



Norfolk County-8 Coalition

June 9, 2026



Community Health Assessment Biweekly Meeting Minutes

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Virtual Meeting https://hria.zoom.us/j/85611857646?pwd=8aOfVmPfeLNbpjVsVE6SKnPL7m4JnT.1

Attendees:

Health Resources in Action:

Hannah Carliner
Priyokti Rana
Mithila Farin
Victoria Tran
Allyson Auerbach
Julia Taylor

NC-8 Representatives:

Samantha Menard, Dedham Health Director
Stacey Lane, Norwood Health Director
Jenna Conroy, Canton Health Inspector
Meg Goldstein, Canton Health Director
Melissa Ranieri, Walpole Health Director
Trish Fisher, Walpole Public Health Nurse
Jared Orsini, Westwood Health Director
Kevin Myers, Westwood Public Health Nurse

BME Strategies:

Aine Studdert-Kennedy

Aine Studdert-Kennedy opened the meeting with a motion to approve the April 9, April 30, May 12, and May 26 Community Health Assessment (CHA) Biweekly Meeting minutes.

Melissa Ranieri led the motion to approve the four sets of minutes. Meg Goldstein seconded the motion.

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

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A. General Project Updates

HRiA did not share any general project updates.

B. Qualitative Data Updates and Requests

HRiA did not share new qualitative data updates.

C. Community Health Survey Updates and Requests

HRiA shared preliminary survey findings based on 474 total responses received to date. HRiA noted that data will be stratified based on where respondents live or work within the community, as defined by each respondent. Top health concerns identified across communities included mental health issues; alcohol and drug use (including marijuana, heroin, and opioids); concerns related to older adults, such as dementia/Alzheimer's and falls; chronic or long-term diseases, including heart disease and stroke; and environmental health concerns such as asthma and Lyme disease. In terms of social supports, respondents most frequently identified needs around safe and affordable housing, affordable childcare, access to social workers to help navigate services, low-cost healthy food options, effective town services, and environmental improvements.

HRiA also reviewed respondent feedback on the impact of the Norwood Hospital closure, with increased travel time to access emergency care cited most frequently, followed by increased stress or worry about accessing care; some respondents reported only minor inconvenience or no impact. The group also discussed the top types of medical care needed within each community, including emergency/hospital care, preventative care, and heart health/cardiovascular care, with children's health emerging as a top need specifically in Walpole.

D. Secondary Data Updates and Requests

HRiA did not provide new updates related to secondary data.

E. CHA Report Draft Planning

HRiA reviewed the upcoming timeline for the CHA report. The first draft will be shared on June 30th, with feedback from Advisory Committee members due back by July 16th. Feedback will be submitted individually by Health Directors to HRiA. HRiA will send each member a Word document, and members are asked to respond using Word's comment feature or a direct email, rather than track changes. On July 20th at 3pm, an open session will be held to discuss the draft; HRiA will have already reviewed all submitted feedback in advance and will bring questions to the group at that time.



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F. Miscellaneous, Action Items, and Next Steps

HRiA presented a summary of what has been heard so far regarding use of the CHA results, including support for bringing back Norwood Hospital, insight on using Opioid Abatement Funds, developing and supporting programming around mental health, substance use, and social services, and identifying gaps or new health issues for towns to address and seek funding for.

The group aligned on next steps and final timelines for the remainder of the project.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 PM.

Materials Referenced:

Meeting Presentation