



Norfolk County-8 Coalition

August 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes



Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
<u>Virtual Meeting</u> https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86277008938

Attendance Roll Call

Voting members present:

Stacey Lane, Norwood
Melissa Ranieri, Walpole
Caroline Kinsella, Milton
Jared Orsini, Westwood (left early)
Lenny Izzo, Wellesley

Non-voting members present:

Aine Studdert-Kennedy, BME Strategies
Beth Haefner, BME Strategies
Allison Brum, Regional Public Health Nurse
Trish Fisher, Walpole
Ginnie Chacon-Lopez, Needham
Jhana Wallace, Wellesley
Anne Marie McCauley, Wellesley
Kevin Myers, Westwood (left early)

Voting members absent:

Sam Menard, Dedham
Meg Goldstein, Canton

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

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

The regular meeting of the Norfolk County-8 (NC-8) Local Public Health Coalition was called to order at 11:05 AM on August 10, 2026.



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I. Welcome

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

Melissa Ranieri made a motion to approve the July 2026 Coalition Meeting minutes, the Inspectional Support Budget Meeting minutes, the June 9th and July 20th CHA meeting minutes, and the May Strategic Planning meeting minutes. Stacey Lane seconded the motion.

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

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. Aine provided a brief overview of the updates shared in the pre-read.
- b. Tier 2 Food and Housing Training Reminder: The Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) Workforce Development Unit has released an interest form for Tier 2 Food Inspector Training (October 13-15 and October 19-20, 2026) and Tier 2 Housing Inspector Training (October 5-8, 2026). Eligible staff are encouraged to apply.

III. Regional Staff Updates

- a. Regional Public Health Nurse Onboarding Update
 - i. NC-8's new Regional Public Health Nurse, Allison Brum, was introduced to the coalition and provided an update on her onboarding progress. Allison has been meeting with NC-8 communities and municipal staff, completing required trainings, and getting set up as a backup user in MAVEN. She is also familiarizing herself with the NC-8 Strategic Plan and the Public Health Excellence (PHE) Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Workplan.
- b. Maternal and Child Health Program Discussion
 - i. Allison led the group in a discussion about program planning for a regional Maternal and Child Health Program. The group reviewed and discussed

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options for potential program names and logos, as well as the draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that Allison had developed. The coalition also discussed funding options for the supplies and materials that will be needed and will aim to identify donation opportunities where possible.

- ii. Allison will continue to meet with municipal staff to review and refine the SOP and has also reached out to similar programs in other regions to gather insights. Allison will also continue to collaborate with Wellesley to ensure consistency and alignment with the existing Parent and Newborn Support Program.
- iii. The coalition also discussed the importance of maintaining flexibility with the SOP and program rollout. The group discussed the level of engagement that can reasonably be expected from municipal staff, which may vary depending on program requirements and staffing levels. Options discussed included a gradual rollout and a phased approach to program development and launch. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers may also be engaged to support the program.

IV. Public Health Excellence Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY26-27) Budget Review

- a. Aine Studdert-Kennedy provided a summary of final FY26 PHE grant spending. The group also reviewed FY27 budget allocations, including training priorities and contractor support spending.

V. Regional Initiatives & Partnership Updates

- a. Community Health Assessment Project Debrief & Next Steps
 - i. Beth Haefner facilitated a debrief on the FY26 Community Health Assessment (CHA) project, in which five NC-8 communities participated. The group discussed key next steps for sharing the CHA report and findings, with the immediate priority being to plan a community presentation for late summer or early fall.
- b. Riverside Community Care Contract Follow-Up & Quarter 4 Report Review
 - i. Aine Studdert-Kennedy shared the Quarter 4 Riverside Community Care report, which was also circulated to the group. The group discussed plans to invite Riverside to participate in an upcoming coalition meeting to discuss continued promotion of its services across NC-8 communities.
- c. Opioid Abatement Collaborative Follow-Up Discussion
 - i. Caroline Hamilton led a follow-up discussion on a shared coordination model for opioid abatement funds, supported by a dedicated Opioid Abatement Coordinator. The model would provide all seven towns with a shared resource for cross-town learning and implementation support. Group



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members expressed interest in piloting the model, and a concept paper will be shared with coalition members for further review.

VI. Community Updates

- a. The group discussed ongoing opioid abatement programming and shared challenges and insights. Milton shared that it developed a scholarship program offering community grants to support treatment, recovery, and burial costs. Norwood shared details about its support for residents exiting incarceration, including funding to help residents transition to sober homes.
- b. Wellesley raised concerns about complex building plans submitted by “Wonder,” a new corporate food service venture offering a variety of food options in one location. Ginnie Chacon-Lopez noted that Newton already has an operating location, with Westwood and Canton also listed on the company’s website as it expands across the region.

VII. Meeting Closure

The next NC-8 Coalition meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (in-person).

Melissa Ranieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stacey Lane seconded the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Documents used and referenced during the meeting:

NC-8 August 2026 Meeting Presentation
NC-8 August 2026 Monthly Pre-Read
NC-8 Community Health Assessment Final Report
NC-8 Maternal and Child Health Draft Standard Operating Procedure
August MAVEN Report
Riverside Community Care Quarter 4 Report