

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, April 2, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Attendees:

Voting members -

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

Non-voting members -

Samantha Joyce, Regional Community Outreach Worker
Erica Souris, Scituate Social Worker
Michelle Leary, Cohasset Interim Town Manager
Nicole Balaschi, Cohasset Health Agent
Bethany Griles, OLRH Program Coordinator
Ally Gittens Dias, BME Strategies
Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies

2:02pm 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 March 25th meeting minutes.
Susan Sarni seconded. Roll Call vote: Joan Taverna (Cohasset), Susan Sarni (Hingham), Andrew Scheele (Scituate)

Coalition Updates

BME Strategies provided a reminder to the coalition about the requirements for SAPHE 2.0 Reporting and their deadlines, which entails completing the Workforce Standards Survey and the Performance Standards Survey by April 10th and April 30th, respectively.

Programming

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BME Strategies updated the coalition on progress taking place with the Hoarding Disorder Programming led by Suzanne Otte from the BU School of Social Work. The Hoarding Disorder Support Group began on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 with 6 participants and the support group for individuals experiencing hoarding disorder will begin on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 with 11 participants. BME Strategies also presented de-identified data on the geographic breakdown of which towns participants reside in.

The Coalition also discussed the community event that will be planned around hoarding disorder for this spring. Suzanne Otte is in the process of finalizing details including date, time, length and location of the event. BME Strategies presented information about a change taking place with the allocation of funds for the community event. The amount of funding needed for the community event will not change, but the amount allocated to Suzanne and the presenter for the community event will be adjusted to account for higher than expected fees.

Regional Staff Updates

BME Strategies presented data on the activities of regional staff from February. Samantha Joyce provided additional context regarding the number of referrals from different towns within the Coalition. Samantha Joyce also discussed the updated Adult Resources Brochure that she developed. Finally, the coalition brainstormed about different ways to utilize that space, if the coalition were to renew the lease.

FY27 Budget Discussion

BME Strategies presented a draft FY27 budget to demonstrate the types of staff and programming that could be funded in the next fiscal year. A vote was not taken on this budget during this meeting, but suggestions were made regarding how to update the budget.

Shared Services Coordinator Role

The Coalition discussed the various responsibilities of the Shared Services Coordinator role, the amount of time that should be dedicated to the role and the potential for Nicole Balaschi to step into this role.

Andrew Scheele motioned to confirm Nicole Balaschi as the next Shared Services Coordinator for the South Shore Public Health Collaborative beginning July 1, 2026. Joan Taverna seconded.

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Motion to Postpone Agenda Items

Several agenda items were not addressed during this meeting, including expanding Title V Services, hiring a Regional Public Health Nurse, and scheduling a potential Strategic Alignment Retreat.

Andrew Scheele (Scituate) motioned to carry over the remaining agenda items to the next coalition meeting. Seconded by Joan Taverna (Cohasset).

Motion carried: 3-0

12:00 PM Adjournment

The next coalition meeting will be on Thursday, April 16, 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 2:59 PM.

Documents used and referenced during the public meeting:

- South Shore Public Health Collaborative March 25th, 2026, Meeting Presentation
- South Shore Public Health Collaborative Proposed FY27 Budget
- South Shore Public Health Collaborative Adult Resources Brochure

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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 will be automatically deferred and added to a future agenda as a regular posted agenda item, 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.