

NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETING



Northern Bristol County Public Health Alliance

Date: October 7th, 2025

Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meeting Location:

Virtual: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88289684704>

Meeting ID: 882 8968 4704

MINUTES FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

Voting Attendees:

- a. Sheri Miller Bedeau, Attleboro
- b. Sheila O'Brien, Attleboro
- c. Sharon Jamieson, Berkley
- d. Elizabeth Moreira, Dighton
- e. Brian McCracken, North Attleboro
- f. Geri Hamel, Rehoboth

Non-Voting Attendees:

- g. Clifford Pierre, Attleboro
- h. Stephen Berdos, North Attleboro
- i. Sydney Garilli, Regional Public Health Specialist
- j. Erika Syokau, BME Strategies
- k. Meghan Russell, BME Strategies

I. Call to Order

- a. Sheri motioned to call the meeting to order at 10:03 am, and Geri seconded. The meeting opened with a quorum of $\frac{5}{6}$ voting members present. (Attleboro, Berkley, North Attleboro, Rehoboth, Dighton joined later.)

II. Past Meeting Minutes

- a. Geri made a motion to approve the minutes. Sheri seconded the vote. The minutes were approved by all voting members present.

III. RIZE Municipal Matching Grant

- a. Stephen Berdos, North Attleboro's Human Services Coordinator, introduced the RIZE municipal matching grant program for Bristol County. Stephen explained that Phase One of this regional initiative aims to deliver adequate, evidence-based treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder within the Bristol County Correctional Facility.
- b. Bristol County communities are invited to participate in a regional initiative aimed at expanding access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder. Participating



BME STRATEGIES



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municipalities will contribute an average of \$7,000 each, totaling a combined \$150,000, to fund new clinical positions for this purpose. If approved, RIZE will match that amount and make \$300,000 available for the Bristol County Correctional Facility.

- c. Stephen is sharing this information to inform the health department staff that the town manager will be facilitating outreach to all municipal leaders.
 - i. Sydney created a brief with both qualitative and quantitative data. This brief aims to support the need for opioid abatement funding and provide municipal leaders with data to inform their decisions.
 - ii. Sheri indicated that Attleboro has already allocated its opioid funds differently. She believes the idea of having a social worker is excellent and helpful, but securing buy-in would require further discussion. This request, likely for \$7,000, would need to go through the city council for a vote, which would take some time, given that their existing fund allocation plan.
 - iii. Stephen volunteered to meet with town leadership to address any questions. The \$7,000 contribution is an average, and some communities may not be able to contribute the full amount, while smaller communities might be able to offer more.
 - iv. Stephen reminded the group that the application deadline is November 7th, with letters of intent requested by October 31st. The town manager will begin making calls today and continue throughout the week. Stephen has a meeting later today to identify the particular positions that would be hired through this matching grant.
- d. A reminder was shared about a Zoom meeting hosted by RIZE Mosaic Municipal, focusing on regional collaboration efforts across municipalities. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IRRi6MVqSzKk6bS32kUyfw#/registration
 - i. By the end of the Zoom session, participants will:
 - 1. Understand the importance of collaborating within and between municipalities
 - 2. Learn about different forms of regional collaboration
 - 3. Learn how to create an Opioid Abatement Collaborative
 - 4. Learn about recent examples of municipal collaboration efforts
- e. Meghan informed the group that regional staff are available to discuss RIZE applications with any interested community. Additionally, the door is open to explore other opportunities for support that could benefit your health departments, regardless of the scale of assistance needed.





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IV. METRIK & SAPHE 2.0

a. METRIK

- i. The group was informed about the recent funding changes from the Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH), particularly regarding the reduction in Metrik funding from \$99 million to \$42 million. While much of the funding for local public health, including the Public Health Excellence (PHE) Grant and Training Hub, remains unaffected, this reduction directly impacts two of the Performance Standards contracts: Foundational Public Health Standards and SAPHE 2.0 reporting.

1. METRIK implementation is a requirement for FY26, and these funding changes will affect the implementation timeline. OLRH is working diligently to provide accurate and timely information.

- ii. While PHE grants remain unaffected, continued advocacy for funding is crucial. Information was shared about the SAPHE 2.0 hearings, which are important opportunities for local public health (LPH) officials to voice concerns, offer feedback, share their vision, and suggest improvements for SAPHE 2.0 implementation. Frontline experience and expertise are vital to guide these next steps.

