

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, April 22nd, 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) - N
- Marina Lent, Health Agent (Aquinnah) - Y
- Jerico Mele, Human Services Director (Nantucket) - N
- 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, Selectboard & Board of Health Member (Gosnold) - N

Non-voting members present:

- Alyssa Kaiser, Local Public Health Nursing Consultant
- Betsy Vanlandingham, Case Investigation/Contact Tracing Coordinator, Dukes County
- Caitlyn Winders, Shared Services Coordinator, BME Strategies
- Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Director of Health & Human Services, Dukes County
- Fernando Lana, Assistant Health Agent, Edgartown
- Frederick Hehre, Assistant Health Agent, Tisbury
- Lea Hamner, Epidemiologist, Dukes County
- Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist & Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiologist, IIPHEC

Marina Lent called the meeting to order. Brice Boutot seconded.

6/8 voting communities present, quorum met.

Attendance Roll Call

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y
Gosnold: N
Nantucket: Y
Oak Bluffs: N
Tisbury: Y
West Tisbury: Y

The meeting was called to order at 2:15PM.

Administrative

Approval of 4/8/26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Jerico Mele motioned to approve the edited minutes. Brice seconded.

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

Approval of 3/31/26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Brice motioned to approve the edited minutes. Jerico seconded.

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

Communications Round-Up



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Lea Hamner and Patrick Roden-Reynolds successfully submitted an abstract to MHOA, focusing on the importance of supporting other communities involved in AGS initiatives. The commitment to holding community office hours was extended through the end of May, with a plan to potentially use an intern to transcribe the Q&A from these sessions. While logistical support from Lea may be limited, efforts will be made to sustain the office hours beyond May. The MV Tick Program has selected Kyle Levy as its new intern, with a start date currently pending. Finally, a Lunch & Learn session has been scheduled for Friday at 11:30 AM at the Chilmark Library.

MCFH Intern Update

The SSC shared that an offer had been made to and accepted by the first choice intern for the upcoming Maternal, Child, & Family Health (MCFH) summer internship role. The role will be focused on conducting a landscape assessment of all existing MCFH services on the three participating IIPHEC islands. The intern will start in June and finish the assessment in August.

MAVEN

FY27 SOW Discussion

The Advisory Board discussed two potential scopes of work, particularly focusing on duties related to post-discharge tuberculosis (TB) patient education, including medication management and scheduling follow-up appointments. There was a preference for a model where the MAVEN Case Investigator acts as the case manager, with a RN providing in-person services, and epidemiologists and Community Health Workers assisting with DOT. Discussion highlighted the need for in-person RN visits, though not for the entire duration of treatment. The group considered generalizing the delegation model beyond TB and ultimately leaned toward a version that clearly defines the case manager's role. Objections to language in the current version of the scopes that includes the County and the Advisory Board due to the fact that any municipal expense must be approved by individual town boards and does not include County or Advisory Board billable work without taxpayer input, vote, and approval. Concern was raised about the current disadvantage of off-island TB specialists from the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA). The role of the VNA in communicable disease investigation, including MAVEN Case Investigation, was a central point of discussion, with a preference for infectious disease cases to be referred to the VNA, who already have established protocols and contracts. While the VNA is contracted for communicable disease investigations, the current agreement does not specifically detail TB protocols, leading to a suggestion to clarify whether to make the protocols more specific. The distinction between TB, which has state reporting requirements and is often managed in-house by Nantucket, and other high-infectious diseases like measles, was noted.

AGS Kitchen Round Table Panel



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The Advisory Board discussed the upcoming AGS information session for food establishments, scheduled for May 4th from 2-4 PM in the Oak Bluffs Meeting Room. Multiple restaurant operators, primarily from Edgartown, have expressed interest in attending. The discussion highlighted the need for a simple email to food establishments and recognized that existing food establishment mailing lists could facilitate this outreach. The formal portion of the session will include three main facets: a presentation on what AGS is, a section on how food establishments can protect themselves, and a focus on standardizing menu identifiers. The consensus was to promote AGS friendly labeling rather than AGS free. The session will also include a presentation from Vineyard Nutrition on the nature of the allergy and where AGS can be hidden, specifically in kitchen handling, and audience participation on best practices. Patrick offered to bring insect and tickborne illness educational flyers. The medical perspective of AGS will also be covered, noting that a nutritionist from the hospital is familiar with the syndrome. The Board will work to explore the possibility of recording the event.

Kratom Regulations Draft Review

The discussion centered on regulating newly emerging substances, drawing parallels to historical precedents where substances caused harm before regulation was established. A comparison was made to regulations enacted in Northampton, which included updated definitions and a prohibition clause. The possibility of an outright ban was debated, with some members arguing that banning an entire functional class of chemicals is highly subjective and difficult to implement. Conversely, others noted that even a restrictive sale would present significant regulatory challenges. The Board discussed comparing the current draft regulations to those adopted by New Hampshire, which prohibit both natural and synthetic forms of the substances. A suggestion was made to solicit input from clinical providers regarding the substances and available testing methods. One provider reported self-reports of use from a larger-than-expected number of patients primarily engaged in alcohol and opioid treatment, indicating a need for more data.

Adjournment

Drew motioned to adjourn the meeting. Anna seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Oak Bluffs: Not present

Nantucket: Y

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury:



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The meeting was adjourned at 4:21PM.

Documents Referenced

- 4.22.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Deck
- 4.22.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Agenda_FINAL
- 4.8.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- 3.31.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Coordinator Scope of Work FY26
- FY27 MAVEN Case Investigator SOW V1
- FY27 MAVEN Case Investigator SOW V2
- Draft Regulation Synthetic Kratom and Unregulated Novel Intoxicating Products V1