



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
*HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT*

KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR

*KARIN CARROLL*  
*DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES*

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**October 16, 2025**

Open Conference / Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

Members Present:

Brian Green, MD (Chair)  
Alyssa DuBois, Board Member  
Margaret H Coit, Board Member  
Karin Carroll, Director of Health & Human Services

**1. Meeting Call to Order:** Brian Green made a motion to open the meeting at 6:02 pm. Alyssa DuBois seconded. All in favor.

**2. Minutes Approval:** Brian Green made a motion to approve the minutes from September 18, 2025. Alyssa Dubois seconded. All in favor.

**3. Edamame Spicy Variance for Acidified Rice- Kaien Huang**

Kaien Huang spoke to the variance request and understood what is expected in the HACCP Plan and that the variance and the food establishment permits are considered separate if there are violations. Brian Green approved the variance request. Margaret H Coit seconded. All in favor.

**4. Variance request to Body Art Permit- Nomad Body Piercing- Nicholas Figureora**

Nicholas Figureora was approved of the variance for the license for body art Brian Green approved and Margaret Hoit seconded. All in favor.

**5. Proposed Update to Body Art Regulations.**

Karin Carroll proposed an amendment to the Board of Health's existing Body Art Registration to avoid confusion in the future and streamline the permit process. The change is as follows:

**Current regulation language:** (Section 1300.10 (D)) An apprenticeship shall conclude, and the apprentice shall be eligible for a body art practitioner's license, when the apprentice has satisfactorily completed two thousand four hundred (2400) hours or two (2) years of the body art apprenticeship program, *whichever is greater*.

**Proposed regulation language:** (Section 1300.10 (D)) An apprenticeship shall conclude, and the apprentice shall be eligible for a body art practitioner's license, when the apprentice has satisfactorily completed two thousand four hundred (2400) hours and/or two (2) years of the body art apprenticeship program,.

Brian Green motioned to approve the amended Body Art Regulation with the proposed change. Margaret Coit seconded. All in favor.

**6. Director of Prevention Services-** Tina Los updated the board about the public health vending machines. We will be piloting two machines starting mid-November, one in front of the West Branch library and one in front of 165 Broadway. The machines include items such as personal hygiene kits, feminine hygiene items, winter warming items such as hat, gloves and socks, sexual health kits, pregnancy tests, emergency contraceptive, diapers, wipes, and wound care kits. We will be rolling out the program through word of mouth through our community programs and non-profits and will do a public launch sometime in December.

**7. Inspectional Services-** Food Inspections, Community, Complaints/Concerns, Questions from Board of Health

Colin Zeigler, Environmental Health Specialist- ISD, shared a few updates with the Board including collection of sharps and rodent concerns in the city. Colin will continue to attend these meetings until a new ISD Director is hired. He will be bridging the gap between ISD and the Board and is open to input from the Board on specific topics or concerns they have.

**8. Health and Human Services -** Staffing, Department activity and events, budget and goals updates, questions from the Board of Health

Director Carroll shared the following updates from the Department.

- The Department has implemented a comprehensive plan of supports for the unhoused including sharps collection boxes, public health vending machines, weekly huddle with multidisciplinary team, warming center in winter months, CHW outreach efforts and connections to services, support to SHC engagement center, clinic and shelter expansion.
- HHS is offering several trainings for staff this fall including the HOPE framework, a strength-based approach to supporting youth, Management Professional Development Day and Grant Management training.
- The Social Services team is expanding its services to supporting the schools/youth with outings, mindfulness groups etc, support and training to city staff in the Housing Stability Office and Gender Equity training and book group.
- The COA has been informed by SCES that their ride program will be significantly reduced in January, leaving many Somerville seniors without transportation to the COA. We are working with the administration urgently to address this significant gap.
- Public Health Nurses are running both Flu and Covid clinics and have had good attendance so far.

**9. Next Meeting: 11/20/2025**

**Meeting Adjourn:** Brian Green moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 PM. seconded by Margaret H Coit. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Barrows  
Board of Health Recording Secretary