

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County March 19, 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 4:02 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
Rebecca Whitehead, MBA, Member
Morgan McDonald, MD, Member
Heather Corum Powell, Member
Jeffrey Stovall, MD, Member
Sanmi Areola, Ph.D., Director of Health
Jim Diamond, MBA, Finance and Administration Bureau Director
Kebera Leach, MPH, Health Strategist
Alexandra Bird, MPH, PHIG Program Evaluator
Bob Shealy, Workforce Development Manager
Derrick Smith, JD, Metropolitan Department of Law

Public Comment Period (Agenda Items)

There were no requests to comment.

Public Comment Period (Community Voices)

Ms. Zacnita Vargas made a public comment related to Tennessee (TN) House Bill (HB) 1710 urging the Health Board to share a public resolution outlining this health and fiscal impact of the bill, and to provide testimonies as it moves forward. Ms. Vargas shared that it would be heard by the House State and Local Government Committee on Tuesday, March 24th.

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 February 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Stovall made a motion to approve February 12, 2026, meeting minutes as distributed. Ms. Corum Powell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deliberation of Grant Applications

There were no grant applications.

Deliberation of Grants and Contracts

Mr. Diamond presented 2 items. Mr. Diamond asked if the Board could take the 2 items as separate including 2 separate votes at the request of Metro Legal.

1. Friends of MACC grant

Term: NA
Amount: \$20,250

2. Emergency Response & Planning MOU

Term: February 1, 2026 – July 31, 2031
Amount: NA

Dr. Griffin made a motion to approve line item 1. Dr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stovall made a motion to approve line item 2. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

State of Public Health

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

Deliberation of TN House Bill 1710

Ms. Leach deliberated on the TN HB 1710 (Attachment II).

PHWINS Presentation

Ms. Bird and Mr. Shealy presented the evaluation of PHWINS. (Attachment III).

Strategic Plan Implementation Outline Presentation

Chair Franklin shared with the Board that the Strategic Plan will be discussed during the Board Retreat, April 14th. (Attachment IV).

Employee/ Team Recognition

Dr. Areola recognized Brenda Allen for being chosen as the January 2026 Employee of the Month (Attachment V). Dr. Areola recognized Asmaa Abbou Chaar for being chosen as the February 2026 Employee of the Month (Attachment VI). Dr. Areola shared that both were unable to attend the Board Meeting.

Report of Director

Dr. Areola welcomed our new HR Manager, Graham McKissic, to the Health department. Dr. Areola stated he wanted to emphasize the Community Baby Shower Event on March 28th at the Titans Stadium with our partners. He shared that he attended the National Association of County and City Officials (NACCHO) Hill Visit with Chair Franklin and met several legislative representatives.

Report of Chair

Chair Franklin thanked all the Board for sending their requests for the Board Retreat agenda. She stated she will be meeting with Dr. Areola to pull the agenda together. She stated that the Strategic Plan, and Roles and Responsibilities for Board and how it differs from the department will be discussed during the Board Retreat.

Chair Franklin shared that in Washington, D.C. she attended the (National Association of Local Boards of Health) NALBOH conference, but there was also the NACCHO and Big City Health Coalition (BCHC) Conference. She stated that everyone came together for the Hill Visits that allowed city officials across the country to converse on the hill. Chair Franklin stated that they extended an invitation for our legislatures to visit our Health Department.

New Business

Chair Franklin shared that the Board Request of the Department is listed in the packet, but no requests given today by the Board. Chair Franklin asked that Board pay attention to TN HB 1710.

Dr. Areola discussed their upcoming meeting with the Budget Office, and the Health Department is tomorrow. He stated the Budget Improvement Requests were sent to the Board and they are welcome to share their voice using the talking points.

Adjournment

Dr. McDonald made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Dr. Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Deliberate on Request to Schedule a Public Hearing Regarding Job Descriptions and Qualifications

Chair Franklin opened the floor for deliberation on request to schedule a public hearing regarding job descriptions and qualifications. Mr. McKissic stated that it was to align with the federal statute and open up to the public for a wider range of applicants for a nutrition educator. Mr. McKissic stated he was requesting a public hearing.

Ms. Whitehead made a motion to approve request to schedule a public hearing regarding job descriptions and qualifications. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Request for Extension of Out-of-Class Pay for D’Yuanna Allen-Robb as Interim Population Health Bureau Director

In accordance with Civil Service Rule 4.10G, Mr. McKissic requested the Board approve the extension of out-of-class pay for D’Yuanna Allen-Robb, whose out-of-class service as Interim Population Health Bureau Director reached over 106 days as of March 19, 2026. He stated that interviews are being conducted and that a decision on the successful candidate will be made soon.

Dr. McDonald made a motion to approve the extension of out-of-class pay for D’Yuanna Allen-Robb, serving as Interim Population Health Bureau Director. Dr. Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Personnel Changes – January 2026

Mr. McKissic referred to the February 2026 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 the Board Retreat scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at the West Police Precinct, 5500 Charlotte Pike, Nashville, TN 37209.

Tené H. Franklin

Chair