

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, September 9th, 2026

Time: 12-2PM

Location: Virtual

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81182172480>

Meeting ID: 811 8217 2480

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
- Alex Lam, Health Agent (West Tisbury) - Y
- Brice Boutot, Health Agent (Edgartown) - Y
- Drew Belsky, Health Agent (Tisbury) - 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
- Fernando Lana, Assistant Health Agent, Edgartown
- Jo Watson, Director of Health & Human Services, Nantucket
- Lea Hamner, Epidemiologist, Dukes County
- Lee Augenblick, Senior Associate Consultant, BME Strategies
- Martina Thorton, County Manager, Dukes County
- Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist & Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiologist, IIPHEC
- Stephanie Barth, Epidemiologist, Visiting Nurses Association of Cape Cod

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

7/8 voting communities present, quorum met.

Attendance Roll Call

Aquinnah: Y

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



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

The meeting was called to order at 12:03PM.

Administrative

Review & Approval of 8/18/26 & 8/26/26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Drew Belsky motioned to approve the minutes from 8/18/26 and the minutes from 8/26/26. Jerico seconded.

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

Both sets of meeting minutes were approved and will be available on the IIPHEC website for the public within two business days.

Communications Round-Up

A number of Advisory Board members have had conversations with a community member on Martha's Vineyard who is concerned about the lack of tick-related signage on the island. The Steamship Authority has since put up signs on the ferries to alert community members and visitors to the presence of ticks. Drew will reach out to the community member on behalf of IIPHEC to ensure that her concerns have been addressed. Patrick Roden-Reynolds will provide Drew with a list of FAQs from the Ag Fair that can be shared with the DPH epidemiologists who will help the towns with the burden of AGS. All Martha's Vineyard health agents will be included on communications with OLRH about this epidemiology support moving forward.

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Lea Hamner shared that the state of Massachusetts is conducting a statewide AGS analysis with a focus on immediately diagnosed AGS cases. She will report back to the group with more information on this analysis as it becomes available.

FY27 Workplan

Performance Standards 1 - Housing (Mitigate unsafe housing conditions and health hazards in residential settings and lodging)

The Advisory Board agreed to create a small working group focused on this objective and its respective activities. The working group will include Brice and Alexa Arieta. The group may also include John Hedden, the Chief Environmental Health Officer on Nantucket, following discussion between Jerico and John. Jericho will provide documents that Nantucket uses for housing inspection and enforcement work to the SSC. Carrie Welch will also be included in discussions related to standardization to ensure that she has the necessary context when participating in housing-related work across the island. The Working Group will meet between this meeting and the next Advisory Board meeting on September 23.

Elective 1 - Research & Apply for Grants

The SSC shared additional information about the Fundamentals of Grant Writing Course offered through the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health. Attendance of the course by IIPHEC Advisory Board members and shared staff had been previously approved by OLRH, and two additional Advisory Board members, Drew and Jerico, expressed an interest in attending the course. The SSC will follow up with those Advisory Board members separately to support their registration.

MAVEN MOU Discussion

Patrick shared that the MV Tick Program has not registered for nonprofit status, rather the title “nonprofit” has historically been used as a label. The MV Tick Program was started in 2011 using a grant between the Martha’s Vineyard Hospital and the MV Boards of Health. Following the conclusion of that grant in 2015, the funds at the Community Foundation began to support Dick Johnson and his tick survey work. Patrick and Dick function as advisors for the fund, while the Community Foundation performs the administrative work. This funding has been used to support interns and purchase supplies that are not approved under Public Health Excellence grant expenditure guidance. The fund is used for expenses on Martha’s Vineyard only and had previously been used to support personnel to complete residential yard survey work.

The MAVEN MOU that had existed previously was leveraged for the now sunsetted CT/CI grant. Now that the CT/CI grant has concluded, there is no documentation that provides access to MAVEN for Lea and the need for guardrails accompanied by specific expectations of how the data will be used has arisen.

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



The Advisory Board discussed absorbing the MV Tick Program into IIPHEC, but highlighted the complexity in trying to absorb what is an established mechanism that predates the PHE program and allows for Patrick to purchase supplies he could not otherwise. The Advisory Board decided that conversation about the best way to house the MV Tick Program will be ongoing, and that the Board will continue discussion about the MV Tick Program at future meetings.

Jerico expressed an interest in Nantucket participating in the MOU as well, which could allow for data sharing across the islands. The SSC will work with the Chair to update the MOU to ensure that the language in the draft is inclusive of Nantucket. The SSC will also add a clause that specifically alludes to the SOP that the IIPHEC Advisory Board will develop that will dictate how the data accessed via MAVEN will be used and the reporting cadence that will exist between the Advisory Board and Lea.

The Advisory Board will continue to review the comments and language in the draft version of the MOU, and will discuss the MOU further at the next meeting.

Rural Health Transformation & Tick-Focused Application

Lea shared that the state of Massachusetts has received a total of \$182M from the federal government specifically for Rural Health Transformation projects and encouraged the Advisory Board to consider who on Martha's Vineyard should apply, subject to the release of eligibility criteria, as well as which subject domain the applicant group should select under state guidance. She shared that the first of five years of funding will likely be available to apply within a short time span, and that the group should work to prepare themselves as much as possible ahead of the release for the Request for Proposals. The Advisory Board discussed positioning IIPHEC as the applicant, and the SSC will confer with OLRH to determine if the existing IMA is the appropriate legal mechanism to support reception of these funds should they be awarded to IIPHEC.

Dukes County & Epidemiology Services Contract

Received an ask to bring a request to the Advisory Board, would like the Advisory Board to consider this information, then discuss what next steps they would like to take.

The SSC shared a request from Lea to discuss a contract to support her ongoing tick-related epidemiological services. The work would be based off of the previously used CT/CI contract. The Advisory Board supported discussing this proposed contract in the IIPHEC meeting space, but asked that the SSC request guidance from OLRH on whether or not funding from donations can be used to pay contractors before proceeding.

Adjournment

Brice motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jerico seconded.

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02PM.

Documents Referenced:

- 9.9.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 8.18.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- 8.26.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- 9.9.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Slide Deck
- IIPHEC FY27 Workplan
- MAVEN MOU_DRAFT