



# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## May 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes



<b>Time:</b> 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
<b>Virtual Meeting</b> <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86277008938">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86277008938</a>

### **Attendance Roll Call**

#### Voting members present:

Meg Goldstein, Canton  
Sam Menard, Dedham  
Stacey Lane, Norwood  
Melissa Ranieri, Walpole  
Jhana Wallace, Wellesley  
Caroline Kinsella, Milton (joined late)

#### Voting members absent:

Jared Orsini, Westwood  
Lenny Izzo, Wellesley

#### Non-voting members present:

Áine Studdert-Kennedy, BME Strategies  
Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies  
Beth Haefner, BME Strategies  
Jackson Lieb, BME Strategies  
Kevin Myers, Westwood  
Sarah Lavari, Regional Epidemiologist  
Katie Paciorkowski, Dedham  
Trish Fisher, Walpole  
Jenna Conroy, Canton

Melissa Ranieri motioned to start the meeting. Sam Menard seconded the motion.

Canton: Y  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: not present  
Norwood: Y  
Walpole: Y  
Wellesley: Y  
Westwood: abstained



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The regular meeting of the Norfolk County-8 (NC-8) Local Public Health Coalition was called to order at 11:06 AM on May 4, 2026.

### I. Welcome

BME provided an overview of the agenda to start the meeting.

Melissa Ranieri made a motion to approve the April 2026 Coalition Meeting minutes and April 2026 Strategic Planning Meeting minutes. Sam Menard seconded the motion.

Canton: Y  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: not present  
Norwood: Y  
Walpole: Y  
Wellesley: Y  
Westwood: abstained

Minutes were approved.

Stacey Lane made a motion to approve the Community Health Assessment (CHA) Kickoff Meeting minutes, March 12 CHA Meeting minutes, and March 26 CHA Meeting minutes. Sam Menard seconded the motion.

Canton: Y  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: abstained  
Norwood: Y  
Walpole: Y  
Wellesley: abstained  
Westwood: abstained

Minutes were approved.

### II. Announcements and Reminders

#### a. NC-8 Monthly Pre-Read Tool

Key announcements and project updates were shared in advance via a one-page pre-read. BME provided a brief overview of the updates shared in the pre-read.

### III. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Updates



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- a. The Walpole Shelter Exercise is scheduled for May 16, with a final planning meeting held today to finalize logistics. In preparation, Jackson will host volunteer briefings this Wednesday and next week for the 25+ volunteers participating in coordination with the Walpole Emergency Management Director. An After Action Report (AAR) is expected in June to review findings and share them with the group.
- b. The group also voted to approve a new two-tier training system designed to better track volunteer certifications and maintain consistency with Region 4AB standards. While the framework is now approved, the Advisory Group will meet in June to determine the rollout strategy and conduct a final vote on implementation.
- c. Looking ahead, deployments and training sessions will continue through the summer months. The group is also planning to allocate funds for another major training day in September to sustain ongoing volunteer readiness.

#### **IV. Riverside Community Care Quarter 3 Report Discussion**

- a. The coalition reviewed the Riverside Community Care quarterly report, noting steady program growth in both enrollment and successful graduations. The report highlighted the expansion of support groups into Canton and the development of virtual options, alongside ongoing outreach efforts involving social media and local health and safety partners.
- b. During the discussion, members shared feedback on community engagement strategies. While some towns reported challenges with traditional advertising, others found success through monthly library sessions and referrals from police department social workers. The group identified primary care providers as a key area for future outreach to ensure residents are connected directly to services. Given the high satisfaction with the program's impact, there was a unanimous consensus to renew the contract with Riverside in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), with members noting that it remains an ideal use of opioid abatement funds.

Stacey Lane made a motion to renew the contract with Riverside Community Care in FY27.  
Melissa Ranieri seconded the motion.

