

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: April 8, 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) - 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, Finance Committee Chairman (Gosnold) - Y

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
- Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Director of Health & Human Services, Dukes County
- Fernando Lana, Assistant Health Agent, Edgartown
- Lea Hamner, Epidemiologist, Dukes County
- Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist & Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiologist, IIPHEC
- Stephanie Barth, Epidemiologist, Visiting Nurses Association of Cape Cod

Alexa Arieta called the meeting to order. Sarah Toste seconded.

5/8 voting communities present, quorum met.

Attendance Roll Call

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:06PM.

Administrative

Approval of 3/25/26 Minutes

Note: Marina Lent joined at 2:09PM

The SSC shared that an update to the minutes had been made to include additional language that added context for the point system in FoodCodePro.

Sarah motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Brice Boutot seconded.

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

Communications Round-Up

Lea Hamner shared that she had received a response to the memo that the board had voted to submit to the hospital. The response to the memo was circulated to the board via email by the SSC.

The board discussed an upcoming panel discussion on alpha-gal syndrome specific to the restaurant industry, scheduled for May 4th at 2:00 PM at the Oak Bluffs Town Hall. The board also discussed the upcoming Healthy MV Community Collaboration Workshop that will be hosted by the Dukes County Health Council and includes rural scholars. The workshop will focus on community-level collaboration and the development of

three grant-ready project ideas. Representatives from IIPHEC, the Opioid Abatement Advisory Board, and YTF plan to attend the workshop. Lastly, the board discussed the outreach from the Boston Globe to various agents for information. The Globe was referred to Martha's Vineyard hospital, which will be conducting an interview with the publication.

Kratom Regulations

The board heard a presentation on Kratom Regulations at the state and federal level from Stormy Leung, the Substance Use Prevention Coordinator in Braintree. The summary of the discussion that followed the presentation is below:

The board discussed the challenges of regulating Kratom, an unregulated FDA substance, specifically addressing the difference between the natural leaf and the 7-OH synthetic component. Board members noted that some communities, such as Northampton and Amherst, have pursued local regulations, with Northampton referring to the substance as a "novel, unregulated toxic product" at the federal level. Concerns were raised regarding the potential for an influx of these products with the arrival of seasonal residents and the lack of a uniform island-wide regulation. The board emphasized the need for a collaborative, all-island approach to developing consistent regulation across all towns. It was suggested that an educational campaign for the community, including information on the product's unregulated status and its availability to individuals under 21, should be developed concurrently. The importance of providing educational materials with product purchases, highlighting the unregulated nature of the product, was also discussed. The board concluded with a plan to develop a draft regulation for discussion at the next meeting and reach out to Northampton contacts for guidance on the development of the regulation.

MAVEN

The board discussed the challenges and potential solutions for managing contact tracing and case investigation work across the island, focusing heavily on the financial model for next year and defining the scope of work. A "50/50 formula" for sharing expenses island-wide was proposed as a pragmatic and equitable approach.

Discussions highlighted the difficulty in accurately quantifying the time spent on individual case investigations, as complexity varies significantly; Tuberculosis and certain Food-Borne Illnesses like Tularemia were cited as the most time-consuming and intricate cases. Concerns were raised regarding the current CT/CI coordinator's continuous on-call status, leading to a consensus to review and update the Scope of Work to define specific working hours and potentially establish a secondary on-call person for backup coverage.

The imperative for RNs to handle initial case management and assessment, particularly for complex cases like TB, was emphasized. The existing successful collaboration with the VNA for TB case management, including Directly Observed Therapy, was noted as a viable and natural process moving forward. The board agreed on the

necessity of clearly outlining when PHN services are required, identifying labor-intensive and costly illnesses like TB and measles as those requiring PHN support, and establishing a clear, consistent process for patient referrals and workflow with the VNA and other medical professionals. A dedicated VNA island-wide discussion on standardizing DOT protocol was suggested to ensure consistency across the island.

Gosnold Summer Inspections Visit

To streamline the application process for establishments, efforts are underway, in coordination with Gosnold Town Manager John Laverty, to ensure timely submission of all necessary documentation. Once applications are received, a review will be conducted by Carrie Welch and Fred Hehre before the information is shared with the full board. Drew Belsky is scheduled to conduct a perc test in advance of the summer season.

Seafood Training from Profishent

Brice shared that there is an upcoming seafood handling training that will be held by Profishent at the Oak Bluffs Town Hall on April 28 & 29. There are 12 spots total, with three spots reserved for municipal staff. The SSC will reshare the training flyer with the board to accompany the minutes from this meeting.

Adjournment

Brice motioned to adjourn the meeting. Anna seconded.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00PM.

Documents Referenced:

- 4.8.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 4.8.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting
- 3.25.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- IIPHEC Kratom Powerpoint 2026

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- Case Investigation/Contact Tracing Coordinator FY26 Scope of Work