1. Geri asked if METRIK would still function to its full potential.

- a. Erika and Meghan confirmed that OLRH is actively working to implement a version of METRIK, as it is a mandatory requirement.
- b. Erika noted that OLRH is evaluating whether Relavent will remain an allowable expense for FY27, given the new timeline, and will provide an update to the group once further information is available.

b. SAPHE 2.0

- i. The group was asked to gather feedback on common themes, allowing Erika to prepare a comprehensive testimony on behalf of the SSA.
- ii. When compiling our written testimony, recurring themes consistently emerge, such as the significant time constraints faced by health directors and the administrative burden of reporting on LPH

1. The group was asked to share concerns regarding funding and SAPHE 2.0 to be included in tomorrow's testimony. Geri emphasized a critical question: *“At what point will LPH begin to regress, losing the progress and momentum we've achieved in the past couple of years through all the funding?”*





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- a. Meghan affirmed the value of statements like Geri's, clarifying that the hearing is an opportunity to share perspectives with state officials rather than to receive immediate answers to questions. She encouraged anyone with additional points to contribute their thoughts to Erika or Meghan before the hearing.

V. Regional Staff Updates

a. *Regional Public Health Specialist Monthly Report*

- i. Sydney shared her monthly report and asked the group if anyone had any feedback on her Community Health Assessment (CHA).
 1. The group was impressed by the assessment. Sheri made a motion to approve the CHA for the alliance. Geri seconded the motion.
 2. A roll call vote was taken.
 - a. Attleboro: Yes
 - b. Berkley: Yes
 - c. Dighton: Yes
 - d. North Attleboro: Yes
 - e. Rehoboth: Yes
 - i. Sydney will coordinate with each municipality to develop a survey distribution strategy and get on the board of health agendas to share data and information.

ii. *Newsletter*

1. To promote information sharing among health department staff across all communities, Sydney has developed an internal newsletter. Sydney will gather monthly updates from each city and town to include in the newsletter, which will then be distributed via email.
 - a. Municipalities are encouraged to directly contact each other for more details on upcoming events mentioned in the newsletter. Additionally, it is recommended to share these monthly newsletters with your boards and other community departments.
 - b. In the future, there are plans to create a resident-facing newsletter.
 - i. Liz made a motion to approve the newsletter, and Geri seconded the motion.
 - ii. A roll call vote was taken:
 1. Attleboro: Yes
 2. Berkley: Yes
 3. Dighton: Yes





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4. North Attleboro: Yes
5. Rehoboth: Yes

b. Regional Inspector Subcommittees Updates

- i. Regional Inspector Applicants:
 1. 39 Total Applicants
 2. 8 qualified after resume screening
 3. 6 had a phone screening (1 no response, and 1 pulled out)
 4. 4 strong candidates were eligible for subcommittee interviews
 - a. However, 2 withdrew applications, leaving 2 qualified candidates
- ii. The 2 candidates will be interviewed next week by the subcommittee. Both candidates are familiar with inspection processes and live in the area.
 1. Candidate 1 on October 15th, 2 - 2:45 pm
 2. Candidate 2 on October 17th, 9-9:45 am
- iii. Special Meeting to Finalize and Vote on Candidate the week of October 27th.
 1. To finalize candidate discussions before November, the group was asked for their availability the week of October 27th.
 2. Proposed times included
 - a. October 29th: 11-11:30 AM, 1-1:30 PM, or 2-2:30 PM, and October 30th: 9-9:30 AM or 1-1:30 PM.
 - i. All voting members confirmed their availability on the morning of October 29th from 11-11:30 AM.

VI. Review New Standardized Operating Procedures (SOP)

- a. Northern Bristol County FY26 SOP for Feedback Process for Regional Staff*
 - i. This SOP was developed to formalize the performance review process to create a structured way to support regional staff's growth, ensure accountability, and improve overall effectiveness within the coalition.
 - ii. The SOP has an active Google form for staff members to share feedback not just on staff, but on any SSA item, anonymously.
 - iii. This SOP highlights the 90 Day Performance Review process for all shared staff.
 - iv. It also highlights the bi-annual performance Review every 6 months for regional staff.
 1. Geri shared that the SOP is very straightforward and thought it was great.
- b. Northern Bristol County FY26 SOP for Requesting Regional Staff Coverage*
 - i. This SOP was created to request staff time and services in advance is a tool to streamline communication within the SSA.





