola shared that TB Elimination is the priority for budget improvement.

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

Report of Chair

Chair Franklin shared that she did not have a report for the Board at this time. Chair Franklin mentioned the need to plan a date for the Board of Health Retreat. Board of Health members will be queried for April as it was hard to find a date for all to attend in March.

Chair Franklin shared that since the Board of Health Retreat will take place in April, the Board of Health will meet in March, and she suggested that it be outside of Spring Break for most, on Thursday, March 19th.

New Business

Chair Franklin shared that the Board requests of the Department are listed in the packet. Chair Franklin allowed a moment for review and asked if Dr. Areola had anything to draw attention to on the list. There were no additional questions asked by Board Members or Dr. Areola.

Adjournment

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Public Hearing Regarding Civil Service Rule 4.7, subsection B

Ms. Holloway requested a public hearing for proposed revision of MPHD Civil Service Rule 4.7, subsection B.

Dr. Griffin made a motion to approve request for public hearing to be held at the next meeting. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Personnel Changes – December 2025

Ms. Holloway referred to the December 2025 Personnel Changes.

Adjournment

Chair Franklin adjourned the Civil Service Board meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held Thursday, February 12, 2026, at the Lentz Public Health Center Board Room, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Tené H. Franklin

Chair