

Inter-Island Public Health Collaborative



Regular Meeting

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Advisory Board

MINUTES

Wednesday 9 April 2025

14:38

REMOTE

OPEN SESSION:

Present: Drew Belsky, Health Agent, Town of Tisbury (Chair); Marina Lent, Health Agent, Town of Aquinnah; Anna McCaffrey, Health Agent, Town of Chilmark; Brice Boutot, Health Agent, Town of Edgartown; Fernando Lana, Assistant Health Agent, Town of Edgartown; Fred Hehre, Assistant Health Agent, Town of Tisbury; Jericho Mele, Town of Nantucket; Alexa Arieta, Health Agent, Town of Oak Bluffs; Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Biologist IIPHEC; Sarah Toste, Assistant Health Agent, Town of West Tisbury; Alex Lam, Health Agent, Town of West Tisbury; Betsy VanLandingham, Public Health RN; Lenore Maniaci, Director of H&HS, Dukes County; Martina Thornton, County Manager, Dukes County.

OLRH Representative T2 check-in

Drew informed the Board that Bethany Griles would not be able to attend today's meeting.

FY'25 Budget and other coordination matters

Lenore reported on year-to-date spending and proposed spending in Q4.

- Patrick Roden-Reynolds will provide a list of supplies needed for the 2025 summer season;
- Lenore mentioned a possible candidate for the Third Position and will circulate the resume;
- Lenore asked all members to enter expense requests into the google drive;
- Drew asked for further information on the implications of the possible loss of funding through the contact tracing grant, and how this could impact spending plans for IIPHEC;
- Melanie Mackin from BME would like to set a meeting time in May of approximately 1 hour to go over results of the Federal Public Health Standards (FPHS) survey recently completed by municipalities. The Board decided it would be an intersessional IIPHEC meeting on the morning of either the 3rd or 4th Wednesday in May.

IIPHEC Workplan

Lenore noted that some of the “leads” in the IIPHEC workplan will change and asked the group for guidance. The group felt that focusing our efforts on a good workplan for FY’26 is more fruitful than complex amendments to the FY’25 plan.

Proposed Digitization Contract

Marina Lent presented a proposed contract for one contractor, to be funded out of IIPHEC, who would be able to start immediately and work through Q4. Although Chilmark is interested in digitization as well, there is currently insufficient storage capacity in Chilmark, and she will also consult with the Chilmark Board of Health on parameters for digitization, so a second contract will not be contemplated just yet. The Board suggested that Marina check the Documents Retention Act to ensure that all bases are covered, and also suggested looking into whether the DPH Subject Matter Experts could assist in designing the most effective digitization project.

The Board **approved** moving ahead with a single contract of under \$10K at this time, which will start upon contract approval by the Chair and County Manager, and finish by the end of June 2025.

IIPHEC Website

- Patrick reported that the website, www.islandspublichealth.com is now live.
- Patrick continues to be the contact point with Jason, the website creator, as we work to shape it towards our needs.
- Patrick encouraged members to add events to the calendar.
- The Board will want to develop standard operating procedures for changes and additions to the website.
- Patrick will add a statement to the opening page of mvboh.org directing the public to the new website.
- Materials with a QR code for the new website can be produced for the upcoming summer.
- The DPH Clearinghouse has useful public information on a wide range of public health topics.

Turkey Questions

Patrick asked Health Agents if they frequently field public inquiries and complaints about flocks of feral turkeys, as he does. He is considering what steps could possibly be taken to address the issue, since it is plausible that turkeys could be a vector for Lone Star ticks in densely settled areas of the island. Since turkeys reside in the immediate vicinity of houses, hunting them there is problematic, and he is contemplating approaching the State Biologist to discuss possible control measures, including potentially relocation of flocks.

Adjournment Unanimous.