



Norfolk County-8 Coalition

September 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes



Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
<u>In Person / Hybrid Meeting</u> https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86277008938 525 Canton Ave, Milton, MA 02186

Attendance Roll Call

Voting members present:

Sam Menard, Dedham
Stacey Lane, Norwood
Melissa Ranieri, Walpole
Caroline Kinsella, Milton
Meg Goldstein, Canton
Jared Orsini, Westwood
Lenny Izzo, Wellesley

Non-voting members present:

Aine Studdert-Kennedy, BME Strategies
Beth Haefner, BME Strategies
Abbie Atkins, Norwood
Kevin Myers, Westwood
Karolyn Ho, Milton
Jhana Wallace, Wellesley
Kara Johnson, Canton
Julie McCarthy, Needham
Allison Brum, Regional Public Health Nurse
Sarah Lavari, Regional Epidemiologist
Dan Foley, Riverside Community Care
Brook Burgess, Riverside Community Care
John Pike, Riverside Community Care

Stacey Lane motioned to start the meeting. Meg Goldstein seconded the motion.

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



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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 11:10 AM on September 14, 2026.

I. Welcome

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

Stacey Lane made a motion to approve the August 2026 Coalition Meeting minutes.
Meg Goldstein seconded the motion.

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

III. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Updates

- a. Jackson provided an update on new volunteer training tiers, which have been successfully rolled out and are receiving positive feedback. The annual deployment plan was completed in coordination with Region 4AB, establishing consistent operational standards across 66 communities.
- b. Jackson has established valuable connections with Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, as well as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the new Wellesley hospital, which may lead to future hazmat exercise invitations.
- c. Planning is currently underway for a spring sheltering exercise in Milton. Coalition members and staff are also encouraged to attend the Cambridge Health Alliance's annual hazard vulnerability analysis next Wednesday in Needham.

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IV. Public Health Excellence Fiscal Year 27 (FY27) Budget & Workplan Review

- a. Contractor Support Spending Update
 - i. Aine provided a summary of contractor support spending to date.
- b. Workplan & Strategic Plan Progress Updates
 - i. Aine provided an update on the Public Health Excellence (PHE) FY27 Workplan and the NC-8 Strategic Plan. The group agreed that updates on progress towards achieving activities and objectives will be shared on a termly basis. The group also discussed meeting logistics for future coalition meetings.

V. Regional Staff Updates

- a. Regional Public Health Nurse Maternal & Child Health (MCH) Program Update
 - i. Allison led the group through a discussion around the MCH program, asking what each town needs and what a realistic timeline looks like for rollout. Several members agreed that the immediate priority should be direct outreach and home visits to check in on new parents. The group also acknowledged the need to evaluate community-specific birth rates and roll out the program in manageable stages.
 - ii. To build a manageable referral pipeline, the group discussed leveraging local housing authorities as a starting point to reach vulnerable populations.
 - iii. The group also discussed the program structure and branding, and agreed that the preference is a shared model that can be tailored to each town's individual needs.

Vote to Delegate MCH Workgroup

The group discussed the development of an MCH work group to ensure the program progresses and to provide a space for ongoing collaboration and feedback. The group agreed that instead of establishing a coalition workgroup, Allison will work independently to convene municipal staff on a regular basis for continued discussion. Volunteers were identified for ongoing collaboration.

- b. Regional Epidemiologist Report-Out
 - i. Sarah Lavari provided a summary of recent MAVEN data, reporting 311 cases of reportable diseases across the region. She noted that enteric (foodborne) pathogens required the most response and investigation from local boards of health. Notable epidemiological investigations included a facility-based Legionella outbreak, a Massachusetts restaurant-based Cyclospora cluster, and monitoring for Viral Hemorrhagic Fever.
 - ii. Looking ahead, Sarah shared an overview of her upcoming activities. These

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will include an NC-8 Housing Report and Workforce Gap Analysis, delivering MCH data presentations to local Boards of Health, assisting communities with upcoming flu vaccine clinics, and providing Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) assistance to help manage heavy caseloads and pending case report forms (CRFs).

VI. Regional Initiatives & Partnerships Updates

- a. Community Health Assessment (CHA) Next Steps
 - i. A virtual community presentation is scheduled for October 14th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM on Zoom, which will include a review of the CHA findings and a community prioritization exercise. The CHA report will be published to the NC-8 website.
- b. Riverside Community Care (RCC) Services Reorientation
 - i. Riverside Community Care staff facilitated a conversation with coalition members regarding ongoing programming, successes, and challenges. The Riverside team shared that establishing a consistent physical presence in local libraries has been an effective outreach strategy. By setting up resource tables with discrete QR codes and offering drop-in spaces, they have successfully started conversations and generated referrals. Staff noted that social media promotion has been a primary driver of engagement.
 - ii. Riverside staff noted that budget constraints, such as the cost of vendor tables, and short lead times can be barriers to participation. Since community events do not yield a high volume of direct clinical referrals, Riverside asked coalition members to help identify specific local businesses and referral channels to target with outreach, as most referrals currently come directly from providers or individuals seeking help.
 - iii. The group brainstormed ways to utilize opioid settlement funding to support wraparound services and address financial barriers for individuals in recovery. Suggestions for funding included covering the costs of sober housing, childcare during treatment, pet care during inpatient stays, and transportation to recovery-related events. RCC staff also recommended funding wellness initiatives like gym memberships and providing scholarships for recovery coach training programs.
 - iv. Riverside staff highlighted a newly launched recovery coaching program for postpartum and new parents, and will connect directly with Allison to integrate this with the regional MCH program. To help coordinate all of these efforts, Kevin suggested utilizing the NC-8 website as a central hub to advertise regional events.



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VII. Community Updates

- a. No community updates were shared.

VIII. Meeting Closure

The next NC-8 Coalition meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2026, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

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

Canton: left early
Dedham: left early
Milton: Y
Norwood: Y
Walpole: Y
Wellesley: Y
Westwood: Y

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 PM.

Documents used and referenced during the meeting:

NC-8 September 2026 Meeting Presentation
NC-8 September 2026 Monthly Pre-Read
NC-8 Community Health Assessment Community Presentation Flyer
NC-8 Community Health Assessment Final Report