

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026

Time: 12-2PM

Location: Virtual

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89364926042>

Meeting ID: 893 6492 6042

Voting members present:

- Alexa Arieta, Health Agent (Oak Bluffs)
- Jerico Mele, Human Services Director (Nantucket)
- Anna McCaffrey, Health Agent (Chilmark)
- Alex Lam, Assistant Health Agent (West Tisbury)
- Brice Boutot, Health Agent (Edgartown)
- Drew Belsky, Health Agent (Tisbury)

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
- Frederick Hehre, Assistant Health Agent, Tisbury
- Lea Hamner, Epidemiologist, Dukes County
- Mike Hugo, Director of Policy & Government Relations, MAHB
- Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist & Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiologist, IIPHEC

Alexa Arieta called the meeting to order. Jerico Mele seconded.

6/8 voting communities present, quorum met.

Attendance Roll Call

Aquinnah: N

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: N

Nantucket: Y

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Oak Bluffs: Y

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

The meeting was called to order at 12:05PM.

Administrative

Approval of 7/8/26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Jerico motioned to approve the Advisory Board meeting minutes, Brice Boutot seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Aquinnah: Not present

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Nantucket: Y

Oak Bluffs: Y

Tisbury: Abstain

West Tisbury: Y

Approval of 7/17/26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting

Brice motioned to approve the Advisory Board meeting minutes, Frederick Hehre seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Nantucket: Y

Oak Bluffs: Abstain

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

Both minutes have been approved and will be added to the IIPHEC website.

Communications Round-Up

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The Board reviewed a request from the Dukes County Health Council, centering on the complexity of the tick-management system and the necessity of managing public expectations. A primary focus of the discussion was branding; members emphasized the importance of a unified message to distinguish the Tick Program's public health initiatives from private business activities. To ensure transparency and public clarity, the Board resolved to implement consistent branding across all materials, including signage and digital media, and to develop a news archive to chronicle the program's ongoing efforts.

The Board then discussed strategies to broaden community engagement for the Maternal, Child, & Family Health community survey. Plans were finalized to integrate QR codes into promotional materials to facilitate direct access, alongside a commitment to providing translated resources to better serve the Portuguese-speaking community. Members also proposed the creation of a brief article to clearly articulate the tangible benefits of these public health efforts to the broader public.

Finally, the Board addressed challenges regarding communications with local Select Boards. Acknowledging that individual outreach has led to fragmented responses and the spread of misinformation regarding Board of Health activities, the group agreed to pivot toward a unified communication strategy. The Board committed to streamlining communications in an effort to ensure that all town officials receive consistent, accurate information regarding the program's current work and public health goals.

MAVEN MOU Discussion

The Board engaged in an extensive discussion regarding a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to govern access to the MAVEN system for Lea Hamner, an epidemiologist working with multiple organizations across Martha's Vineyard. Building upon the framework of a 2011 agreement, the current proposal seeks to strengthen reporting structures, oversight, and accountability for the program's epidemiological work. A central objective of this initiative is to ensure that all participating Boards of Health maintain confidence in the data-sharing process and the reporting procedures for Lea.

During the discussion, members deliberated on the organizational framework of these activities, including the nature of the professional relationship and funding mechanisms. The Board emphasized the necessity of thorough legal review for all proposed contracts and MOUs prior to finalization. The group explored the most appropriate forum for these deliberations, and will continue to discuss what serves as the correct venue, given the island-wide, collaborative nature of the Tick Program and the integral role of epidemiology in its public health mission. The Board concluded that these discussions remain ongoing, with a commitment to achieving a structure that ensures transparency and comfort for all stakeholders.

Adjournment

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Anna McCaffrey motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jerico seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Nantucket: Y

Oak Bluffs: Y

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM