

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County August 13, 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 4:01 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
D'Yuanna Allen-Robb, MPH, Population Health Bureau Director
Kristen Zak, MPA, MPH, Special Advisor to Director
Kebera Leach, MPH, Health Strategist
Jim Diamond, MBA, Finance and Administration Bureau Director
Sanmi Areola, Ph.D., Director of Health
Graham McKissic, MBA, SHRM-P, Human Resource Manager
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 July 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve July 9, 2026, meeting minutes as distributed. Dr. Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deliberation of Grant Applications

Mr. Diamond presented 3 items.

1. **Maternal Produce Prescription application**
Term: September 30, 2026 – September 29, 2030
Amount: \$2,000,000
2. **Mental Health Awareness Training application**
Term: September 30, 2026 – September 29, 2029
Amount: \$586,831
3. **Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems – Foundational application**
Term: December 1, 2026 – November 30, 2027
Amount: \$892,200

Dr. Ziegler made a motion to approve item 1-3. Dr. Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deliberation of Grants and Contracts

Mr. Diamond presented 8 items.

1. **Metropolitan Nashville Hospital Authority Mobile WIC MOU**
Term: execution +5yrs
Amount: NA
2. **Tennessee Justice Center direct appropriation**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
Amount: \$60,000
3. **A Step Ahead grant amendment**
Term: March 24, 2025 – December 31, 2027
Amount: NA (total \$250,000)
4. **Contributor direct appropriation**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
Amount: \$225,000
5. **Mental Health Cooperative direct appropriation**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
Amount: \$6,387,000
6. **Ryan White Part A grant amendment**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
Amount: \$71,832 (new total \$4,568,980)
7. **Ryan White Part A grant amendment**
Term: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
Amount: -\$71,832 (new total \$4,711,220)
8. **Immunization Services grant**
Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030
Amount: \$340,840

Ms. Whitehead made a motion to approve item 1-8. Dr. McDonald seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deliberation of the Strategic Plan 2026-2031

Chair Franklin explained that the Strategic Plan 2026-2031 was shared as a draft in April 2026. Dr. Areola shared a handout of the Strategic Plan and explained it is a living document that will be updated as needed. Dr. Areola shared that Ms. Leach did a great job formatting the changes in the Strategic Plan. Dr. Griffin requested the Board be provided with monthly updates on the Strategic Plan. Ms. Leach shared that she would do her best to provide monthly updates on the Strategic Plan to the Board of Health.

Dr. Griffin made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan 2026-2031. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Background on Opioid Program and Opioid Settlement Fund

Ms. Allen-Robb explained the history of the Opioid Restitution funds using a handout: Timeline of Expanding Impact and Opioid Settlement Fund corollary document. Ms. Zak shared details regarding the differences between allocation from opioid subdivision funds and opioid county funds distributed through the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council. Dr. McDonald requested that the response to the Opioid Settlement Audit be resent to all Board Members.

Employee/ Team Recognition

Dr. Areola recognized Madeline Ford for being chosen as the June 2026 Employee of the Month (Attachment I). Dr. Areola recognized Sexual Health Clinic for being chosen as the June 2026 Team of the Month (Attachment II).

Report of Director

Dr. Areola shared updates on the recent visit with Jody Lentz, the grandson of Dr. Lentz, School Health - Nursing program, meeting with Dr. Leslie Dauphin, former Director of CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Center, the Mobile Outreach Clinical Services (MOCS), Back-to-School Vaccine Clinics, School-Based Dental Services, World Breastfeeding Week, wrapping up the report for the Community Safety Task Force, previous Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Site Visit, upcoming Grand Rounds on October 5, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Attachment III).

Deliberation on FY27 Goals for the Director

Chair Franklin shared that Dr. Areola provided his FY27 goals.

Dr. McDonald made a motion to approve the FY27 Goals for the Director. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Report of Chair

Chair Franklin shared that she did not have a report for the Board at this time. Chair Franklin mentioned she recently received an email from Mr. Sheldon Walker regarding the upcoming event: Hope is Available on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. Chair Franklin requested that all Board Members be added to the email distribution list for those informative emails from Mr. Walker.

New Business

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

Ms. Whitehead requested an update from Dr. Areola on the change management plan at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Griffin requested regular updates on the Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

Dr. Stovall requested an update on how the health department is becoming an academic health department.

Dr. McDonald requested regular updates on the Opioid Settlement Fund, an update on how the health department addresses hypertension, including mortality and morbidity rates. Also, Dr. McDonald requested an update on the PHIG funding at the next Board meeting.

Chair Franklin suggested the health department integrate a feedback tool to better communicate with staff.

Adjournment

Chair Franklin adjourned the regular meeting at 5:40 p.m.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Personnel Changes – July 2026

Mr. McKissic referred to the July 2026 Personnel Changes.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Ziegler adjourned the Civil Service Board meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held Thursday, September 10, 2026, at the Lentz Public Health Center, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Tené H. Franklin
Chair