



Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

Serving the towns of Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Berlin, Bolton, Boxborough, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Littleton, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Shirley, Stow, Townsend, and the community of Devens, in partnership with your local elected Board of Health.

June 30th, 2023

The Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH) has served as the Health Agent and provided public health nursing services for our member communities since 1931.

Since 1966 the NABH has included a visiting nurses association (VNA), the Nashoba Nursing Service (Home Health) and in 1995 we added Hospice services. Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice (NNS&H) has been a separate, fee for service organization under the umbrella of the NABH. The NNS&H has provided visiting nursing services and hospice care to the NABH towns and surrounding communities.

The healthcare market is a challenging business and we have experienced headwinds which caused us to review whether the NNS&H can be a viable service provider going forward. Those challenges are provided below.

- 1.) The current shortage of nursing staff has made it extremely difficult to hire and retain registered nurses. We can't accept patients for service unless we have adequate staffing to provide care for those patients.
- 2.) The size (patient census) of the NNS&H makes it difficult to be financially viable as our costs to provide services are higher, in most cases, than the payment we receive for those services. The management staff runs a lean operation but the lack of staff, and consequently reduced patient census, has resulted in many months of financial losses.

At their regularly scheduled meeting on 6/29/23, the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health voted to close the Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice. This was a difficult decision given our years of service to residents in our member communities.

The NNS&H operations will continue over the next 30-90 days until all our patients are either safely discharged or transferred to another agency in our area.

It is important to note, the closure of the NNS&H will not affect the public health nursing services we provide member communities; we are staffed to handle the public health nursing needs with the same nurses who currently service your communities.

The NNS&H has provided quality home health and hospice services for over fifty years and we are saddened to have to close the service.

Any questions regarding the closure of the NNS&H can be directed to Jim Garreffi at jgarreffi@nashoba.org.