



CITY OF MELROSE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Board of Health

Frank Brincheiro, MD

Lillian Kelly R.N.

Carol Ann Licitra, L.M.H.C.

Health Director

Anthony Chui, MPH

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781)979-4130

health@cityofmelrose.org

To: Mayor Jen Grigoraitis
From: Anthony Chui, Health Director
Date: September 24, 2025
Re: Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report

Department Overview:

The Melrose Health and Human Services (HHS) Department operates under a regional agreement with the Towns of Wakefield and Stoneham, sharing staff positions and collaborating on joint programming. The Melrose Board of Health, composed of three members, meets monthly and as needed to set policy, adopt regulations, and enforce local and state public health laws.

In FY25, much of the department's work focused on expanding access to social services, strengthening integration across service areas, and gaining a deeper understanding of community needs. Mental health, behavioral health, and access to social services emerged as top priorities. To address these challenges, the HHS Department partnered closely with other city departments, community organizations, and dedicated volunteers, working collectively to enhance the health and well-being of Melrose residents.

FY 25 Accomplishments:

The Melrose Board of Health became only the third Board of Health in the nation to adopt the innovative Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) policy, a landmark achievement in advancing public health. Beyond policy leadership, the department strengthened community engagement through a wide range of health promotion initiatives. These included hosting a Social Services luncheon, leading Dementia Friends and CPR training sessions, and providing public Narcan training to expand overdose prevention and response capacity.

Public Health Nurses convened a regional meeting for all summer camp leadership to review Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) regulations and enforcement requirements. They also held regular blood pressure clinics to support preventive health measures and contributed to workforce development by serving as preceptors for nursing students, mentoring the next generation of public health professionals.

As fiscal agent for the Public Health Excellence grant serving six communities, the department sustained professional development and continuing education for health inspection staff. Meanwhile, School Nurses continued to play a vital role in supporting students, families, and school staff, addressing needs across physical health, mental health, behavioral health, and chronic disease management.

Reductions/Eliminations in the FY 26 Budget and the corresponding service delivery impacts:

The department is facing service reductions in FY26 due to budget constraints, which will directly impact on the health and well-being of the community. Pest control services, which are critical to preventing infestations and protecting residents from vector-borne diseases, will be scaled back. At the same time, Prevention and Wellness services will see a reduction, limiting our ability to apply for and manage grants, carry out community health initiatives, address gambling-related harms, and provide youth-focused programming.

These programs represent vital investments in prevention, education, and long-term health outcomes. Reducing them diminishes the department's ability to proactively address public health challenges before they escalate into more costly or dangerous problems. Sustained funding for pest control, prevention, and wellness efforts is essential to protect our residents and safeguard public spaces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Chui', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony Chui
Regional Health and Human Services Director
achui@cityofmelrose.org
(781) 979-4130