

# Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 10-11AM

Location: Virtual

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88648834569>

Meeting ID: 886 4883 4569

Voting members present:

- Marina Lent, Health Agent (Aquinnah)
- Jerico Mele, Human Services Director (Nantucket)
- Anna McCaffrey, Health Agent (Chilmark)
- Alex Lam, Health Agent (West Tisbury)
- Brice Boutot, Health Agent (Edgartown)
- Drew Belsky, Health Agent (Tisbury)
- Sarah Smith, Treasurer (Gosnold)

Non-voting members present:

- Kristin Black, Director, Shared Services Unit, OLRH
- Bethany Griles, Program Coordinator, Shared Services Unit, OLRH
- Caitlyn Winders, Shared Services Coordinator, BME Strategies

Marina Lent called the meeting to order. Jerico Mele 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 10:03AM.

# Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



*Note: Sarah Smith joined after the call to order.*

## ***IIPHEC / MV & Epi Services for FY27***

The IIPHEC Advisory Board discussed proposed support from the Office of Local & Regional Health within the Department of Public Health (DPH) for temporary epidemiology support services to assist Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Gosnold in managing the surge of reported alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) cases. The Board approved a proposal for a six-month pilot program involving a state-contracted epidemiologist. This resource will be managed through OLRH and will likely leverage existing contracts within the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS) and will function as an enhanced case investigator and contact tracer. The primary objective is to manage the current backlog of Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) cases, streamline reporting processes, and develop a sustainable framework for monitoring AGS. The Board emphasized that this initiative serves as a pilot to address immediate capacity challenges and will be evaluated for potential extension based on future reporting requirements and community needs.

Drew Belsky motioned to approve temporary six-month support from OLRH for epidemiology services to manage the increased reporting case load in MAVEN. Jerico seconded.

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

The motion passed.

Marina motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brice seconded.

Aquinnah: Y  
Chilmark: Y  
Edgartown: Y  
Gosnold: Not present  
Oak Bluffs: Not present

# Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes

---



Nantucket: Y

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44AM.