

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: Monday, December 22nd, 2025

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:30PM

Location: Virtual

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82562814239?jst=2>

Meeting ID: 825 6281 4239

Voting members present:

- Alexa Arieta, Health Agent (Oak Bluffs) - Y
- Marina Lent, Health Agent (Aquinnah) - Y
- Jerico Mele, Human Services Director (Nantucket) - Y
- Anna McCaffrey, Health Agent (Chilmark) - Y
- Sarah Toste, Assistant Health Agent (West Tisbury) - Y
- Brice Boutot, Health Agent (Edgartown) - Y
- Drew Belsky, Health Agent (Tisbury) - Y
- Stewart Young, Finance Committee Chairman (Gosnold) - N

Non-voting members present:

Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies

Virginia Barbatti, Executive Director, Tick-Free MV

Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Regional Tick Biologist, IIPHEC

Martina Thorton, Dukes County Manager

Betsy Van Landingham, Public Health Nurse, Dukes County

Caitlyn Winders, BME Strategies

Alexa Arieta called the meeting to order. Marina Lent seconded.

7/8 voting communities present, quorum met.

Attendance Roll Call

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: N

Oak Bluffs: Y

Nantucket: Y

Tisbury: Y
West Tisbury: Y

The meeting was called to order at 10:40AM.

Administrative

The SSC informed the group that Cynthia Baker and Caitlyn Winders will be out of office starting tomorrow, but will be available to assist with the IMA as needed and that a firmwide BME closure will be in effect for the final week of the calendar year.

Approval of 12/11/25 Minutes

Marina motioned to approve the minutes. Jerico Mele seconded.

Aquinnah: Y
Chilmark: Y
Edgartown: Y
Gosnold: Not present
Oak Bluffs: Y
Nantucket: Y
Tisbury: Y
West Tisbury: Y

Communications Round-Up

Updates included plans to upload the CAP tick-borne disease prevention and education videos to the IIPHEC website and a request for additional locally developed public health materials to include, such as information on an Alpha-gal support group and a centralized calendar highlighting BOH meetings and public events. Patrick Roden-Reynolds and Sarah Toste shared ongoing outreach efforts, including the “Ticks on the Vineyard” talk series at the Martha’s Vineyard Museum and a recent educational presentation to the Dukes County Health Council, with discussion about recording or adapting presentations into short informational videos. The group agreed that communications should remain a standing agenda item to prompt regular updates and idea sharing, rather than relying on separate surveys or ad hoc outreach. The SSC will also develop a form that can serve as a vehicle for Advisory Board members to share information that they believe should be shared in communications outside of the Advisory Board meetings.

Credentialing Survey Completion Reminder

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The SSC provided a reminder to the Advisory Board to complete the Credentialing Survey that was sent to the group on Monday, 12/15. The goal is to have all Advisory Board members, shared staff members, and all municipal-level public health staff complete the survey by January 15.

IMA Status Update & Discussion

The discussion focused on the final steps needed to execute the IMA and the progress made to date. Provisional Select Board approval has been secured from six of the eight towns, with Nantucket expected to vote this week and Edgartown planning to proceed once the remaining towns are ready. Edgartown requested the finalized IMA by Wednesday in order for a vote to be had at the next Select Board meeting. Chilmark's town council had issued the first formal legal approval, while Oak Bluffs is still pending. Oak Bluff's legal review largely aligned with Chilmark's comments, and counsel indicated that the agreement could move forward as written in order to meet deadlines.

The group discussed timing and logistics to ensure remaining votes and signatures can be obtained before the end of the year, particularly given holiday schedules. Tisbury indicated confidence that its Select Board would sign once the final version is presented, and options were reviewed for signature authority if a Select Board chair is unavailable. Tisbury may proceed with either both current Select Board members signing or an interim Select Board Chairperson if that person has been designated. Jericho Mele confirmed that Nantucket leadership feels that the exit clause sufficiently addresses concerns about financial and jurisdictional risk. It was reiterated that each town will need signatures from both the Board of Health Chair and the Select Board and that asynchronous signing is acceptable once final votes authorize execution.

Future of the SSC Role in IIPHEC

The board agreed to continue a focused discussion on the Shared Services Coordinator role, noting uncertainty around the remainder of the current contract cycle and potential changes to the PHE program after FY27, as well as feedback from Select Boards discouraging a municipal-level hire. Members expressed concern that hiring a new staff person could be inefficient, potentially more costly, and risky given onboarding time and future funding uncertainty, and emphasized that the coordinator role can remain primarily a liaison and administrative function with significant support from the board. After discussing cost expectations, procurement considerations, and reporting back to Select Boards, the board moved to pursue retention of a contractor for the Shared Services Coordinator role for the remainder of the contract period.

Brice Boutot motioned to continue to work with a contractor in the SSC role for the remainder of the contract period. Drew Belsky seconded.

Aquinnah: Not present

Chilmark: Y
Edgartown: Y
Gosnold: Not present
Oak Bluffs: Y
Nantucket: Not present
Tisbury: Y
West Tisbury: Y

Updated Nantucket Yard Survey Proposal & Vote

Alexa motioned to move this agenda item to the end of the meeting. Brice seconded.

Aquinnah: Y
Chilmark: Y
Edgartown: Y
Gosnold: Not present
Oak Bluffs: Y
Nantucket: Not present
Tisbury: Y
West Tisbury: Y

MV & State Government Tick Meeting Discussion

The board discussed takeaways from a recent Oak Bluffs meeting with state representatives, focusing on how the collaborative can support tick-borne disease prevention through policy and regulatory action, particularly around deer management. Members emphasized aligning efforts among Patrick, TickFreeMV, healthcare partners, Lea Hamner, and public health, and identified two pending state bills related to deer control as time-sensitive opportunities for advocacy, with consensus emerging around supporting the legislation ahead of January hearings. The group agreed on next steps to draft a concise, structured support letter (led by Patrick in coordination with TickFreeMV), bring the issue to local Boards of Health for endorsement in early January, and then engage Select Boards as needed, while continuing longer-term discussions about additional strategies such as nuisance designation, drone surveys, and future island-specific legislation.

Updated Nantucket Yard Survey Proposal & Vote Cont.

Drew motioned to move review of the Nantucket yard survey proposal until the meeting when Jerico is next available. Brice seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y
Edgartown: Y
Gosnold: Not present
Oak Bluffs: Y
Nantucket: Not present
Tisbury: Y
West Tisbury: Y

Adjournment

Alexa motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sarah seconded.

Aquinnah: Y
Chilmark: Y
Edgartown: Y
Gosnold: Not present
Oak Bluffs: Y
Nantucket: Not present
Tisbury: Y
West Tisbury: Y

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09PM.

Documents Referenced:

- 12.22.25 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 12.22.25 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Deck
- 12.11.25 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- CAP Brazilian Portuguese-Dubbed Tick Disease Prevention & Education Videos
- IIPHEC Staff Credentialing Survey
- IIPHEC IMA Final First Draft
- Updated Nantucket Yard Survey Project Proposal
- MV Tick Legislation Board of Health Letter_DRAFT