

Advisory Board

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



Advisory Board Alternate Members

Betty Nee, Hingham
Erica Souris, Scituate

South Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM

Voting members in attendance:

Susan Sarni, Hingham
Andrew Scheele, Scituate (joined late)
Joan Taverna, Cohasset

Non-voting members in attendance:

Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies
Ally Gittens, BME Strategies

2:07 PM Welcome & Roll Call

Joan Taverna motioned to open the meeting. Susan Sarni seconded. Roll call vote: Joan Taverna (Cohasset), Susan Sarni (Hingham).

Introduction to Ally Gittens

Cynthia introduced Ally Gittens, who will be supporting the Collaborative going forward.

Acknowledgement of Pam Fahey's Passing:

Cynthia provided space to acknowledge Pam Fahey's passing and invited Advisory Group members to share any thoughts on how they're doing.

2:10 PM Governance Board Continuity

Next Steps for Cohasset and PHE Grant Oversight

Cynthia Baker and Bethany Griles (Office of Local and Regional Health Program Coordinator) have reached out to Town Manager Senior to initiate a conversation about next steps. The coalition discussed what governance and leadership of the

Advisory Board

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



Advisory Board Alternate Members

Betty Nee, Hingham
Erica Souris, Scituate

grant will look like without Pam, and discussed the lack of clarity for regional staff in terms of communication and reporting.

Joan mentioned that she met with Town Manager Senior and asked for him to be responsive to emails from BME Strategies and DPH. Joan has also been in touch with regional staff, Sam, Nicole and Micayla more recently, though it was originally assumed that HR would reach out to them. Joan has been named acting director with the help of a staff member who reviews septic plans, and another staff member who does restaurant inspections. Joan and Cynthia will plan to meet to review financial administration and support for regional staff moving forward. Joan would also like to clarify what specific responsibilities she is taking over as acting director.

Susan raised concerns about the future of the grant and its leadership. BME Strategies has confirmed that it will continue to offer whatever support is needed to run the grant, and has experience with doing so with many other municipalities. The coalition agreed to stay close on updates and evaluate next steps together as they receive more information.

2:37 PM Overview of Current Projects

The coalition reviewed a high-level summary of Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) workplan objectives and priorities. Susan noted that it would be helpful to review this year's budget allocation. The collaborative reviewed the budget line by line. BME will also put together a visualization of total project budget investments to accompany the meeting minutes. Cynthia requested Joan's assistance in compiling expenditures to date ahead of the November Term 1 reporting deadlines to assess current financial performance. Cynthia and Ally will also plan to send a current list of projects to the Advisory Group as well.

The advisory board discussed scheduling options for a presentation from Suzanne Otte on the hoarding disorder proposal she provided to Cohasset the previous fiscal year. The group decided to invite Suzanne to join the meeting on October 16th.

2:56 PM Community Updates

Advisory Board

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



Advisory Board Alternate Members

Betty Nee, Hingham
Erica Souris, Scituate

No community updates were discussed.

3:01 PM Adjournment

Drew Scheele motioned to adjourn the meeting. Susan Sarni seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Documents used and referenced during the public meeting:

South Shore Public Health Collaborative September Meeting Presentation

South Shore Public Health Collaborative Fiscal Year 2026 Public Health Excellence Grant Budget