



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

Jacob D Wilson  
MAYOR

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

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**May 14, 2026**

Open Conference / Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

Members Present:

Brian Green, MD (Chair)

Margaret H Coit, Board Member

Colin Zeigler, Environmental Health Manager

Karin Carroll, Director of Health & Human Services

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Brian Green made a motion to open the meeting at 6:03 pm. Maragret H Coit seconded. All in favor.
- 2. Minutes Approval:** Brian Green made a motion to approve the minutes from May 14, 2026. Maragret H Coit seconded. All in favor.
- 3. Plumbing Variance request-** Lawn Bar

Brian Green makes a motion to approve of the Variance with the condition that Lawn Bar fully understands the different inspections that are made and that the criteria are a little different. Margaret H Coit seconded. All in Favor

**4. ISD Updates -Colin Zeigler**

Colin wanted to highlight some of the great initiatives that have been going on as well. We had de-ratification Week, in partnership with the mayor's office and a couple of the city councilors. We had an excellent demonstration hosted by Alicia Prevett, Environmental Health Coordinator, who was at the previous meeting, so I'm glad you all got to meet her applications, that come in to operate utilizing RDNA or biological agents, which is a very broad umbrella of materials. The labs file reports through their own internal biosafety committees and then report back to us so we can keep track of changes that might be occurring in practice or in the physical spaces of the laboratories here in Somerville. We were able to use carbon monoxide on some bushes at Milkro Cemetery. These burrows are now down to 2 when we were at about 14. 3 months ago, so this is continuing to be a very promising technology that we are using for rodent control. And it was great to highlight it during de-ratification Week, which went with, social media campaigns, speaking with press, working with the mayor's office to do office hours and meeting with some of our constituents and describing some of the methods that they can use to prevent rodents on their property.

**5. HHS Updates-Karin Carroll**

Director Carroll informed the Board that the upcoming quarterly report is currently being finalized and will be presented at the next scheduled meeting.

- **FY27 Budget Cuts:** Director Carroll provided an update on the city's projected financial difficulties for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).
  - The department has already implemented a 5% reduction to its operating budget.
  - Recent updates from the city indicate these initial cuts will be insufficient to balance the municipal budget.
  - The Mayor has stated there will be further budget reductions while advising the departments to maintain key strategic priorities.
  
- **Divisional Structure:** The department's transition to a new divisional structure is officially set to begin on July 1, 2026. The management team has already begun meeting regularly to ensure a smooth transition.
- The department will now be organized into the following six divisions:
  1. Public Health (with Health Inspectional Services)
  2. Community Wellness
  3. Immigrant Advancement Council
  4. Council on Aging
  5. Human Services
  6. Health Administration

**Other updates:**

Director Carroll reported that the public health vending machines continue to see high utilization. The inventory has recently been updated for the warmer weather, now stocking items such as mosquito wipes, hydration kits, and sunscreen.

Concern was raised regarding the ongoing vacancy of the Public Health Nurse position. Director Carroll is actively collaborating with city administration and the relevant union to finalize the position's salary structure, with the goal of posting the job opening in late spring or early summer.

The Board was briefed on the upcoming Veterans Salute to Service Parade, scheduled for this weekend at 11:00 AM. It is designated as a family-friendly community event. The annual Memorial Day service will take place the following weekend at the cemetery.

The HUDDLE team continues to monitor local homelessness activity. A recent increase in activity involving both housed and unhoused individuals has been observed in local parks. The city has launched a pilot program designating Statue Park with the same regulatory status as a public playground. Under this pilot designation, sleeping in the park will be strictly prohibited.

**5. Next Meeting :06/18/2026**

**Meeting Adjourn:** Brian Green moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM. seconded by Margaret H Coit seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Barrows  
Board of Health Recording Secretary