

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 September 10, 2026 at 3pm

Attendees:

Voting members:

Susan Sarni, Hingham
Joan Taverna, Cohasset

Non-voting members:

Erica Souris, Scituate Social Worker
Nicole Balaschi, Shared Services Coordinator
Jacqueline Cregg, Regional Public Health Nurse

3:03pm Welcome & Roll Call

Joan Taverna: Motion to call the meeting to order; Second: Susan Sarni; Vote: 2-0-0 — PASSED

Pause For Pam

Nicole acknowledged the one-year anniversary of the passing of Pam Fahey, Cohasset's former health director. Nicole highlighted Fahey's role in initiating the Public Health Excellence grant and her compassion and leadership in addressing community health needs.

Meeting Minutes

Nicole asked if there were any edits, omissions, or concerns regarding the August 13th minutes. Hearing none, the board moved to accept the minutes.

J. Taverna: Motion to approve the August 13th meeting minutes; Second: S. Sarni; Vote: 2-0-0 — PASSED

Tobacco MOU Vote

Nicole introduced a MOU from Kathleen Mahoney for tobacco compliance in Cohasset and Scituate. Nicole suggested moving the vote to the September 17 advisory board meeting, for all members to vote.

J. Taverna: Motion to move the MOU vote to the September 17th advisory board meeting; Second: S. Sarni; Vote: 2-0-0 — PASSED

Regional Hiring Update

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Nicole announced that Jose was offered the Regional Registered Sanitarian position and will start on September 21, focusing on food and housing inspections. Sarni requested that he focus heavily on food inspections for Hingham, and Nicole asked for Susan to follow up with Robin's availability that first Monday. Nicole provided an update on the Community Health Worker position, noting interviews are scheduled for September 14, which Erica Souris offered to attend. Regional Public Health Nurse Jacqueline Cregg reviewed her monthly reporting format and discussed her efforts to coordinate CPR training, noting she will attend an instructor class on November 2. The group also discussed hosting regional flu clinics.

Performance Standard Survey Results

Nicole presented aggregated data from the performance standard surveys submitted to the State in March. The results identified gaps in capacity and resources, showing towns met 75 percent of general environmental health standards, 59 percent of waste management standards, and 65 percent of disease control and prevention standards. Nicole explained the data justifies both the workplan choices and the recent hiring and is further used to identify the current SSA's capacity, resources, and areas of opportunity to inform planning. Nicole noted that she is willing to present at anytime to any municipal Board when a municipality sees fit.

Community Updates

Nicole noted the upcoming MHOA conference in October. Susan Sarni mentioned Hingham is attending an environmental health conference in Connecticut, highlighted Hingham's "Walk with a Nurse" event on September 16, and announced Hingham hired a new social worker. Jackie Cregg discussed her attendance at a DPH advisory committee meeting regarding PANS and PANDAS and requested funding to attend a symposium in New Hampshire in November. Sarni suggested postponing the funding request to review the training budget. Nicole mentioned that tick removal kits are approved grant expenses that could be included in a future program. The group discussed accessing grant-purchased training equipment currently held by the Police departments. Joan Taverna offered the use of her CPR mannequins for Jackie Cregg's future training sessions.

4:05 PM Adjournment

The next Advisory Board Meeting will be on September 17, 2026 at 2pm.

The next coalition meeting will be on October 8, 2026 at 2pm.

J. Taverna: Motion to adjourn the meeting; Second: S. Sarni; Vote: 2-0-0 — PASSED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:05 PM.

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Documents used and referenced during the public meeting:

- South Shore Public Health Collaborative September 10, 2026 Meeting Presentation
- Regional Public Health Nurse Monthly Snapshot
- Performance Standards Survey Results Presentation

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.