



Board of Health

Regular meetings of the Board of Health are scheduled on the second Thursday of each month.

To sign up for meeting updates or access advance materials, visit: <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/health/boards/health-board>

AGENDA

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Lentz Public Health Center Board Room on the third floor

2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville TN 37209

4:00 p.m. – Thursday, September 10, 2026

The Board of Health may deliberate and decide any item on the agenda.

APPEAL OF DECISIONS FROM THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF HEALTH

Pursuant to the provisions of § 2.68.030 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws, notice is hereby given that a contested case hearing before the Metropolitan Board of Health, acting as a Civil Service Commission, which affects the employment status of a civil service employee is appealable to the Chancery Court of Davidson County pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. Any such appeal must be filed within sixty (60) days after the entry of the Board's final order in the matter. A common law writ of certiorari is the appropriate appeal process of any decision of the Metropolitan Board of Health that does not involve a contested case hearing affecting the employment status of a civil service employee. This appeal must be filed within sixty (60) days of the action taken by the Board. You are advised to seek your own independent legal counsel to ensure that your appeal is filed in a timely manner and that all procedural requirements are met.

BOARD OF HEALTH

1. Public Comment on Agenda Items Franklin
Note: Pursuant to T. C. A. § 8-44-12, time is reserved at the beginning of Board of Health meetings for public comment that is germane to items on the agenda. Up to five people will be allowed up to two minutes each to speak. Speakers must register within one half hour prior to the beginning of the meeting by signing their name on a physical sign-up sheet available at the entrance.
2. Community Voices Franklin
Speakers must register within one half hour prior to the beginning of the meeting by signing their name on a physical sign-up sheet available at the entrance.
3. Declarations of Conflicts/Recusals or Communiques from the Public on Agenda Items Franklin
4. Deliberation of August 13, Meeting Minutes Franklin
5. Deliberation of Grant Applications Diamond
6. Deliberation of Grants and Contracts Diamond
7. PHIG Funding Update Presentation Diamond
8. TB Presentation Cook/ Turner/ McKay
9. Employee/Team Recognition Areola
10. Report of Director Areola
11. Report of Chair Franklin
12. New Business Franklin
 - a. Board Requests of the Department
 - b. Departmental Requests of the Board
13. Adjournment Franklin

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

1. Personnel Changes – August 2026 Holloway
2. Adjournment Franklin

The Metro Public Health Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, national origin, religion, or disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities, nor does it discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

**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

DRAFT

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS FOR BOARD APPROVAL

To: Board of Health
From: Jim Diamond
Date: September 10, 2026
Re: Summary of applications presented for Board approval

No applications for this month.

SUMMARY OF GRANTS & CONTRACTS FOR BOARD APPROVAL

To: Board of Health
From: Jim Diamond
Date: September 10, 2026
Re: Summary of grants & contracts presented for Board approval

1. The Nextdoor, Inc. opioid subgrant

The Nextdoor Recovery proposes the Safer Women, Stronger Communities: Opioid Prevention and Harm Reduction Project will expand overdose prevention, treatment access, and recovery support for women affected by opioid use disorder in Davidson County. The program will strengthen admissions, outreach, training, and data systems to increase treatment engagement and sustain a higher average daily census across its continuum of care, which includes detox, residential treatment, outpatient services, and aftercare tailored specifically for women, including pregnant and postpartum clients. TNDR currently serves about 1,400 women annually, including approximately 115 pregnant women, and the project will support personnel such as outreach and referral liaisons, peer recovery specialists, admissions staff, and program leadership to improve care coordination and service delivery. Key metrics include program admissions, average daily census, referral completion, aftercare participation, post-discharge follow-ups at 30, 60, and 90 days to monitor overdose risk, and clinical improvement measured through validated behavioral health tools, along with outreach engagement indicators such as website traffic, helpline calls, referral inquiries, and campaign response rates. By expanding trauma-informed treatment capacity, strengthening community education and harm reduction efforts such as naloxone training, and enhancing evaluation infrastructure, the project aims to improve treatment access, reduce overdose risk, and support long-term recovery outcomes for women facing poverty, trauma, homelessness, and justice involvement in Davidson County.

Term: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
Amount: \$384,000
Program Manager:
Bureau: D'Yuanna Allen-Robb

