



# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## March 26, 2026



## Community Health Assessment Biweekly Meeting Minutes

<b>Time:</b> 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
<b>Virtual Meeting</b> <a href="https://hria.zoom.us/j/83571797838">https://hria.zoom.us/j/83571797838</a>

### **Attendees:**

#### **Health Resources in Action:**

Hannah Carliner  
Allyson Auerbach  
Julia Taylor  
Priyokti Rana  
Mithila Farin

#### **NC-8 Representatives:**

Meg Goldstein, Canton Health Director  
Sarah Lavari, NC-8 Regional Epidemiologist  
Stacey Lane, Norwood Health Director  
Jenna Conroy, Canton Health Inspector

#### **BME Strategies:**

Aine Studdert-Kennedy  
Beth Haefner

### **I. General Project Updates**

- a. HRiA provided general updates on the overall project timeline and status of key pieces, including survey launch and outreach, secondary data collection, and scheduling of focus groups and key informant interviews for qualitative data collection.
- b. The Coalition and HRiA discussed project timeline concerns, noting that the current schedule for data collection feels condensed. To ensure the assessment captures robust and high-quality data, the group is considering extending the survey period. This extension would provide more time for outreach to ensure sufficient survey response rates.

### **II. Qualitative Data Updates and Requests**

- a. HRiA is making significant progress on the qualitative data collection phase, with 8 out of 10 stakeholder interviews already scheduled to begin next week. Efforts are ongoing to finalize the remaining interview slots, including follow-up with recommended contacts.
- b. The organization of community focus groups is also underway. The group discussed hosting requirements for the Rockland Recovery Center focus group, and Canton has offered to host



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this session at the Health Department, noting that after-hours scheduling is available to accommodate participants.

#### III. Community Health Survey Updates and Requests

- a. The survey is currently being piloted and refined by HRiA. Once finalized, recruitment materials and the survey will be translated into Spanish and Portuguese. HRiA will notify the Coalition as soon as the survey is live to begin official recruitment.
- b. The group emphasized the need for a highly active recruitment phase to meet participation goals across all five towns. Outreach will include a mix of online and in-person efforts, utilizing local news sources, newsletters, and social media. The group identified high-traffic locations such as grocery stores, libraries, and blood pressure clinics for flyer distribution.
- c. Health Directors also plan to leverage cross-departmental relationships, including recreation departments, schools, and senior centers. The Regional Epidemiologist suggested partnering with police and fire departments to utilize their strong community rapport and social media presence for survey promotion.
- d. To reach diverse populations, the group will focus on distributing translated materials through language clubs and community-based organizations. The Regional Epidemiologist and local health staff will support on-the-ground collection at community events and in-person locations whenever possible.

#### IV. Secondary Data Updates and Requests

- a. HRiA and the Coalition reviewed available secondary data sources, noting that while state-level reporting on maternal health is limited, the assessment will utilize a combination of quantitative and qualitative findings to provide a complete picture.
- b. The Regional Epidemiologist has also coordinated with the state vital records and statistics registry to obtain birth and death data.
- c. At the request of the Coalition, the assessment will attempt to track where residents are traveling for birth care to determine the impact of the 2020 Norwood Hospital closure and other regional shifts in acute care.
- d. The team is also gathering Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data from participating towns, including existing datasets from Norwood and Canton, to examine adolescent health trends.

#### V. Miscellaneous, Action Items, and Next Steps

- a. Final feedback on the focus group and key informant interview guides, as well as the survey recruitment materials, is due to HRiA by 2:00 PM today.
- b. HRiA will connect with Norwood to align on project timeline adjustments and final deliverables.



# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## March 26, 2026



# Community Health Assessment Biweekly Meeting Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 12:00PM.

**Materials Referenced:**

Meeting Presentation

Key Informant Interview Guide Draft

Focus Group Guide Draft

Survey Recruitment Flyer

Survey Recruitment Language Draft

Survey Draft