Canton: Y  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: Y  
Norwood: Y  
Walpole: Y  
Wellesley: Y  
Westwood: abstained



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### V. Regional Staff Updates

- a. Regional Public Health Nurse Hiring Update & Discussion
  - i. The group discussed the search for a Regional Public Health Nurse, noting ongoing challenges filling the role. It was observed that the current job description, which requires a blend of specialized nursing and regional project design, has proven difficult to fill in a competitive market.
  - ii. Members discussed and evaluated various options, including pivoting to a social worker role or shifting to a part-time model. There was a consensus that maintaining a nursing focus is essential, but reducing the position to 15 hours (2 days) per week would likely attract more candidates and better align with the remaining grant timeline. Members also explored the possibility of splitting the workload between two part-time roles to ensure coverage across different health priorities, such as maternal and child health and infectious disease support.

Sam Menard led a motion to move forward with the recruitment of two part time nurses. Melissa Ranieri seconded the motion.

Canton: Y  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: Y  
Norwood: Y  
Walpole: Y  
Wellesley: Y  
Westwood: abstained

Sam Menard led a motion to delegate hiring decision authority to the hiring subcommittee. Meg Goldstein seconded the motion.

Canton: Y  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: Y  
Norwood: Y  
Walpole: Y  
Wellesley: Y  
Westwood: abstained

- b. Regional Epidemiologist Report Out
  - i. Sarah Lavari provided an update on regional health trends, noting that while



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flu and COVID-19 cases remain high, tick-borne illnesses are rising significantly with the warmer weather. Emergency department visits for tick bites have tripled compared to previous years, and Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) has officially become a reportable condition. To assist member towns, Sarah is compiling a shared library of educational materials and coordinating with Norfolk County Mosquito Control to integrate data regarding West Nile Virus and EEE.

- ii. The coalition also discussed a proposal for new data dashboards to be integrated into town websites. Members expressed strong interest in these tools for tracking local issues, such as rodent complaints in Dedham and automated state health data in Milton. A significant portion of the conversation focused on ensuring these new digital resources and existing infographics meet ADA compliance standards by the 2027 deadline. Moving forward, the group will look into specialized training and regional communication resources to ensure all public-facing materials are accessible to screen readers.

### VI. Public Health Excellence Budget & Expenditure Review

- a. The coalition conducted a budget review to ensure spending targets for the current grant cycle are met. Members discussed increasing allocations for inspectional support services to meet rising seasonal demands, such as summer camp inspections and temporary events across the member towns. Additional spending options under consideration include the purchase of shelter cots, pending approval, and expanded translation services.

Sam Menard made a motion to request the full Term 3 disbursement from the Department of Public Health (DPH), contingent upon the approval of shelter cots as an allowable expense; if not approved, the request will be adjusted to 96% of the total contract amount. Melissa Ranieri seconded the motion.

Canton: absent  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: Y  
Norwood: Y  
Walpole: Y  
Wellesley: Y  
Westwood: abstained

### VII. Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC) Discussion



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- a. BME provided a brief reminder regarding the Substance Use Abatement collaboration opportunity and the previously distributed informational one-pager. Due to time constraints, the group was unable to hold a full discussion and moved the item to the June meeting agenda for further consideration.

### VII. Community Updates

- a. There were no updates shared during the community updates portion of the meeting.

### IX. Meeting Closure

The next NC-8 Coalition meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2026, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Stacey Lane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meg Goldstein seconded the motion.

Canton: Y  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: Y  
Norwood: Y  
Walpole: Y  
Wellesley: Y  
Westwood: abstain

The meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.

### **Documents used and referenced during the meeting:**

NC-8 May 2026 Meeting Presentation  
NC-8 May 2026 Monthly Pre-Read  
Riverside Community Care Quarterly Report  
NC-8 Regional Opioid Abatement Coordination One-Pager  
NC-8 FY26 Draft Budget Modification  
Regional Communications Project After Action Report / Improvement Plan  
NC-8 Final Quarterly Newsletter (January - March 2026)