



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Jacob Wilson
MAYOR

KARIN CARROLL
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
February 12, 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
Colin Zeigler, Environmental Health Manager
Nikki Spencer, Interim Director of Health & Human Services

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Brian Green made a motion to open the meeting at 6:01 pm. Margaret H Coit seconded. All in favor.
- 2. Minutes Approval:** Brian Green made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2026. Margret H Coit seconded. All in favor.
- 3. Inspectional Services:** Food Inspections, Community, Complaints/Concerns, Questions from Board of Health

Environmental Health Manager Colin Zeigler shared that ISD has received 1,800 complaints total over the past month concerning snow clearance. ISD has been issuing tickets for violating properties, and this sparked conversation about vacant properties. ISD recently contacted the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to discuss their abandoned house initiative. The department is working with the AGO to contact an owner and potentially go through receivership on a particular property to eliminate any health or building concerns that are occurring there. This is an important additional resource for the City, using the power of the state and its ability to act when violations, safety issues, and health issues are clear. Due to the recent snow, the Residential Rodent Assistance program has been paused until further notice given the difficulty of accessing properties. The goal is to start up again in early/mid-March and in the meantime the department is sending out a mailer to residents with the theme of "This House is Fighting Rats." Environmental Health Manager Zeigler also discussed using a carbon monoxide pump to address rat burrows.

4. Health and Human Services: Staffing, Department activity and events, budget and goals updates, questions from the Board of Health

- HHS Director Carroll introduced Nikki Spencer, who will serve as Interim HHS Director while Director Carroll is out on short leave. She will cover the Board of Health meeting in March.
- HHS has begun monthly meetings with the new mayor, Mayor Wilson, including Acting Deputy Director of Public Health, Lisa Robinson, Deputy Director of Human Services Nancy Bacci, and Finance Manager Anoop Malik. An important discussion was ongoing support for food supplies, after an infusion of community benefit funds at the end of last calendar year.
- The Warming Center had a very busy month. The normal capacity with overflow is around 45 individuals and nightly attendance has averaged around 50 to 60. The program budgeted for 45 people, and they have been exceeding that nightly, particularly on nights with frigid temperatures. Director Carroll will attend City Council to secure funding for more food, additional security, and extended hours due to holidays or very cold mornings.
- A series of communications pieces have highlighted public health vending machines, the Youth Services' snow shoveling program, and flu vaccine clinics.
- Quarter four report for 2025 is complete and Director Carroll will send to the Board.
- This month has been a little quieter for Flu and COVID vaccines, but HHS is still offering shots for anyone that needs one.
- The city did have a small norovirus situation. HHS Public Health nurses worked with Environmental Health Manager Zeigler and ISD to quickly get on top of that and worked with retailers to make sure the issue was resolved.
- Public Health Vending Machine use remains very high. Narcan remains one of the top items, 108 doses in one quarter. The City did have a spike of 5 overdoses in January, and HHS worked with partners to increase efforts to supply Narcan.
- Office of Food Access and Health communities continues to coordinate food coalition meetings and received a large infusion of community benefit funds this past fall.
- Community Health Workers had 23 MassHealth applications and 15 SNAP last quarter.
- Mayor's School Year jobs program for youth started this academic year. The number of teens placed during the school year has increased to 16.
- SomerBaby conducted 34 visits in the last quarter.
- Veterans Services had 82 total service inquiries in their last quarter. The department is proud to announce that the "Moving Wall" replica of the Vietnam Memorial Monument will return and will be held at Assembly Row. The Memorial Day parade and event will be held separately this year to try a new approach.

- Council on Aging held their Olympics and coordinated 1,871 taxi rides in the last quarter.
- Director Carroll will resend the Massachusetts Association for Health Boards (MAHB) training opportunity for Board of Health members.
- The Board brought up the issue of Overdose Prevention Centers, in addition to next meeting's discussion of social consumption of marijuana products.

5. Next Meeting: 03/19/2026

Meeting Adjourn: Brian Green moves to adjourn the meeting at 6 :40PM. seconded by Margaret H Coit seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Barrows
Board of Health Recording Secretary