2. Nashville Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition opioid subgrant

The Nashville Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition proposes a trauma-informed opioid abatement initiative serving women in Davidson County whose opioid use disorder is directly linked to human trafficking, coercion, and chronic trauma. The project integrates three coordinated components across prevention, crisis response, and long-term recovery: Educate to Recognize, Rescue, and Restore. Educate to Recognize delivers evidence-based prevention training to youth ages 12–18, parents, educators, medical professionals, and law enforcement, reaching approximately 4,000 residents annually and equipping them to identify grooming tactics, opioid-assisted coercion, and early risk factors tied to adverse childhood experiences and exploitation. Rescue provides survivor-led, trauma-informed crisis intervention in partnership with law enforcement and community providers, conducting 100–120 rescues annually with a 95 percent or higher completion rate, offering immediate stabilization, transportation, withdrawal support, overdose risk mitigation, and warm handoffs into detox, rehabilitation, or transitional housing. Restore delivers a structured 12–18-month recovery program for 40–50 women per year exiting trafficking, addiction, incarceration, or homelessness. The program offers survivor-led case management, evidence-based recovery curricula, relapse prevention, mental health care, parenting and financial stability training, and coordinated access to medical and dental services. With this funding, NAHT anticipates directly impacting more than 8,300 individuals countywide, tracking outcomes including prevention, rescue completion, successful treatment placement, sobriety retention, housing stability, employment, and long-term freedom from exploitation.

Term: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
Amount: \$521,331
Program Manager:
Bureau: D'Yuanna Allen-Robb

3. STI Prevention Services grant amendment

This Tennessee Department of Health grant provides funds to implement and coordinate activities and services related to STD prevention, testing, diagnosis and treatment, and surveillance.

Amendment 4 adds additional funding and corrects funding in calendar year 2025. Also, adds eligibility verification and foreign adversary company attestation terms.

Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2027
Amount: \$299,319 (New total \$2,589,092)
Program Manager: Norman Foster
Bureau: Rachel Franklin

4. Vanderbilt University Medical Center Anchor opioid subgrant

The Addressing Needs and Coordinating Healthcare for Opioid Recovery pilot, led by Vanderbilt University Medical Center, embeds Community Health Workers in the adult emergency department to identify and engage patients presenting with opioid use disorder or opioid-related harms, including overdose, injection-related infections, disrupted access to medications for opioid use disorder, and acute mental health needs, while simultaneously addressing health-related social needs that interfere with recovery. Serving a high-volume urban emergency department with approximately 76,000 annual visits, the pilot will use natural language processing and AI-assisted review of clinical documentation to identify two to six high-risk patients per day, prioritize individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and initiate real-time outreach, assessment for readiness to start medications for opioid use disorder, and referral to long-term recovery support. Progress and client outcomes will be tracked by integrating the state's Find Help closed-loop referral system with Vanderbilt's Epic EHR system. Community Health Workers will meet patients in the emergency department and in community settings to support appointment attendance, transportation coordination, benefits navigation, overdose prevention education, and connection to syringe services and recovery supports. The pilot will track the number of patients identified, approached, and referred, percentage of closed-loop referrals completed, and linkage-to-care rates, as well as patient outcomes including repeat overdose events and healthcare utilization.

Term:	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028
Amount:	\$1,500,000
Program Manager:	
Bureau:	D'Yuanna Allen-Robb

Board of Health Request Tracking Form

Meeting Date: **September 10, 2026**

Board Requests of the Department:

1. Regular updates on the proposed new Woodbine Clinic.
2. Report to Board any MACC staff interactions with public where safety is concerned.
3. Provide status of MPHD's financial health update to the Board on a quarterly basis.
4. Provide update on the culture of the department to the Board on a quarterly basis.
5. Provide Annual Board Report draft to the Mayor to the Board by March 2026 and beyond.
6. Provide monthly update to the Board on the Director's priorities until the Strategic Plan is in place.
7. Consider having a member of the Youth Advisory Board present at the meetings.
8. Provide talking points to the Board on what we are doing in the department so they can share.
9. Provide branding on "tooth", Pearl E. White for Oral Health Services.
10. Provide information on how we address hypertension, including mortality and morbidity rate.
11. Provide update on the Opioid Settlement Fund. Including any additional responses to the audit, step structure, plans for FY27, presentation, system report and internal controls.
12. Provide an update on the plans to implement what we heard about change management.
13. Provide an update on PHIG funds.
14. Provide more information on how we are becoming an Academic Health Department.
15. Consider exploring a Feedback tool to be integrated to better communicate with staff.
16. Provide updates on the Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

Assignments and Due Date per each request from the Board:

1. Regular updates on the proposed new Woodbine Clinic. (Areola)
2. Report to Board any MACC staff interactions with public where safety is concerned. (Finke)
3. Provide an MPHD's financial health update to the Board on a quarterly basis. (Diamond)
4. Provide update on the culture of the department to the Board on a quarterly basis. (Areola)
5. Provide Annual Board Report draft to the Mayor to the Board by March 2026 and beyond. (Areola)
6. Provide monthly update to the Board on the Director's priorities until the Strategic Plan is in place. (Areola)
7. Consider having a member of the Youth Advisory Board present at the meetings. (Areola)
8. Provide talking points at the appropriate time to the Board on what we are doing in the department so they can share. Presentations by different programs at the Board meeting will also be considered. (Areola)
9. Provide branding on "tooth", Pearl E. White for Oral Health Services. (Areola)
10. Provide information on how we address hypertension, including mortality and morbidity rate. (Areola)
11. Provide update on the Opioid Settlement Fund. Including any additional responses to the audit, step structure, plans for FY27, presentation, system report and internal controls. (Areola)
12. Provide an update on the plans to implement what we heard about change management. (Areola)
13. Provide an update on PHIG funds at the next Board meeting. (Areola)
14. Provide more information on how we are becoming an Academic Health Department. (Areola)
15. Consider exploring a Feedback tool to be integrated to better communicate with staff. (Areola)
16. Provide updates on the Strategic Plan 2026-2031. (Areola)

