

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

Monday, June 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Attendees:

Voting members:

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

Non-voting members:

Nicole Balaschi, Cohasset Health Agent
Ally Gittens Dias, BME Strategies

2:09pm 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)

Staffing Discussion

Nicole summarized to the coalition that as mentioned at the June 11th meeting, Regional Community Outreach Worker, Samantha Joyce, is proposing to cut hours to 15-18 hours beginning August 1, 2026 through February, 2027. This adjustment would also result in a shift in Samantha's role, resulting in less formal case management and more focus on building partnerships and sharing regional resources, along with continued library office hours. Drew motioned to adjust Samantha's hours from 35 hours per week to 15-18 hours per week beginning in August 2026. Susan Sarni seconded. Roll Call vote: Joan Taverna (Cohasset), Susan Sarni (Hingham), Andrew Scheele (Scituate)

Hiring Updates

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Nicole updated the Coalition that interviews for the RS are scheduled for June 22nd and interviews for the PHN role are in the process of being scheduled for some day next week. She confirmed that these dates work for the designated subcommittees. The Coalition identified that Drew would be the point contact for the RS for questions and onboarding where Joan would be the point contact for the PHN for questions and onboarding once these roles are filled. Susan noted that each individual Health Department would need to get these employees acquainted to each individual Town and how they work.

FY27 Budget Discussion

Nicole walked the Coalition through the draft FY27 budget that reflected Samantha Joyce going part-time. It was discussed that the Coalition was okay with a hold for a potential part-time social worker. Workstation will remain as a place for the two new regional staff and their supplies. Susan raised concern for the SSC/Health Agent role as it comes out to 1.5 FTE which is not realistic with a new Health Agent also needing to gain all the appropriate certifications while taking on another part-time role as SSC. Nicole to connect with Michelle on behalf of the Coalition for formal written clarification. A budget vote will not take place today and will be pushed to June 25th pending clarification.

Coalition Updates

Andrew mentioned complaint regarding a fly at Scituate Racquet Club and no Farmers Market in Scituate.

Susan mentioned peak season of 20 camps on top of all other inspections and needing a Public Health Nurse to assist with completing all inspections.

Nicole asked about tick education and Susan mentioned that she sees the PHN taking on a role to address the community health education gap in the communities.

2:50 PM Adjournment

The next coalition meeting will be on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 2pm.

Andrew Scheele (Scituate) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Susan Sarni(Hingham).

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

Motion carried: 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

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.