



# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## May 15th, 2024 Meeting Minutes



<b>Time:</b> 3-4 PM
<b><u>Meeting Location</u></b> Zoom: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82860069557">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82860069557</a>

### **Attendance Roll Call**

#### Voting members present:

Barbara Reardon, Canton

Kylee Foley, Dedham

Caroline Kinsella, Milton

Stacey Lane, Norwood

Melissa Ranieri, Walpole

#### Non-voting members present:

Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies

Kerry Mackay, Regional Public Health Associate

Anne Grossman, Milton

#### Voting members absent

Lenny Izzo, Wellesley

Jared Orsini, Westwood

### **I. Opening**

The special meeting of the NC-8 Local Public Health Coalition was called to order by Cynthia Baker at 3:03 PM on May 15th, 2024.

Kylee Foley made a motion to approve the April opioid abatement funding meeting minutes. Melissa Ranieri seconded the motion.

#### **Vote:**

Canton: Y



# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## May 15th, 2024 Meeting Minutes



Dedham: Y

Milton: abstained

Norwood: Y

Walpole: Y

Wellesley: not present

Westwood: not present

Motion passed.

### **II. Education and Prevention Strategies for Schools**

The Regional Public Health Specialist presented a range of school-based initiatives to educate younger community members. The coalition discussed various prevention curriculums; educational campaigns featuring educators, folks in recovery and prevention specialists; community-based workshops; initiatives like Project Here (a suite of resources for educators in MA to teach substance use prevention concepts to middle school students) and Ad Care (a substance use treatment organization that offers presentations and trainings to a variety of audiences); school resource officers; Safe Stations; enhanced care navigation programs in schools consisting of social workers or mental health counselors, and options for Narcan training in schools. The Regional Public Health Specialist will follow up with more information on different curriculum packages and additional literature on Safe Stations.

### **III. Review: Regional Training Opportunities**

The coalition discussed the previously presented proposal from HRiA and walked through the Travel line item justification. BME asked whether communities had been able to check in with their staff following the last meeting to inventory team members who would be certified to offer community training. The group discussed leveraging the Norfolk County DA's office to provide free Narcan administration training to municipal staff. BME posed the question of following back up with HRiA to determine a cost for one series of

Train-the-Trainer for NC-8 municipalities to allow the coalition to sustainably offer community Narcan training in-house. The coalition expressed interest, and BME will request

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## May 15th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

a new standalone proposal from HRiA to provide Train-the-Trainer certification to one staff member from each community (7 total).

#### IV. **Riverside Community Care: Next Steps**

BME reshared the options for collaboration with Riverside Community Care that were covered in the last meeting: 1) Partner with RCC to add recovery coaches in NC-8 police departments for co-response with clinicians 2) Cover recovery coaching services for privately insured NC-8 residents 3) Implementing the DPH program FIRST Steps Together throughout NC-8. The coalition spent additional time reviewing a sample scope of work for a co-response clinician (supplied by Dedham) to better understand the commitment required by the town and the police department for similar arrangements. Dedham also shared that their clinician position is currently vacant. Norwood shared that their town police chief had expressed enthusiasm for the prospect of contracting regional recovery coaches to support substance use and mental health crisis response. Other communities will reach out to their police departments to discuss the prospect of contracting a shared recovery coach to support crisis response and case follow-up for residents.

The coalition also discussed coordinating a group site visit at the RCC Norwood Community Behavioral Health Center. BME will share further updates with the group pending more information from RCC.

#### V. **Other Opportunities**

BME briefly presented additional strategies from other municipalities and regional collectives, including: 1) creating a grant program for local organizations to apply for funding and propose programming to support harm reduction, prevention and education; 2) designing a landing page for residents to share resources about opioid abatement funding, solicit input, and report out on community progress; 3) formation of municipal opioid working groups comprising town employees, community members with lived experience, and other stakeholders.

The coalition reviewed strategies to engage community members' input on expenditure of abatement funding. Dedham spoke about their experience drafting and sharing a survey



# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## May 15th, 2024 Meeting Minutes



across multiple media platforms, which garnered decent response from the community with 50 respondents. The Regional Public Health Associate offered to develop a survey template for other NC-8 communities to use to engage residents in decision-making.

BME asked the group what other ideas or questions each municipality's town management or administration has shared to date about utilization of the funds. The group shared mixed reviews of town support and urgency for the initiative.

BME shared recent updates to the PHE FY25 Work Plan process that explicitly allows coalitions to leverage pooling opioid abatement funds as an elective activity, and briefly discussed other PHE groups that have started to officially collaborate to share funding. The coalition will need to consider how they would like to continue collaborating moving forward, whether in an official capacity or an informal, resource-sharing partnership.

### **VI. Adjournment**

Melissa Ranieri motioned to adjourn the meeting. Stacey Lane seconded the motion.

#### **Vote:**

Canton: not present (left early)

Dedham: Y

Milton: Y

Norwood: Y

Walpole: Y

Wellesley: not present

Westwood: not present

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 PM.

