

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, May 27th, 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) - Y
- Anna McCaffrey, Health Agent (Chilmark) - N
- Alex Lam, 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:

- Betsy Vanlandingham, Case Investigation/Contact Tracing Coordinator, Dukes County
- Caitlyn Winders, Shared Services Coordinator (SSC), BME Strategies
- Carrie Welch, Health Inspector, IIPHEC
- Fernando Lana, Assistant Health Agent, Edgartown
- Lea Hamner, Epidemiologist, Dukes County
- Stephanie Barth, Epidemiologist, Visiting Nurses Association of Cape Cod

Alexa Arieta called the meeting to order. Brice Boutot seconded.

6/8 voting communities present, quorum met.

Attendance Roll Call

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: N

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: N

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Nantucket: Y
Oak Bluffs: Y
Tisbury: Y
West Tisbury: Y

The meeting was called to order at 2:05PM.

Administrative

Approval of 5/13/26 Minutes

Jerico Mele motioned to approve the minutes. Brice seconded.

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

Communications Round-Up

The SSC shared that Patrick Roden-Reynolds presented to The Gosnold select board last Friday on tick ecology and bite prevention, where he received several compliments that the presentation was helpful and informative. He said that he will continue discussion on a possible in-person visit and another virtual presentation in July or August for the broader community when Gosnold community members arrive.

Marina Lent shared that the Aquinnah Board of Health had a meeting with the director of the tribal center, where they talked about public health issues that affect the town of Aquinnah and the Vineyard as a whole. She described the town as having a strong working relationship with the tribal center. She requested that the collaborative share specific public health communications materials with the tribal center when requested and involve them in the creation of those materials when appropriate.

Fred Hehre shared that the Opioid Abatement Collaborative had hired students from BU to conduct a needs assessment of substance use on resources on the island, and that they have developed a survey that will be distributed across the island shortly.

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Local Health Internship Program Update

The SSC shared that the new local health summer intern was at her program orientation that day, and that her first day of her internship will be Monday, June 1. The intern is slated to spend most of her time speaking with community stakeholders, but will also visit each IIPHEC town and spend time with each health agent. The SSC will work with each health agent to ensure that her visit to their respective municipality will align well with their availability. The SSC will also work closely with Jerico to ensure that her visit to Nantucket is well-timed.

FY26 Spend Down Discussion

MAVEN / AGS Proposal

The SSC and Lea Hamner shared a spend-down proposal to support AGS case investigation. This proposal also involves developing a SOP that can serve as a way to manage and report AGS cases and would support the gathering of case investigators across the island. The Advisory Board felt strongly about this proposal and the work that it supports serving as a standard bearer for the state. Betsy VanLandingham highlighted that case investigators on Cape Cod are having the same experience and have their own SOP written out, which should serve as a great resource from the Vineyard. The proposal included \$3,600 for hours worked by Lea Hamner and \$1,200 for additional hours worked by Betsy VanLandingham.

Alexa motioned to approve the proposal. Marina Lent seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Not present

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Nantucket: Y

Oak Bluffs: Y

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

The MAVEN & AGS coverage proposal passed.

Tick borne disease education materials

The SSC shared that Patrick asked to have some tick education materials ordered and printed. This included the figures below:

- Tick borne disease info wallet cards: 3000 cards for \$285 --- Printed at DaRosa's in Oak Bluffs.

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- Tickspotters tick sticker with QR code: 500 for \$175 --- Ordered from TickEncounter website. This has a QR code that leads people to TickSpotters free tick identification service.
- Shower hangers: \$1 per hanger, with 500 hangers in total.

The total cost of the proposal is \$960.

Alexa motioned to approve the proposal. Jerico seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Not present

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Nantucket: Y

Oak Bluffs: Y

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

The proposal passed.

Communications Training

The SSC and Lea shared a proposal for half day media training for IIPHEC staff, contract employees, and Advisory Board members. Existing online media communications tools had been explored as free or very low cost options, but in order to meet the demands of being on camera, a proposal for on camera practice was brought forward. The board and its shared staff and contract employees would like to sharpen their skills around answering questions, sticking to talking points, and redirecting when content falls out of their area of expertise. The proposal would include a half day training session, available for all participating board members, and would be held by Peter Brown Communications.

Marina motioned to approve the proposal. Jerico seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Not present

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Nantucket: Y

Oak Bluffs: Y

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Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

The proposal passed.

Nantucket Yard Survey

Jerico shared that \$3,000 will be freed up for spend-down, as the original proposed yard survey program on Nantucket will no longer occur.

Kratom Regulation Review

Lastly, the board shared updates on the state of Kratom regulation review and adoption in each IIPHEC town.

The full list of regulation status by municipality is below:

- Edgartown - On the Board of Health June 9 agenda
- Tisbury - Public hearing will be scheduled for June
- Oak Bluffs - Planned to bring to the Board of Health for introduction discussion, followed by a formal discussion at a later meeting
- Aquinnah - Informally circulated to the Board of Health
- West Tisbury - No discussion to date
- Chilmark - Informal discussion amongst the Board of Health
- Nantucket - Will wait to see how adoption goes on the Vineyard and follow suit

Adjournment

Jerico motioned to adjourn the meeting. Marina seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Not present

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Nantucket: N

Oak Bluffs: Y

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27PM.

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Documents Referenced:

- 5.27.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Slide Deck
- 5.27.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 5.13.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- MAVEN / AGS FY26 Spend-down Proposal
- Media Communications Training FY26 Spend-down Proposal
- Kratom Regulation