

Advisory Board

Joan Taverna, Cohasset
Susan Sarni, Hingham
Drew Scheele, Scituate



Advisory Board Alternate Members

Elizabeth Miller, Hingham
Erica Souris, Scituate

South Shore Public Health Collaborative Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Voting Members in Attendance:

Susan Sarni, Hingham
Joan Taverna, Cohasset
Erica Souris, Social Worker (Scituate)

Non-voting members in attendance:

Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies
Ally Gittens, BME Strategies
Nicole Roche, Regional Social Worker
Samantha Joyce, Regional Community Outreach Worker
Suzanne Otte, BU School of Social Work Community Partner and Lecturer
Alison Yager, BU School of Social Work Intern

2:03 PM Welcome & Roll Call

Susan Sarni motioned to open the meeting. Joan Taverna seconded.

Roll Call vote: Susan Sarni (Hingham), Joan Taverna (Cohasset), Erica Souris (Scituate)

Motion to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Susan Sarni motioned to approve the October 2nd meeting minutes. Joan Taverna seconded. Roll Call vote: Erica Souris (Scituate), Susan Sarni (Hingham), Joan Taverna (Cohasset)

Coalition Updates

Update on meeting with Cohasset and DPH

Joan, Cynthia, Allyson and Bethany Griles (DPH Program Coordinator) met with Town Manager Senior last Monday to learn more about Mr. Senior's vision for the PHE grant and the future of Cohasset's health department. Town Manager Senior intends to hire a new Public Health Director, but there is currently no timeline for this. In the interim, Joan Taverna will continue to serve as interim health director.

Annual Notification to Municipality Leadership

As part of the PHE grant, SSPHC is required to send an annual notification memo to municipal leaders in each of the communities within the Coalition. The

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annual notification memorandum serves as a yearly reminder to town leadership that your municipality participates in the PHE grant. It informs town leaders that the grant is meant to support and expand existing capacity, to not supplant municipal funding, and to comply with the terms of the grant in good faith. BME Strategies is working to collect contact information for town leaders in all three coalition municipalities and will be following up with health directors for further assistance with this.

Feedback from BOH/Town Manager in Hingham about FPHS Data

Susan received feedback from the Town Manager in Hingham in response to the FPHS Data that was presented in the previous SSPHC coalition meeting and sent to Boards of Health in each municipality. BME clarified that PHE funding flows from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), both of which are federal funding. This funding is then contracted to PHE grantees at the state level. There was also a question around whether there will be room in the budget for other activities when Nicole Roche takes on the SSC role from BME Strategies in March. BME Strategies is budgeted on the grant until March 2026, so it will not create additional funding in the budget at that time.

Assessment of staffing and workload across SSPHC

BME Strategies met with Regional Staff Members this week to discuss workload, roles and responsibilities, ways of working and time tracking logistics. The social workers in the coalition already use a platform called MyJunna, and there was discussion around how this platform could further be leveraged by customizing it to be able to report on relevant details about the work that regional staff are doing across the coalition. The aim is for these data to be shared back on a more regular basis health directors, Boards of Health, and other stakeholders.

Presentation by Suzanne Otte

Suzanne Otte, BU School of Social Work Community Partner and Lecturer, and Alison Yager, BU School of Social Work Intern, presented their proposal for activities that address Hoarding Disorder. The proposal includes three potential activities including a support group, a book discussion group, and an annual roundtable event to promote peer-to-peer dialogue. Additional information was requested by the Coalition regarding disaggregated unidentifiable data about demographics of previous participants. There was also a request for data on the impact of these types of activities as well as data from pre-post interviews from previous group participants.

Review of PHE Grant Expenditures

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The Coalition reviewed all expenditures for the grant as of September 30, 2025. Overall, the coalition has spent 22% of its budget, with the majority of spending being staff salaries and fringe benefits. There are some line items that will need to be updated given planned activities, such as the training and telecommunications budgets. The Coalition will plan to do a budget modification and vote on it in the next coalition meeting on October 30, 2025.

Community Updates

None

2:59 PM Adjournment

Susan Sarni motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Erica Souris (Scituate).

Roll call vote: Susan Sarni (Hingham), Erica Souris (Scituate)

Motion carried: 2-0

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM.

Documents used and referenced during the public meeting:

South Shore Public Health Collaborative October 16, 2025 Meeting Presentation
SSPHC FY26 Spending & Forecasting Tracker

BU School of Social Work Hoarding Disorder Proposal

Please Note: There will be no public participation in speaking at this meeting unless recognized by the chair.

Please note that the Advisory Board may act on items in a different order than they appear on this agenda. If it so votes, the Board may go into Executive Session during the meeting. Persons interested are advised that, in the event any matter taken up at this meeting remains unfinished at the close of the meeting, it will be automatically deferred and added to a future agenda as a regular posted agenda item.

This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.