

## 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, Dec. 11, 2025 at 2:00 pm**

### **Attendees:**

#### **Voting members -**

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

#### **Non-voting members -**

Ally Gittens, BME Strategies  
Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies  
Tiffany Benoit, Local Public Health Consultant  
Erica Souris, Social Worker (Scituate)  
Nicole Roche, Regional Social Worker

### **2:01pm Welcome & Roll Call**

Andrew Scheele motioned to open the meeting. Joan Taverna seconded. Roll Call vote: Joan Taverna (Cohasset), Susan Sarni (Hingham), Andrew Scheele (Scituate)

### **Motion to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

Andrew Scheele motioned to approve the November 20th meeting minutes. Susan Sarni seconded. Roll Call vote: Andrew Scheele (Scituate), Susan Sarni (Hingham), Joan Taverna (Cohasset)

### **Coalition Updates**

The coalition acknowledged the departure of the current regional public health nurse, who will be leaving the position at the end of December 2026. The coalition discussed sending along well wishes prior to her last day.

BME Strategies informed the coalition that their contract extension had been approved and signed off on by the Cohasset Interim Town Manager. With this approval, BME Strategies will continue working with the coalition until at least June 30, 2026.

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The coalition also discussed the Community Health Equity Needs Assessment (CHENA) that was conducted last fiscal year. BME Strategies will plan to contact the consultant who completed the CHENA to revise any inaccuracies. In addition, Andrew Scheele and Erica Souris have been in touch with a community member in Scituate who is offering to help with gathering similar information that can be used to help understand what needs there may be in Cohasset, Scituate, and Hingham.

The coalition also discussed the potential for holding an in-person coalition meeting early in the new year. There may be an opportunity for the group to meet in one of the meeting rooms at the shared working space for regional staff members.

### Presentation of Document Hub

BME Strategies presented a draft outline for a document hub that could be used by the coalition to house and share important documents, background information about the coalition, and any materials that are developed by the coalition. The coalition will give further consideration to what platform it would live on and who will oversee it.

### Regional Staff Updates

Nicole Roche (Social Worker) provided updates around the various efforts that the regional social workers have been engaged in over the past month. These efforts include updating the Cohasset Town website to include up to date information on resources and contact information for the social workers. The social workers have also created a brochure that includes various resources on the South Shore that can connect residents to anything from mental health resources to job search assistance. The coalition discussed plans for reviewing the brochure and aiming to have it distributed in a variety of ways (e.g., emailed to local organizations, hand-delivered to institutions like libraries, etc.)

Nicole Roche also expressed that she is seeing an uptick in calls and requests for assistance, particularly as there are cuts to housing and SNAP funding.

### Community Updates

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BME Strategies provided a reminder to the coalition that the BME Strategies office will be closed from Monday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> through Friday, January, 2<sup>nd</sup>. The coalition also discussed additional requirements and regulations that they are addressing in their town including the completion of the Region 4AB All-Hazards Framework and the associated TableTop Exercise that will take place in January 2026. The coalition also discussed regulations around permanent tattooing.

## Public Health Nursing Activities

BME Strategies presented the results from a brief survey around priorities for public health nursing. Tiffany Benoit, the coalition's local public health nursing consultant, then facilitated a discussion around how the coalition might implement the specific priorities identified by the Advisory Board. The coalition also started the conversation around hiring a new regional public health nurse.

## 3:06 PM Adjournment

The next coalition meeting will be on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 2pm.

Andrew Scheele (Scituate) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Joan Taverna (Cohasset).

Roll call vote: Joan Taverna (Cohasset), Susan Sarni (Hingham), Andrew Scheele (Scituate)

Motion carried: 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 PM.

## **Documents used and referenced during the public meeting:**

- South Shore Public Health Collaborative December 11, 2025, Meeting Presentation
- SSPHC Public Health Nursing Activities Survey Results
- SSPHC Brochure for Social Work Services

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***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 may be put off to a continued session of this meeting without further notice.*

*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.*