



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Jacob Wilson
MAYOR

KARIN CARROLL
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
January 8, 2026

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 6:00 pm. Margaret H Coit seconded. All in favor.
- 2. Minutes Approval:** Brian Green made a motion to approve the minutes from December 11, 2025. Margret H Coit seconded. All in favor.
- 3. Approval of Amende minutes for November 2025** Alyssa makes amotion to approve Brian Green seconded. All in favor
- 4. Director of Somerville Office of Immigrant (SOIA) Affairs** Maria Teresa Nagel, started hosting Know Your Rights trainings in November though the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition and has been able to run over 184 trainings both in person and virtually. They have offered training to business owners and their employees, people's homes, and property managers. They have also started to Know Your Rights campaign that really aims to target folks and help them believe that they are safe. The City will also be working with SOIA to expand training for all employees on these topics.
- 5. Inspectional Services-** Food Inspections, Community, Complaints/Concerns, Questions from Board of Health

Colin shared information about the new signs going out to the homeowners offering free IPM for two months. The city has also purchase a BurrowX machine to kill rats via carbon monoxide on public properties.

6. 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 support 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, as well as support to SHC engagement center, clinic and shelter expansion. The Public Health vending machines have recently been installed and are dispensing products in East and West Somerville. Utilization reports to follow.
- HHS received 1 million dollars from Community Benefit funds to support local food initiatives such as food pantries, Food for Free, meal vouchers, carrot cards for youth and additional school markets.
- The COA also received some of the above funds to maintain senior transportation program due to end in January, providing Somerville seniors with transportation to the COA meals. We are grateful to the administration and city council for addressing these significant gaps.
- Public Health Nurses have held over 75 clinics to-date for both Flu and Covid clinics and have had good attendance.

7. Next Meeting: 02/12/2026

Meeting Adjourn: Brian Green moves to adjourn the meeting at 6 :57 PM. seconded by Margaret H Coit seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Barrows
Board of Health Recording Secretary