

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County February 12, 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 4:05 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
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
Rachel Franklin, MBA, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness Bureau Director
Joanna Shaw-KaiKai, MD, Medical Services Bureau Director
Sarokay Johnson, Epidemiologist Emergency Response Coordinator
Cathryn Smith, School Health Program Director
Laura Varnier, DNP, Clinical Services Bureau Director
Anidolee Melville-Chester, Ph.D., Behavioral Health and Wellness Director
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 Communiqués 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 January 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve January 8, 2026, meeting minutes as distributed. Ms. Corum Powell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Weather Event Update

Ms. Franklin presented the MPHD Ice Storm Response highlights (Attachment 1). Dr. Shaw-KaiKai, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Diamond, Dr. Varnier, and Dr. Melville-Chester shared their experiences.

Deliberation of Grant Applications

There were no grant applications.

Deliberation of Grants and Contracts

Mr. Diamond presented 8 items. Mr. Diamond stated that the department is pulling listed item 1, as it is consulting Metro Legal for further review. Mr. Diamond stated that it will be line items 2-8 for consideration.

1. Community Health Access & Navigation in Tennessee Grant

Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Amount: \$2,041,200

2. Gideon's Army contract

Term: execution +1yr

Amount: \$375,000

3. **Southern Word contract**
Term: execution +1yr
Amount: \$150,000
4. **Friends of Mill Ridge contract**
Term: execution +1yr
Amount: \$80,000
5. **TB Control & Prevention grant amendment**
Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
Amount: \$22,000 (New total \$1,562,900)
6. **Flow-Tech grant**
Term: NA
Amount: \$630
7. **Vanderbilt University Medical Center POD MOU**
Term: execution +5yr
Amount: NA
8. **Ryan White Part A grant**
Term: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Amount: \$1,311,652

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve line items 2-8. Dr. Stovall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Employee/ Team Recognition

Dr. Areola recognized Talia Gooch for being chosen as the December 2025 Employee of the Month (Attachment II). Dr. Areola recognized Matthew Peters and Shannon Heath for being chosen as the December 2025 Team of the Month (Attachment III).

State of Public Health

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

Report of Director

Dr. Areola shared that the second meeting of the Community Safety Task Force was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. Dr. Areola shared that February is American Heart Month, and National Children's Dental Health Month.

Dr. Areola shared that after the initial response to the Weather Event, the Mayor's Office opened up a Disaster Recovery Center. MPH teams are providing support: flu shots, environmental health, and food safety to the community.

Dr. Areola shared that eventually an update will be provided on our new Oracle Cloud System. He recognized our teams have been putting in tremendous work and efforts.

Report of Chair

Chair Franklin shared that it was great to attend the first Kick-Off Community Safety Task Force Meeting as she had an opportunity to present remarks. Chair Franklin thanked Kristen Zak and Dr. Melville-Chester for helping to organize the meeting.

Chair Franklin stated that this month the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH), National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) and Big City Health Coalition (BCHC) will be meeting in Washington, DC. Chair Franklin shared that along with the three separate meetings, NACCHO is coordinating the Hill Visits to allow Local Health Departments to share the story of Public Health in their own local communities.

Chair Franklin stated that she appreciated the information that is listed in the Board Packets and for the information that is shared in between Board Meetings to keep them informed.

Chair Franklin stated our next Board Meeting will be Thursday, March 19th and our 2026 Board Retreat date is Tuesday, April 14th.

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.

Dr. Ziegler asked if there are any updates on the replacement sites.

Dr. Areola shared that for Woodbine, due to the recent Weather Event the recent meeting was cancelled. Dr. Areola shared that the meeting will be rescheduled to discuss potential sites. Dr. Areola shared that Mr. John Finke has reviewed so many sites for Metro Animal Care and Control (MACC) to ensure they are accessible. Dr. Areola shared that both sites are still in review.

Dr. Griffin shared that she is appreciative of the Annual Reports she has received, and the Breast Cervical Cancer Screening in the Board Packet.

Adjournment

Dr. Stovall made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Public Hearing Regarding Civil Service Rule 4.7, subsection B

Chair Franklin opened the floor for hearing regarding Civil Service Rule 4.7, subsection B. There were no comments. Chair Franklin closed the hearing for Civil Service Rule 4.7, subsection B.

Deliberation of Civil Service Rule 4.7, subsection B

Ms. Holloway shared the Civil Service Rule 4.7, subsection B needs to be revised to align with the new Oracle Cloud System. There were no other comments.

Dr. Griffin made a motion to approve proposed revision of MPHD Civil Service Rule 4.7, subsection B. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Personnel Changes – January 2026

Ms. Holloway referred to the January 2026 Personnel Changes.

Adjournment

Chair Franklin adjourned the Civil Service Board meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held Thursday, March 19, 2026, at the Lentz Public Health Center Board Room, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Tené H. Franklin

Chair

