

Inter-Island Public Health Collaborative



Special Meeting Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Advisory Board

MINUTES

Friday, 4 April 2025

14:00 PM

REMOTE

OPEN SESSION:

Present: Marina Lent, Aquinnah; Anna McCaffrey, Chilmark; Brice Boutot, Edgartown; Jerico Mele, Nantucket; Alexa Arieta, Oak Bluffs; Drew Belsky, Tisbury; Alex Lam, West Tisbury; Sarah Toste, West Tisbury; Elizabeth “Betsy” VanLandingham, RN, Public Health Nurse Case Investigator; Lenore Maniaci, Health and Human Services Director of Dukes County; Martina Thornton, County Manager.

Call to Order 14:03

Contact Tracing Grant: Although the cessation of contact tracing grant funding had originally been set for March 26, there is currently a stay on cessation of funding, and the Board suggested that current contracts under the grant continue to be funded through contact tracing until further notice. Contracts under the grant include: Betsy VanLandingham, Primary Case Investigator for 26 hours per week, Marina Lent, Secondary Case Investigator and grant coordinator at 8 hours per week, and Lea Hamner, Epidemiologist for Tick-Borne Illnesses at 8 hours per week. As of the end of March, Lea Hamner has exhausted the funding allocated to epidemiology under the contact tracing grant.

Funding Options for Primary Case Investigator: In light of recent notification that funding for the CDC-origin Contact Tracing grant from the State may be unavailable going forward, the Board considered options for shifting the position of primary Case Investigator to the IIPHEC for the remainder of FY25. The Board reviewed a draft contract with the County. The Board moved to accept the contract as amended, with a view to a smooth transition from the Contact Tracing grant to IIPHEC funding when and if Contact Tracing funding is no longer available.

Funding for Secondary Case Investigator: The draft contract for secondary case investigator Marina Lent will be reviewed at a future IIPHEC meeting, subject to clarification with the Attorney General’s office as to whether having an IIPHEC contract with a voting member of the IIPHEC Board constitutes a conflict of interest, and, if so, what steps could be taken to address this.

Website Launch: The Board approved launching the Public Health website in early April as planned, so that the great wealth of information on tick borne illness can be made available to the public, with the provision that parts of the site are still under construction and will continue to be built out.

Digitization Proposal: Marina Lent presented a proposal to digitize the property files of Chilmark and Aquinnah. This would be done by two contractors, one of whom is prepared to start as soon as a contract can be finalized. The Board had approved this project in principle, and Marina will draft a contract for review by the County. An additional contractor for the Chilmark digitization project will be sought.

Adjournment 15:07 Unanimous.