

Inter-Island Public Health Collaborative



Regular Meeting Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Advisory Board

MINUTES

Wednesday, 15 May 2025

14:00 PM

REMOTE

OPEN SESSION:

Present: Marina Lent, Aquinnah; Anna McCaffrey, Chilmark; Fernando Lana, Edgartown; Brice Boutot, Edgartown; Jerico Mele, Nantucket; Alexa Arieta, Oak Bluffs; Drew Belsky, Tisbury; Alex Lam, West Tisbury; Sarah Toste, West Tisbury; Lenore Maniaci, IIPHEC Shared Service Coordinator; Elizabeth “Betsy” VanLandingham, RN, Public Health Nurse Reportable Disease Investigator; Patrick Roden-Reynolds, IIPHEC Tick Biologist.

Call to Order, 14:02

Invoice: the Board unanimously approved an invoice submitted by Mike Hugo for hours worked as Shared Service Coordinator in FY25.

Shared Service Coordinator: IIPHEC Chair Drew Belsky reported that DPH declined to approve a request for a waiver of the .5FTE Shared Service Coordinator (SSC) position requirement. Drew and Vice-Chair Alexa Arieta have been discussing options for the SSC position with DPH and the County. They are actively exploring the option of hiring a consultant from BME Strategies, Inc., an organization which contracts with many SSAs in MA. The consultant would be hired through FY25 to complete FY25 reporting requirements and develop a FY26 workplan and budget. The consultant could also be engaged at the outset of FY26, pending a process to find and employ a full-time or part-time SSC. Alexa and Drew will open the discussion with BME on this matter.

Lenore noted that a waiver will continue to apply through FY25, and asked that she be involved in designing the work for a consultant position, and the Board agreed that Lenore’s direct experience in managing the grant over the past many months will provide valuable insights for shared service coordination.

MOTION: The Board asked Drew and Alexa to discuss the possibility of contracting for a SSC for FY25 and until an SSC can be employed. Unanimously **approved**.

Alpha Gal Presentation: Drew reported that Stephanie Barth will present her work on Alpha Gal at the May 28th meeting of the Board.

FY25 Spend Down: Lenore reported that there is roughly \$100K available for spend down.

- Tick Project: The Board regrets that DPH is unable to approve material needed by the Tick Program, including permethrin-treated socks, tick tweezers and the like, items which serve both to educate and to directly protect the public. It is hoped that Towns may be able to step in with some funding towards these important purchases. The grant may be able to fund translation of educational videos on TBI prevention into Portuguese, which is all the more important in that Brazilians make up a significant proportion of the landscaping workforce, and are not familiar with ticks.
- Mosquito testing program: Patrick mentioned that he would like to invest in supplies to expand trapping to other species or types of traps. Martina noted that, if this, too, is turned down by DPH, there is probably funding through the County that can be used for the Mosquito program.
- Lenore asked participants to indicate whether they will be interested in the “early bird” registration for MHOA & MEHA conferences.
- Marina Lent mentioned that she would like to look into the possibility of covering IT costs for the BOH file digitization project currently underway in Aquinnah.

Staff Evaluation: Martina mentioned that it is time for **staff evaluation** of Lenore and Patrick. Marina will undertake Patrick’s evaluation; Sarah and Anna will work on an IIPHEC evaluation for Lenore.

Adjournment. Unanimous.