

# Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: March 31, 2026

Time: 10 - 11AM

Location: Virtual

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81417237047?jst=2>

Meeting ID: 81417237047

### 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
- Alex Lam, 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:

- Betsy Vanlandingham, Case Investigation/Contact Tracing Coordinator, Dukes County
- Caitlyn Winders, Shared Services Coordinator, BME Strategies
- Carrie Welch, Health Inspector, IIPHEC
- Cynthia Baker, Managing Consultant, BME Strategies
- Lea Hamner, Epidemiologist, Dukes County
- Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist & Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiologist, 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 10:05AM.

Lea Hamner provided an overview of the new requirement making AGS a reportable disease in Massachusetts, noting that this decision was made rapidly at the state level. AGS has been reportable in 19 other jurisdictions for up to a year. The most impacted community in the state is Martha's Vineyard, with 746 positive tests last year.

Lea then shared a proposal and memo that was presented to Martha's Vineyard Hospital to address the new reporting burden on healthcare providers. The proposal includes two main components:

1. **Dedicated Reporter at MVH:** Hiring a part-time, dedicated staff member or contractor to centralize AGS case reporting for the entire facility. This would increase efficiency for clinical providers and lead to more thorough case reporting on the front end, ultimately reducing the burden and saving time/cost for local public health case investigation.
2. **Public Health Access to EPIC (Read-Only):** Providing designated public health case investigators with read-only access to MVH's electronic health record system (EPIC). This systems improvement would support efficient data abstraction, coordination, and decrease the time spent on manual information requests.

#### Key Discussion Points:

- **Hospital Reaction:** MVH leadership, including the ER and primary care directors, showed strong support for the dedicated reporter concept as an efficient solution that achieves reporting goals without placing the full burden on their clinicians.
- **EPIC Access:** Infection preventionists supported the idea of public health having EPIC access, noting the value in streamlining information exchange. The memo proposing this is systems-focused.
- **Local Boards of Health (LBOH) Authority and MAVEN:** A significant portion of the discussion centered on the role of individual LBOHs, particularly concerning the sustainability of the proposed solutions after the current CT/CI grant ends on 7/1.
  - It was clarified that the memo focuses on the hospital's reporting to the state and public health's access to the clinical data before it gets to MAVEN and is not intended to dictate MAVEN staffing decisions for individual towns.
  - While the group generally supported the goals of the proposal (increased efficiency, better

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data, cost savings), it was stressed that any formal agreement concerning EPIC access or staffing beyond the current grant period would ultimately require separate approval from individual town's Boards of Health.

Drew Belsky motioned to endorse the memo as written with the inclusion of “and town Boards of Health” to send to the hospital for further discussion on AGS reporting and potential EPIC for designated parties. Alexa seconded.

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

## **Adjournment**

Marina motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brice seconded.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM.