

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, January 8, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Attendees:

Voting members -

Susan Sarni, Hingham
Joan Taverna, Cohasset

Non-voting members -

Ally Gittens Dias, BME Strategies
Nicole Roche, Regional Social Worker
Samantha Joyce, Regional Community Outreach Worker

2:06pm Welcome & Roll Call

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

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

Motion to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Susan Sarni motioned to approve the December 11th meeting minutes.
Joan Taverna seconded. Roll Call vote: Joan Taverna (Cohasset), Susan Sarni (Hingham)

Coalition Updates

BME Strategies provided an update that the first hoarding disorder book discussion will begin on Tuesday, January 13th and will be taking place at the Scituate Senior Center. The sessions will take place weekly and run for 12 weeks.

BME Strategies confirmed that members of the Advisory Board would be available to join the next coalition meeting, which is currently scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd, given that it conflicts with the Massachusetts Municipal Conference.

The Coalition discussed the possibility of having DPH Program Coordinator, Bethany Griles, join an upcoming meeting to discuss sustainability of the coalition. In addition, the coalition determined that it would hold this meeting in-person.

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As an additional update, BME Strategies provided an update on the possibility of having a local resident volunteer with the coalition. The group is looking to gain more information about the type of volunteer work the resident is looking to do and determine when they might join an upcoming coalition meeting.

Review of WorkPlan

The Coalition reviewed the Workplan and the various objectives that it is working towards. For some objectives, there has already been some progress, such as the Communication and Engagement objective. The creation of a resource brochure has been an important step as part of this objective. There was also discussion around the Maternal, Child and Family Health objective and questions were raised around whether the coalition will keep it on the Workplan. The coalition will consider other options for objectives and decide whether it makes sense to replace the Maternal, Child, and Family health objective with something else.

Next Steps for Public Health Nursing Role

BME Strategies provided an update that they met with Tiffany Benoit, the coalition's local public health consultant, as a follow-up to the December 11th coalition meeting. The coalition is considering various options for how to structure the regional public health nurse's time. BME Strategies will present these options, as well as their budget implications, at an upcoming coalition meeting.

Regional Staff Updates

Nicole Roche provided an update on the various activities that the social work team accomplished over the past month. Some of these activities include developing partnerships with various organizations as well as a neighboring Shared Service Arrangement. The social work team is consistently receiving and responding to referrals that come through. The coalition also discussed the resource brochure and strategized around distributing it broadly.

2:54 PM Adjournment

The next coalition meeting will be on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 2pm.

Joan Taverna (Cohasset) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Susan Sarni (Hingham).

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

Motion carried: 2-0

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Meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM.

Documents used and referenced during the public meeting:

- South Shore Public Health Collaborative December 11, 2025, Meeting Presentation
- SSPHC/BU Hoarding Disorder Book Discussion Flyer

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.