

Inter-Island Public Health Collaborative



Regular Meeting

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Advisory Board

MINUTES

Wednesday, 22 January 2025

14:00

REMOTE

OPEN SESSION:

Present: Mike Hugo, Shared Service Coordinator (SSC); Lenore Maniaci, Health and Human Services Director of Dukes County; Marina Lent, Aquinnah; Anna McCaffrey, Chilmark; Brice Boutot & Fernando Lana, Edgartown; Roque Miramontes, Nantucket; Alexa Arieta, Oak Bluffs; Drew Belsky, Tisbury; Alex Lam & Sarah Toste, West Tisbury; Betsy VanLandingham RN; Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Tick Biologist.

Call to Order

Announcement: Meeting facilitator and (SSC) Mike Hugo announced that THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD DURING THIS MEETING, ONLY THOSE RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR/CONVENOR.

Action Steps:

Public Nursing:

- Mike to send an email to Island Healthcare informing them that the Board has voted not to support their Dimaggi funding request.
- All health agents to respond to Sarah's email regarding their town's public health nursing budget.
- Sarah and Anna to schedule a meeting with Martina to discuss how to implement public health nursing with town and county funding.
- Mike to send job descriptions for public health nurses from the Mass Association of Public Health Nurses to the group.

EpiPen Pilot Project:

- Alexa to follow up with Oak Bluffs police chief regarding the process for implementing epipens in police cruisers.

- Subcommittee (Marina, Fernando, and Alexa) to look into expanding the epipen program to all cruisers on both islands.
- All Health Agents to report number of Police cruisers in their town to Alexa.

Miscellaneous:

- Mike to ask Bethany about granting access to the Smartsheet dashboard for all IPEC members.
- IPEC members to review the draft standard operating procedure for the reimbursement process shared by Lenore.
- Mike to add trainings on open meeting law to the Google Drive.
- IPEC members to review Lenore's draft of the standard operating procedure for the reimbursement process and provide feedback.
- Since Mike has determined that minutes do not need to be publicly posted, Lenore will post meeting Minutes in the drive following Board approval.
- Drew and Patrick will explore ways of making an unused Tisbury town car available to the tick program as a backup vehicle if needed.

EpiPen Pilot Project:

Alexa is working with OBPD to determine how to supply police cruisers with epi pens, given the fact that PD is almost always on-scene prior to the arrival of an ambulance, and that anaphylaxis is a critically time-sensitive emergency. The MVH ER is able to provide medical direction and training to enable officers to administer an epipen. She noted that, in light of widespread allergic on Martha's Vineyard, it would be ideal for all police to be similarly equipped. At issue is the question of whether, and to what extent, IIPHEC might be able to provide funding to cover the cost of this important public health measure, including annual replacement of expired pens.

More information is required to assess the feasibility of covering these costs, including but not limited to number of police cruisers, ways of getting the best price for the epipens (DPH bulk rate?); replenishment of pens following use, or whether a patient's insurance could be charged for use. Nor is it clear whether such an expenditure is allowable under the PHE grant. After discussion, the Board concluded that this may be an expense that could be approved by OLRH as a "nursing expense" for use by parties other than IIPHEC staff or contractors, and thus requires OLRH approval. Mike will look into this possibility.

A working group consisting of Alexa, Marina and Fernando will gather more information required for starting with a pilot project in Oak Bluffs, which could then be replicated in other towns. Roque will check with Nantucket PD as to whether they might be interested in a similar service.

FPHS and Assessment Process

Mike Hugo will ask Bethant Griles, OLRH liaison for IIPHEC, to join our next scheduled meeting on February 12 to introduce Melanie Mackin, DPH point person for SE MA on the upcoming rollout of the FPHS assessment, which will be a major project for shared service areas and all

municipal public health in 2025. SSA input to the gap analysis/FPHS assessment needs to be completed by February 23rd, and LBOH needs to complete its assessment by April 13th. Mike will send out an MAHB Guidance document with further clarification.

Lenore pointed out that a thorough assessment of local public health activities, including working with community partners during the assessment to identify services available through non-profit and social service agencies rather than municipalities, will position us to recognize and prioritize future PHE activities, including development of the open position. Lenore also mentioned a technical assistance provider offering a series of webinars on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

IIPHEC spending and Board access to real-time budget information

Drew asked for a review of last quarter's spending. Lenore shared financial data in Smartsheet available to the County, however, the available information does not seem comprehensive or accurate enough to provide a clear picture of expenditures. Sarah explained that the goal is to identify areas where funds are not being spent so they can be reallocated. Mike will put in a request with OLRH that IIPHEC should have read-only access to grant financials.

IIPHEC funding proposal DiMagi tablet system

The Board considered the request from Island Health Care to support the further development of the tablet-based nursing information system. In view of the fact that the only person currently using the system, the public health nurse, is leaving the position, and that in all likelihood, DPH will provide a similar system for statewide local public health use, the Board voted against providing funding for this project. The Board asked Mike Hugo to inform IHC of its decision.

Public Nursing on Martha's Vineyard

Sarah and Anna reported to the Board on their efforts to explore options for a municipally-run public health nursing program. Public Health nurse Amelia Hambrecht had spent roughly 30 hours per week under the 5-town contract through IHC, and felt that a full-time nursing position could be developed with outreach and expanded services. Mike Hugo reported that it is not required to have a designated medical director for a public nursing program, and that DPH Commissioner Dr. Robbie Goldstein is prepared to issue required Dr.'s orders for local public nursing programs. Sarah and Anna will meet with County Director Martina to explore further steps on this possibility.

Possible time-limited Contract Position to facilitate FPHS Assessment Process

The Board considered the option of hiring a contractor to assist health departments in completing the upcoming FPHS review. The Board felt that this would be very helpful in thoroughly and accurately completing this important project completed alongside ongoing work of the departments, and barring unforeseen changes, hopes to be able to put out an application immediately following its 12 February meeting with DPH officials on the review. Members are encouraged to think of people who would be in a position to take on this time-limited contract.

Additional Information

Sarah reported that the SUD Coalition will not seek funding from the towns in FY26, and plans to hire a coordinator through MV Community Services. Mike reported that the Department of Natural Resource is now reporting in advance any incursions into ad-hoc encampments in areas under its jurisdiction.

Adjournment. Unanimous.