### **Documents and other exhibits used by the public body during the meeting:**

May Opioid Settlement Funding Discussion Presentation

# Opioid Abatement Funding

May 2024



# Agenda

- I. Opening
- II. Education and Prevention Strategies for Schools
- III. Review: Regional Training Opportunities
- IV. Riverside Community Care: Next Steps
- V. Other Opportunities
- VI. Adjournment

**Approval of previous meeting minutes**

# Education & Prevention Strategies for Schools

- Prevention curriculum (education, prevention, resources, & stress management workshops)
- Educational campaign (local TV, videos in schools, in person speaker who is in recovery or a prevention specialist, & social media to provide education and stories)
- Community based events/workshops held at local schools
- 'Project Here', 'Ad Care' and 'Learn to Cope'
- School resource officer
- 'Safe Station' - Removes fear / a potential barrier
- Care/Help Navigation Programs: Social worker? Mental health/counseling services
- Fentanyl test strips/Narcan

# Review: Regional Training Opportunities

## Recap of Initial HRiA Proposal

- Rotating series of 5 Opioid Overdose Rescue trainings (2 hours each)
- Travel detail: encompasses prep, session time and training delivery, debriefing & travel / trainer mileage, per-diem meal costs & hotel stays
- Train the Trainers - Opioid Overdose Rescue and Naloxone Administration (\$6-7k on top of previous proposal)

Proposed regroup - do we have the skills available in house to provide regional Narcan trainings?

# Riverside Community Care: Next Steps

## **Areas of Opportunity**

*in order of complexity and roughly estimated cost:*

- 1. Increase co-location of recovery coaches in NC-8 police departments**
- 2. Offer recovery coaching for privately insured residents throughout NC-8**
- 3. Implement FIRST Steps Together through RCC**

# Collaboration with Riverside Community Care

1. **Increase co-location of clinicians & recovery coaches in NC-8 police departments**
  - Recovery coaches integrate lived experience with case management and care coordination, mental health peer services & support, jail diversion support
  - Flexible approach based on need - ex., 2 FTE recovery coaches to cover NC-8
    - Cost out = personnel costs (average salary plus fringe, mile & admin) directly contracted with and paid through police department(s)

# Collaboration with Riverside Community Care

1. **Increase co-location of clinicians & recovery coaches in NC-8 police departments**
  - Recovery coaches typically work in tandem with clinicians
    - Canton, Dedham, Norwood, and Walpole currently have co-response clinicians integrated with local police departments
  - Co-response clinicians can be funded in a multi-year grant through the Department of Mental Health for other communities ([2022 report summary](#))

# Collaboration with Riverside Community Care

## **Typical Law Enforcement Clinical Support (LECS) Agreement Structure (provided by Dedham):**

- Riverside recruits, hires, trains and supervises the clinician (classified as a Riverside employee)
- SOW includes intervention, triage, counseling, assessment, referral and education to the community as requested by PD; meeting with family members of struggling minors at agreed-upon locations; assistance with referrals for mental health treatment and support services; response with law enforcement to calls requiring mental health support; outreach with local community members; crisis evaluation and assistance for community members seeking substance abuse treatment
- PD provides orientation, space within the station for meetings, keeps the clinician informed and coordinates with the Town to share services, maintains communication with Riverside, participates in planning meetings and Annual Review

# Collaboration with Riverside Community Care

2. Offer recovery coaching for privately insured residents throughout NC-8
  - Recovery coaching is covered by MassHealth, but very often **not** covered by traditional insurance providers (ex., BCBS, Harvard Pilgrim)
    - Higher rates of privately insured residents in NC-8 region
  - Typical life cycle for recovery coaching is ~6 months
    - Cost out = anticipated or allocated # of service recipients (throughout the coalition) x 180 days x cost per day for a given fiscal year

# Collaboration with Riverside Community Care

## 3. Implement FIRST Steps Together

- Biggest lift in terms of start-up cost and infrastructure
  - DPH offers TA and training to program partners
- FIRST Steps Together currently offered through Jewish Family & Children's Service, and Bay State Community Service (covers Milton, Dedham, Westwood & Wellesley)
  - No foreseeable issues with duplication of services
  - Ability to customize

**Other considerations:** Would communities outside of NC-8 access this service?

# Riverside Community Care: Next Steps

## Site Visit at Norwood Community Behavioral Health Center

- Scheduling options and details pending -
  - Ideal date ranges for this group?
  - Suggestion: after June 15th (FY25 PHE work plan and budget submission deadline)

# Other Opportunities

- **Allocate funding towards grant opportunities for local community organizations to address opioid abatement in individual municipalities or the region at large**
  - Example: [Falmouth](#)
- **Develop central community portal to share resources, solicit input, report annual / regular progress**
  - Example: [Weymouth](#), [Foxborough](#)
- **Convene municipal opioid working group that incorporates community members with lived experience**
  - Example: [Lynn](#)

# Discussion



**How are communities approaching solicitation of input from people with lived experience from their community in their planning? Have any other communities done this?**



**Any other feedback from your town or administration regarding use of opioid abatement funds?**



**What is your vision for this collaboration? Is there any interest in officially pooling (some) opioid funds to create regional initiatives?**

# Resources

- **MA guidance:**

*[www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-for-municipalities-utilizing-opioid-settlement-abatement-payments](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-for-municipalities-utilizing-opioid-settlement-abatement-payments)*

- **AG's FAQ:** *[www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-ags-statewide-opioid-settlements](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-ags-statewide-opioid-settlements)*

- **Guidance-Using funds:**

*[www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-for-municipalities-utilizing-opioid-settlement-abatement-payments](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-for-municipalities-utilizing-opioid-settlement-abatement-payments)*

- **MA State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements:**

*[www.mass.gov/doc/march-4-2022-ma-subdivision-agreement/download](http://www.mass.gov/doc/march-4-2022-ma-subdivision-agreement/download)*

- **MA Abatement Terms Document:** *[www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download](http://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download)*

- **Draft report form:** *[www.mass.gov/doc/ma-opioid-settlement-municipal-report-9-21-2022/download](http://www.mass.gov/doc/ma-opioid-settlement-municipal-report-9-21-2022/download)*

- **Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative:** *[shieldtraining.org/](http://shieldtraining.org/) or <https://paarius.org/>*