



# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## June 15, 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:

Sam Menard, Dedham  
Stacey Lane, Norwood  
Melissa Ranieri, Walpole  
Jared Orsini, Westwood (joined late)  
Karolyn Ho, Milton (second)

#### Non-voting members present:

Aine Studdert-Kennedy, BME Strategies  
Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies  
Beth Haefner, BME Strategies  
Caroline Hamilton, BME Strategies  
Kevin Myers, Westwood  
Sarah Lavari, Regional Epidemiologist  
Trish Fisher, Walpole  
Katie Paciorkowski, Dedham  
Abbie Atkins, Norwood

#### Voting members absent:

Lenny Izzo, Wellesley  
Caroline Kinsella, Milton  
Meg Goldstein, Canton

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

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



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Westwood: Y

The regular meeting of the Norfolk County-8 (NC-8) Local Public Health Coalition was called to order at 11:04 AM on June 15, 2026.

### I. Welcome

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

Melissa Ranieri made a motion to approve the April 2026 Regional Communications Tabletop Exercise minutes and May 2026 Coalition Meeting minutes. Stacey Lane seconded the motion.

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

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. Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC) Discussion

- a. Caroline Hamilton, Substance Use Abatement (SUA) Practice Lead at BME Strategies, presented an overview of allowable uses for opioid settlement funds and shared examples of prevention, harm reduction, recovery, and treatment initiatives currently underway in other Massachusetts communities. She then opened the floor for members to discuss their communities' most pressing needs and opportunities for regional collaboration.
- b. Jared Orsini noted that Westwood is awaiting a decision on a Drug-Free Communities grant application and expressed interest in learning how other communities have approached early implementation if the funding is awarded. Caroline offered to follow up directly on this.



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- c. Stacey Lane identified outreach and identification of residents needing rehabilitation and sober housing support as a key challenge, and proposed exploring a shared regional coordinator role to support outreach, education, and connections to care. She also asked how such a role could be structured for towns not interested in pooling funds directly.
- d. Melissa Ranieri shared that Walpole's priority is funding projects with high impact and long-term sustainability, and noted openness to a shared coordinator model similar to the coalition's existing recovery coaching arrangement.
- e. Caroline explained that a shared coordinator could be structured through a contractor or outside vendor, allowing towns to contract individually rather than pooling funds through a single host community, and noted the role could complement the existing Recovery Coach position supported through the coalition's Riverside Community Care contract.
- f. The group agreed to schedule a follow-up conversation with Caroline to further define community needs and scope out a potential shared coordinator role.

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

- a. Updates on the MRC program were shared in the pre-read materials sent to coalition members ahead of the meeting.

#### V. Regional Staff Updates

- a. Regional Public Health Nurse Hiring Update
  - i. BME Strategies provided an update on the Regional Public Health Nurse hiring process, including a reminder of last month's decision to shift from one full-time role to two part-time roles due to hiring challenges. The group was informed that a qualified candidate had been interviewed and was being recommended by the hiring subcommittee for the full-time position, pending completion of reference checks.
  - ii. Jared Orsini made a motion to approve extending a full-time offer to the recommended candidate, Allison Brum, contingent on completion of the final reference check. Melissa Ranieri seconded the motion.

Canton: not present

Dedham: Y

Milton: Y

Norwood: Y

Walpole: Y

Wellesley: not present

Westwood: Y



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- b. Regional Epidemiologist Report Out
  - i. Sarah Lavari, Regional Epidemiologist, reported on confirmed and probable communicable disease cases in the region for the month of May, highlighting 10 cases of Novel Coronavirus and eight cases of Lyme Disease. Data were noted as preliminary as of June 10 and subject to change.
  - ii. She also provided an update on the ongoing 2026 World Cup. The Department of Public Health (DPH) has released communications regarding Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) investigations, confirming that Local Boards of Health (LBOH) will be asked to investigate tourists who become ill and evaluate whether those cases are "2026 World Cup associated." To help alleviate the resulting workload on local health departments, the Regional Epidemiologist is available to assist LBOH with these investigations throughout the tournament schedule.

### VI. Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Strategic Plan Adoption

- a. BME Strategies provided a brief overview of the final FY26 Strategic Plan, which was also shared ahead of the meeting. The group agreed to formally adopt the plan for implementation.
- b. Melissa Ranieri led a motion to adopt the FY26 Strategic Plan. Stacey Lane seconded the motion.

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

### VII. Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Contract(s) Review & Approval

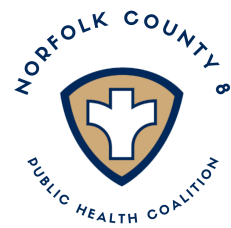
- a. BME Strategies provided an overview of FY27 contract updates for Riverside Community Care, MoJin Solutions, and LandTech Consultants.
- b. Melissa Ranieri led a motion to approve the FY27 contract with Riverside Community Care. Stacey Lane seconded the motion.

Canton: not present  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: Y



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Norwood: Y  
Walpole: Y  
Wellesley: not present  
Westwood: Y

- c. Melissa Ranieri led a motion to approve the FY27 inspectional support contracts with Mojin Solutions and Landtech Consultants. Sam Menard seconded the motion.

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

### **VIII. Fiscal Year 2027 Public Health Excellence (PHE) Budget & Workplan Review**

- a. BME Strategies presented the draft FY27 PHE Budget and Workplan.
- b. Stacey Lane led a motion to approve the FY27 PHE Budget. Melissa Raineri seconded the motion.

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

- c. BME Strategies then outlined the FY27 PHE Workplan requirements, which are guided by the Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH).
- d. The coalition conducted a walkthrough of the draft objectives and activities.
- e. Sam Menard led a motion to approve the FY27 PHE Workplan. Stacey Lane seconded the motion.

Canton: not present  
Dedham: Y  
Milton: Y  
Norwood: Y  
Walpole: abstain



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Wellesley: not present  
Westwood: Y

### IX. Community Updates

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

### X. Meeting Closure

The next NC-8 Coalition meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2026, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Sam Menard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jared Orsini seconded the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM.

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

NC-8 June 2026 Meeting Presentation  
NC-8 June 2026 Monthly Pre-Read  
NC-8 Regional Opioid Abatement Coordination One-Pager  
NC-8 FY26 Strategic Plan  
Riverside Community Care FY27 Contract  
Mojin Solutions FY27 Contract  
Landtech Consultants FY27 Contract  
FY27 PHE Workplan Content Menu  
FY27 PHE Workplan Racial Equity Guidance Document  
NC-8 FY27 Draft PHE Budget  
NC-8 FY27 Draft PHE Workplan