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
Advisory Board
October 8, 2026 at 2pm

Attendees:

Voting members:
Betty Nee, Hingham
Joan Taverna, Cohasset
Andrew Scheele, Scituate

Non-Voting members:
Nicole Balaschi, Shared Services Coordinator
Erica Souris, Social Worker
Jacqueline Cregg. Regional Public Health Nurse
Jose Paiz, Regional Registered Sanitarian

2:04pm Welcome & Roll Call

Andrew Scheele: Motion to call the meeting to order.; Second: Joan Taverna; Vote: 3-0-0 (Andrew Scheele-Yes, Joan Taverna-Yes, Betty Nee- Yes) — PASSED

Minutes Vote

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September 10, 2026, meeting.
Andrew Scheele: Motion to approve the September 10, 2026 minutes.; Second: Joan Taverna; Vote: 3-0-0 (Andrew Scheele-Yes, Joan Taverna-Yes, Betty Nee-Yes) — PASSED

The Board then reviewed the minutes from the September 17, 2026, meeting.
Joan Taverna: Motion to approve the September 17, 2026 minutes.; Second: Andrew Scheele; Vote: 3-0-0 (Andrew Scheele-Yes, Joan Taverna-Yes, Betty Nee-Yes) — PASSED

Budget Update

Nicole provided an update on the grant budget as Term 1 approaches its end. She reported that spending is on track for staffed areas but highlighted two areas of underspending. Specifically, $36,000 budgeted for fringe benefits remains untouched because the full-time staff do not take insurance through the grant, and the funds cannot be used for workers' compensation, pensions, etc. This money will need to be reallocated. Additionally, $39,000 budgeted for a part-time community health worker remains unspent due to a vacancy, though interviews are ongoing.

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Regional Staff Updates

Jacqueline provided an update, reporting that she assisted with a flu vaccine clinic at the Cohasset senior center and is working on her CPR certification. She recently attended a parenting anxiety group at Cohasset High School to share information about the grant. Ms. Cregg also mentioned researching Galaxy lab for more accurate tick-borne illness testing, including PCR testing for Bartonella and Babesia, to provide better community resources.

Jose introduced himself, reporting that he has been shadowing for food and housing inspections and working through his Tier 1 trainings. Nicole added that Jose will prioritize Tier 1 training for food and housing before focusing on his SI certification.

Nicole delivered updates on collaborative programming, outlining plans for a regional CPR program and a Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) program scheduled for January. She stated she would be presenting to the Cohasset Select Board to raise awareness about the collaborative and offered to do the same for Scituate and Hingham. Nicole announced the launch of an Instagram account (@SouthShorePHC) to increase visibility.
The Board discussed the possibility of hosting a regional flu clinic to circle back on once discussing with Susan. Nicole noted there is still no update from the state regarding the extension of grant funding beyond the current term.

Additional Comments

Andrew Scheele asked about details on the upcoming Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) conference. Nicole announced that 400 brochures detailing food and housing security services have arrived and are available for the towns. Nicole noted posters highlighting the collaborative's success with hoarding disorder groups, created by the Massachusetts Public Health Alliance, are also available and will be displayed at the MHOA conference.

2:48 PM Adjournment

The Board discussed scheduling the next collaborative meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts and absences, the members agreed to move the meeting to Tuesday, November 19, 2026, at 2:00 PM via Zoom.
Andrew Scheele: Motion to adjourn.; Second: Joan Taverna; Vote: 3-0-0 (Andrew Scheele-Yes, Joan Taverna-Yes, Betty Nee- Yes) — PASSED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:48 PM.

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Documents used and referenced during the public meeting:

- South Shore Public Health Collaborative October 8, 2026 Meeting Presentation
- MPHA Poster
- SSPHC Instagram Page

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.