

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County
May 14, 2026, Board of Health Annual Retreat & Special Called Board of Health 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 4:01 p.m. at the Lentz Public Health Center, Board Room, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Present

Tené H. Franklin, MS, Chair
Carol Ziegler, DNP, Vice Chair
Marie Griffin, MD, Member
Rebecca Whitehead, MBA, Member
Morgan McDonald, MD, Member
Heather Corum Powell, Member
Jeffrey Stovall, MD, Member
Matthew Peters, Public Information Officer
Sanmi Areola, Ph.D., Director of Health
D'Yuanna Allen-Robb, MPH, Population Health Bureau Director
Jim Diamond, MBA, Finance and Administration Bureau 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 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.

Public Health Week (Visual)

Chair Franklin shared that the visual was a heart with sticky notes from individuals from the public health community, here at the Public Health Department during Public Health Week. Chair Franklin asked Mr. Peters to share more insight on the visual. Mr. Peters stated that the question asked was “What does Public Health mean to you?” Chair Franklin shared some of the comments posted on the visual.

Deliberation of April 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Whitehead made a motion to approve April 14, 2026, meeting minutes as distributed. Dr. Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deliberation of Grant Applications

There were no grant applications.

Deliberation of Grants and Contracts

Mr. Diamond presented 16 items.

1. **Community Health Access & Navigation in Tennessee grant**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
Amount: \$2,041,200
2. **Public Safety Partnerships in High Impact Areas grant**

- Term: September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027
Amount: \$144,800
3. **Park Center opioid subgrant**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028
Amount: \$573,833
4. **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority grant**
Term: NA
Amount: \$600
5. **Dismas opioid subgrant**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028
Amount: \$750,000
6. **Today's Hope opioid subgrant**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028
Amount: \$234,000
7. **Air Pollution 103 grant amendment**
Term: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2027
Amount: \$136,614 (new total \$273,228)
8. **Meharry Medical College Ryan White subgrant**
Term: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Amount: \$563,908
9. **Music City Prep Ryan White subgrant**
Term: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Amount: \$19,200
10. **Nashville Cares Ryan White subgrant**
Term: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Amount: \$1,621,095
11. **Today's Hope Ryan White subgrant**
Term: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Amount: \$452,444
12. **Neighborhood Health Ryan White subgrant**
Term: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Amount: \$211,866
13. **Vanderbilt University Medical Center Ryan White subgrant**
Term: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Amount: \$765,882
14. **We Are One Recovery Ryan White subgrant**
Term: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Amount: \$276,204
15. **Immunization Services grant amendment**
Term: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2027
Amount: \$340,840 (new total \$5,609,032.14)
16. **Medical Examiner Investigation, Postmortem Examination and Consultation contract**
Term: January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2031
Amount: \$640,266

Chair Franklin requested a recusal from item 4, as she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta. Chair Franklin requested a separate vote for the remaining items except for item 4.

Dr. Griffin made a motion to approve item 4 . Dr. Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Griffin Made a motion to approval remaining items, except for item 4. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deliberation to Authorize Board Chair to Sign FY27 Pay Plan Ordinance

Mr. Diamond shared that the pay plan introduced by the Mayor's proposed budget contains 2% pay range increases for merits and steps, and 1.7% for across-the-board raise. Mr. Diamond stated the ordinance is prepared by Legal, which sends it through Council for approval to adjust our pay plans accordingly.

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve FY27 Pay Plan Ordinance. Ms. Corum Powell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

State of Public Health

Dr. Areola discussed his Performance Tracking Report for FY2026 (Attachment I). Dr. Areola stated that he wanted to share more about the recent passing of House Bill (HB)1710 that has impacted disenrolling individuals from Children Special Services (CSS). Ms. Allen-Robb shared the impact of HB1710 for individuals 18 years of age and older, whose immigration status could not be verified will be disenrolled from Children Special Services (CSS) beginning May 29, 2026. Dr. McDonald shared her appreciation to the team and ongoing work the department contributes.

Employee/ Team Recognition

Dr. Areola recognized Isaac Mendez for being chosen as the March 2026 Employee of the Month (Attachment II). Dr. Areola recognized Tuberculosis Elimination (TBE) Team for being chosen as the March 2026 Team of the Month (Attachment III).

Report of Director

Dr. Areola stated he attended the budget hearing on Monday, May 11, 2026, and shared his talking points with the Board. Dr. Areola shared about his recent conversations surrounding Hantavirus. He stated that the Andes strain is not in the U.S. at this time. Dr. Areola shared points on the Director's Update.

Report of Chair

Chair Franklin thanked the Board and the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for brainstorming during the previous Board Retreat regarding what Public Health advocacy could look like. Chair Franklin stated she will synthesize her report and share her notes during the next Board Meeting.

Chair Franklin shared as part of the contractual process the Board will evaluate the Director. She stated his evaluation is coming up at the end of this fiscal year to align with all team members performance evaluation. Chair Franklin shared they received guidance from Metro HR, and typically it is the Board Chair who sits down with the Director for the evaluation. Chair Franklin shared that Dr. Areola has been sharing his performance metrics monthly with the Board. She will be scheduling dedicated time with Dr. Areola and will be sharing her notes with the Board once compiled. Chair Franklin asked the Board to share any questions related to the performance evaluation for the Director to Ms. Booker.

New Business

Chair Franklin shared that the Board Request of the Department is listed in the packet. Chair Franklin asked the Board if there were any requests for the Department.

Ms. Whitehead shared she would like information on how we address hypertension, including the mortality and morbidity rate.

Dr. Ziegler shared that she would like to have access to the Strategic Plan.

Adjournment

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Requesting a Public Hearing at the June Civil Service Board Meeting Regarding Changes to the Pay Plan

Chair Franklin opened the floor for Mr. Diamond to explain the request of public hearing to change the pay plan. Mr. Diamond provided a summary of proposed changes to the pay plan of the Metro Public Health Department.

Dr. Griffin made a motion to request a public hearing regarding the changes to pay plan. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deliberate to Change Job Descriptions and Qualifications for Nutrition Educator

Chair Franklin opened the floor for Mr. McKissic to request a vote for change in the job description and qualifications for nutrition educators.

Ms. Whitehead made a motion to approve the changes in the job description and qualifications for nutrition educators. Dr. Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Personnel Changes – April 2026

Mr. McKissic referred to the April 2026 Personnel Changes.

Adjournment

Chair Franklin adjourned the Civil Service Board meeting at 5:01p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held Thursday, June 11, 2026, at the Lentz Public Health Center, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Tené H. Franklin
Chair