Outcomes:

1. Regular updates on the proposed new Woodbine Clinic. (Areola) - Ongoing
2. Report to Board any MACC staff interactions with public where safety is concerned. (Finke) – Ongoing
3. Financial Update will be given to the Board in January, April, July, and October. Next update will be given

Response filed in meeting packet of **August 13, 2026**

in July. (Diamond)

4. An update on the culture of the department will be given to the Board in January, April, July, and October. Next update will be given in April. (Areola)
5. Annual Board Report draft to the Mayor will be given to the Board by March 2026 and beyond. (Areola)
6. Monthly update on the Director's priorities will be given to the Board until the Strategic Plan is in place. (Areola) - Ongoing
7. Member(s) of the Youth Advisory Board will be present at monthly meetings to observe and participate as needed. (Areola)
8. Talking points on what we are doing in the department will be given to the Board at the appropriate time. When feasible, presentations by programs will be done in the Board meeting. (Areola) - Ongoing
9. Oral Health Services will be completing branding on "tooth", Pearl E. White. (Areola) - Ongoing
10. Provide information on how we address hypertension, including mortality and morbidity rate. (Areola) – Ongoing
11. Provide update on the Opioid Settlement Fund. Including any additional responses to the audit, step structure, plans for FY27, presentation, system report and internal controls. (Areola) – Ongoing/ Regularly
12. Provide an update on the plans to implement what we heard about change management. (Areola) – Ongoing
13. Provide an update on PHIG funds at next Board meeting. (Areola)
14. Provide more information on how we are becoming an Academic Health Department. (Areola)
15. Consider exploring a Feedback tool to be integrated to better communicate with staff. (Areola)
16. Provide updates on the Strategic Plan 2026-2031. (Areola) – Ongoing/ Monthly

PERSONNEL CHANGES

AUGUST 2026

NEW HIRES

Eleanor Downing, Animal Control Officer 1, 08/15/2026, \$53,306.00 (MACC)

Lisa Starmer, Public Health Nurse 1, 71%, 08/24/2026, \$57,966.00 (SCH)

TERMINATIONS (VOLUNTARY)

Dorcas Gitimu, Prog. Spec. 2, 08/14/2026, resigned (Comm. Based Violence/BH)

Lohanny Vazquez, Office Support Specialist 1, 08/26/2026, resigned (WIC)

Kathy Appling, Seasonal/Part-time/Temp., 08/17/2026, resigned (SCH)

ToSon Cunningham, Prog. Spec. 2, 08/21/2026, dept. transfer to Property Assessment (Comm. Based Violence/BH)

Linda Gipson, Seasonal/Part-time/Temp., 08/24/2026, resigned (SCH)

Jana Pressler, Public Health Nurse 1 (71%), 08/25/2026, resigned (SCH)

TERMINATIONS (INVOLUNTARY)

Claris Lillard, Public Health Nurse 1 (71%), 08/01/2026, dismissed (SCH)

Sherry Packham, Public Health Nurse 1 (71%), 08/01/2026, dismissed (SCH)

Graham McKissic, Human Resources Manager, 08/18/2026, dismissed (HR)

Sheldon Schueler, Facilities Maintenance Tech., 08/24/2026, dismissed (Facilities Services)

Oluwatinileyin Abikoye, Seasonal/Part-time/Temp., 08/31/26, end of temporary employment (Executive Leadership)

PROMOTIONS

Crystal Witt, Program Specialist 2, promoted to Public Health Administrator 1, effective 08/01/2026 (NSB)

Brandy Nester, Animal Control Officer 3, promoted to Animal Control Officer Supervisor, effective 08/15/2026 (MACC)

Christopher Rhone, Program Specialist 3, promoted to Health Manager 1, effective 8/29/2026 (BHW)

STATUS CHANGES

Kenesha Washington, Public Health Nurse, Seasonal/part-time, moving to 71%, effective 7/27/2026 (SCH)

Shakiera Davis, Public Health Nurse, Seasonal/part-time, moving to 71%, effective 7/27/2026 (SCH)

Maryan Hussein, Public Health Nurse, 71% moving to 80%, effective 7/27/2026 (SCH)

Megan Igler, Public Health Nurse, 80% moving to 71%, effective 7/27/2026 (SCH)

Kecia Smith, Public Health Nurse, 80% moving to 71%, effective 7/27/2026 (SCH)

LaJuana Ojemuyiwa, Public Health Nurse, 80% moving to 71%, effective 7/27/2026 (SCH)