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- ii. To request inspection coverage and support from the inspector, please use the smarhseet link.
- iii. To request MAVEN coverage for any planned absences, please use the second Smartsheet link. The nurses within the SSA will be able to use this SOP to reference the MVPHA MAVEN SOP
- iv. All regional staff contacts are listed in this document. Eventually, a digital repository that stores all of this information in one area for you all to access.
 - 1. The group did not have any feedback, questions, or concerns for the two SOPs.
 - 2. Geri made a motion to approve the Northern Bristol County FY26 SOP for Feedback Process for Regional Staff and the Northern Bristol County FY26 SOP for Requesting Regional Staff Coverage. Liz seconded the motion.
 - 3. A roll call vote was taken:
 - a. Attleboro: Yes
 - b. Berkley: Yes
 - c. Dighton: Yes
 - d. North Attleboro: Yes
 - e. Rehoboth: Yes

VII. Expenditure Votes

- a. Tick Tweezers: ~ \$3,500
- b. CPO Course for Liz: \$345
- c. System Inspector Class for Liz: \$225
- d. MHOA Conference for Sydney: \$350
- e. Language Line for CHA Translation: \$3,486.49
- f. Tableau Software: \$1,678.02
- g. First Aid Kits: ~\$1,000 (dependent on DPH approval)
- h. Alliance supplies for North Attleboro: TBD
 - i. Geri made a motion to approve the expenditures, and Sheri seconded the motion.
 - ii. A roll call vote was taken.
 - 1. Attleboro: Yes
 - 2. Berkley: Yes
 - 3. Dighton: Yes
 - 4. North Attleboro: Yes
 - 5. Rehoboth: Yes

VIII. Community Updates





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a. Digital Repository Options

- i. To improve communication and resource sharing among our communities, we are exploring digital repository options such as Dropbox, Google Drive, and pCloud.
- ii. The group was asked to consult with the IT department to determine if there is a preferred option for resource sharing.
 1. Erika would follow up with each community.

b. October 28th Virtual Nursing Check-In Meeting

- i. Nurses are reminded of the first tri-annual virtual check-in meeting with nurse consultant Alyssa Kaiser on October 28th at 9:30 AM. Nurses are encouraged to bring any available community resources to facilitate collaboration and support regional staff work.

c. November Coalition Meeting Schedule

- i. The next coalition meeting, originally scheduled for November 4th, was rescheduled to November 18th at 10:00 AM. This change was proposed to accommodate members who would be traveling for the MHOA conference on November 4th.
 1. All voting members confirmed their availability for the new meeting time.

d. In-Person Coalition Meeting

- i. The first in-person coalition meeting will be held on January 6th, 2026!
 1. Location details to be announced.

e. RS and CHO renewal

- i. The renewal period for Registered Sanitarians (RS) and Certified Health Officers (CHO) begins October 2 and runs through January 15. Individuals looking to renew should log in to the Health Professions Licensing Portal to complete their renewal.

f. Workplan and Strategic Planning Next Steps

- i. At the next coalition meeting, updates will be provided on the work plan. The first tri-annual strategic plan update will be shared in December.

g. BME Support

- i. Meghan announced that the recent METRIK contract cuts have impacted BME. BME encourages all communities to reach out directly for any assistance that can be provided.

h. Rebooth

- i. Geri shared that on October 8th, she will be holding a round table discussion and presentation on domestic violence.





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- ii. Geri also shared that she will be working with the CVS Vaccination Clinic on October 15th to host a Flu, Pneumonia, Shingles, and/or RSV Vaccine Clinic at the Rehoboth Public Health Nurse's Office on October 15th between 11 am-3 pm, 27 Francis Farm Rd, Rehoboth, MA in the Arcade Building.

- 1. The link to register is here:

<https://www.cvs.com/scheduling/clinic-details?lob=rximz&flow=clinicinfo&clinicID=E03C130DE0F2F8E1860AC10B1977A32A>

- i. *Dighton*

- i. Liz shared that Dighton will also be hosting a Vaccine Clinic at the Council on Aging building on October 23rd, 1059 Somerset Ave, Dighton, MA.

- 1. The link to register is here:

<https://www.cvs.com/scheduling/clinic-details?lob=rximz&flow=clinicinfo&clinicID=5ED2C7D3866A32658DE07FED965FE7AF>

IX. Adjournment

- a. Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Liz seconded the motion. A roll call vote to adjourn the meeting was taken.
 - i. Attleboro: Yes
 - ii. Berkley: Yes
 - iii. Dighton: Yes
 - iv. North Attleboro: Yes
 - v. Rehoboth: Yes
 - 1. The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

Please Note: There will be no public participation in speaking at this meeting.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BOARD OR COMMITTEE MAY ACT ON ITEMS IN A DIFFERENT ORDER THAN THEY APPEAR ON THIS AGENDA. ALSO, IF IT SO VOTES, THE BOARD OR COMMITTEE MAY GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION DURING THE MEETING.

PERSONS INTERESTED ARE ADVISED THAT, IN THE EVENT ANY MATTER TAKEN UP AT THIS MEETING REMAINS UNFINISHED AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, IT WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DEFERRED AND ADDED TO A FUTURE AGENDA AS A REGULAR POSTED AGENDA ITEM, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

