

Advisory Board

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



Advisory Board Alternate Members

Erica Souris, Scituate

South Shore Public Health Collaborative Meeting Minutes August 13, 2026 at 2pm

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
Nicole Balaschi, Shared Services Coordinator
Jacqueline Cregg, Regional Public Health Nurse

2:04pm Welcome & Roll Call

A. Scheele: Motion to call the meeting to order.; Second: S. Sarni; Vote: 2-0-0 (Susan Sarni-Yes, Andrew Scheele-Yes) — PASSED

Meeting Minutes

Nicole noted that the June 29th minutes had not been approved previously and asked if there were any edits, omissions, or concerns. Hearing none, the board moved to accept the minutes.

A. Scheele: Motion to accept the minutes of June 29, 2026; Second: S. Sarni; Vote: 2-0-0 (Susan Sarni-Yes, Andrew Scheele-Yes) — PASSED

Nicole then asked for any edits, omissions, or concerns regarding the July 9th minutes. Hearing none, the board moved to approve them.

A. Scheele: Motion to approve the July 9, 2026 minutes.; Second: S. Sarni; Vote: 2-0-0 (Susan Sarni-Yes, Andrew Scheele-Yes) — PASSED

Regional Hiring Update

Nicole introduced Jacqueline Cregg as the new Regional Public Health Nurse. Ms. Cregg expressed her excitement to join the team. Andrew Scheele welcomed her, stating that his main expectation for Scituate is that she run programs such as blood pressure clinics and tick prevention education, and that she coordinate with Teresa and Social Worker Erica Souris. Nicole provided an update on the Regional Sanitarian position, noting that an interview was held that morning with a candidate who has three years of experience in

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food inspections. The hiring committee plans to offer him the position with an anticipated start date around September 14th. Sam announced her departure on September 4th, having accepted a new position with the South Shore 5 Public Health Alliance. Susan Sarni asked Sam to email her any Hingham files. Ms. Balaschi stated she and Sam will write a Standard Operating Procedure for the position and that she will email the group to discuss how to utilize the \$39,000 budget line item for that role going forward.

Supplies

Nicole explained that the grant allows up to \$250 annually for regional employees for logo apparel or gear, and a one-time \$250 allotment for municipal staff supporting the grant. Andrew and Joan both declined the offer for logo apparel. Nicole clarified this specific allotment is strictly for South Shore Public Health Collaborative logo apparel. Nicole mentioned ordering business cards and business card pens with the coalition logo, which was supported. Nicole confirmed that nursing supplies used by Jacqueline to run regional programs are covered but she would look into whether giveaway materials are allowable. Nicole asked if the board wanted to order brochures for FY27, as they had voted to do so in FY26 but did not place the order. Board agreed to the expenditure. Nicole asked about tick awareness signs, which Mr. Scheele confirmed should be ordered. Nicole recalled the previous distribution was about 20 for Scituate, 10 for Cohasset, and 5 for Hingham, totaling 35 signs, and stated she would place the order.

Community Updates

Sam reported that she met with Emily from Safe Harbor and Detective Julie Hall from the Cohasset Police Department regarding a community Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training. They proposed hosting a regional training in January, capped at 20 to 25 attendees, with confirming whether the grant could cover the \$15 cost of the manuals. This was supported by the Board. Nicole noted that the grant previously paid for the RAD equipment with the intention of expanding the program. Sam agreed to start the planning process. Sam also provided a brief update on Cohasset social services, noting ongoing needs related to housing and financial insecurity.

Andrew reported that Scituate held a brief Board of Health meeting where they discussed Kratom, deciding to take a "wait and see" approach with the State guidance. Susan agreed, noting local data reports found no deaths or arrests related to Kratom in Hingham. Susan also reported that Hingham has not had luck filling its 25-hour opiate/5-hour social worker position. Erica discussed her workload in Scituate, noting she is handling a massive caseload of seniors and seeing a surge in school-aged children with suicidal ideation. Nicole suggested creating organizational contact charts for the three towns to map out who handles what demographics and where the gaps are, which Susan and Erica supported to do for Hingham and Scituate, respectively.

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Nicole presented a Google Calendar she created for the coalition to track regional events and clinics that will be emailed out monthly. Nicole also presented a Google Form designed for the Regional PHN to log daily activities, towns visited, and tasks completed to pull data for grant reporting. Nicole asked if the members received the email regarding the fall 2026 Tier 2 training offerings for food and housing from the Office of Local and Regional Public Health. Nicole will forward to the Board.

2:59 PM Adjournment

The next coalition meeting will be on September 10, 2026 at 2pm.

A. Scheele: Motion to adjourn.; Second: J. Taverna; Vote: 3-0-0 (Joan Taverna Yes, Susan Sarni-Yes, Andrew Scheele-Yes) — PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM

Documents used and referenced during the public meeting:

- South Shore Public Health Collaborative August 13, 2026 Meeting Presentation
- FY27 Budget
- SSPHC Google Calendar

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.