

# Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, February 25th, 2026

Time: 2-4PM

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
- Frederick Hehre, Assistant Health Agent (Tisbury) - Y
- Stewart Young, Finance Committee Chairman (Gosnold) - N

### Non-voting members present:

- Betsy Vanlandingham, Public Health Nurse, Dukes County
- Lea Hamner, Epidemiologist, Barnstable County
- Stephanie Barth, Epidemiologist, Visiting Nurses Association of Cape Cod
- Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Shared Tick Biologist, IIPHEC

Brice Boutot called the meeting to order. Alexa Arieta 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 2:05PM.

### *Administrative*

#### *Approval of 2/11/26 Minutes*

Marina Lent moved to approve the minutes. Sarah Toste seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Oak Bluffs: Y

Nantucket: Y

Tisbury: Abstain

West Tisbury: Y

#### *Communications Round-Up*

Discussions on tick communication and prevention centered on various distribution channels for educational materials. Strategies included utilizing social media platforms, with recognition that Facebook has limited reach on the island compared to platforms like Instagram and Blue Sky/Threads. It was noted that discounts for InsectShield treated clothing have been renewed for 2026, with a high usage rate reported for one island's code. Suggestions for distributing information, such as tick activity charts and flyers, included posting at the county office, town halls, and potentially high-traffic retail locations like garden stores. Other distribution points suggested were libraries, community message boards, and leveraging email campaigns to local businesses. An emphasis was placed on engaging school nurses as a distribution point to reach parents, though it was acknowledged that materials sent home might be more effective than in-school postings due to visual clutter. The importance of focusing on the website first and foremost was highlighted, along with ensuring that Nantucket is fully included in outreach efforts. Finally, it was noted that two students were hired from BUSPH to assist with a community health assessment.

#### *MVH & RHTP Program Proposal Update*

The SSC shared with the Advisory Board that a completed version of the RHTP program proposal sheet was shared with the representative from Martha's Vineyard Hospital last week. The SSC reiterated that the goal of the program proposal collection was to understand what big categories of work exist on the island and use that information to corresponding work groups.

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The SSC will attend a meeting on Friday, March 6 where they will learn more information about possible next steps. The SSC will share any pertinent information with the Advisory Board.

### *Edey Foundation Grant Update*

The SSC shared that IIPHEC has been awarded part of the requested funds from the Edey Foundation to support the PFAS speaker series on MV. The collaborative originally applied for \$15,175, awarded \$7,500. The SSC will work with Anna McCaffrey to adjust the budget accordingly and bring it back to the Advisory Board for discussion.

### *Maternal, Child, & Family Health Partner Mapping Template Review*

The SSC had initially shared the template with the Advisory Board at the last meeting in February and requested that the Advisory Board add any missing organizations to the map. The SSC then reviewed the existing partners and reminded the Advisory Board that the purpose of this map is to provide a solid starting point for the incoming Local Health Summer Intern to use for their landscape assessment.

The Advisory Board affirm that the map is fully filled out and will serve as a general guide for the intern to use as they conduct their assessment in the summer.

### *Professional Development Plan Review*

The SSC shared two options for a professional development tracker with the Advisory Board. Following review of the options, the Board decided to proceed with the first spreadsheet option. The Board suggested adding columns for expiration dates and CEUs to the tracker. The SSC will create versions of option number one for each municipal local public health staff member in IIPHEC and share them with each member to fill out.

### *Local Health Internship Program Logistics Discussion*

The SSC shared that the LHIP application closes on 3/15/26 and that the application was shared on BME's channels. The SSC will send a PDF of the intern's scope of work to the Advisory Board so that it can be shared with all relevant partners, including the local high school guidance counselor, the YMCA, and libraries.

The SSC outlined two options for a possible schedule for the intern - one for an intern who resides on Martha's Vineyard and one for an intern who lives off-island. The Advisory Board decided to revisit this discussion when an intern is selected.

### *Adjournment*

Alexa motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sarah seconded.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52PM.

Documents Referenced

- 2.25.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 2.25.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Slide Deck
- 2.11.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- Insect Shield 2025 & 2026 Discount Flyers
- RHTP Program Proposal Sheet
- Maternal, Child & Family Health Partner Map
- IIPHEC Professional Development Tracker
- LHIP MCFH Intern Scope of Work