

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, August 18th, 2026

Time: 11AM-1PM

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) - Y
- 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, BME Strategies
- Carrie Welch, Health Inspector, IIPHEC
- Fernando Lana, Assistant Health Agent, Edgartown
- Frederick Hehre, Assistant Health Agent, Tisbury
- Lea Hamner, Epidemiologist, Dukes County
- Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist & Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiologist, IIPHEC

Brice Boutot called the meeting to order. Jerico Mele seconded.

7/8 voting communities present, quorum met.

Attendance Roll Call

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: N

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

The meeting was called to order at 11:06AM.

Administrative

Approval of 7/22/26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Marina Lent motioned to approve the July 22 minutes, Jerico seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Monthly Reporting from Shared Staff

Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Shared Tick Biologist, reported a highly successful engagement at the Agricultural Fair. Engagement metrics were strong, with approximately 2,500 visitors, nearly tripling previous years' participation. Community feedback indicated high appreciation for public health education, particularly regarding tick awareness and Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS). Attendees were well-prepared with protective equipment, suggesting effective prior outreach.

Carrie Welch, Shared Health Inspector, reported on summer food safety initiatives and highlighted successful efforts to ensure vendor compliance, specifically regarding food protection management and temperature control for camps and establishments on Gosnold. She and Frederick Hehre identified logistical challenges regarding food transportation to Gosnold and plan to collaborate with town selectmen to address food safety standards and transport protocols.

FY26 Expenditure & Budget Review

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The SSC shared the final spend percentage for FY26 with the group, totaling 98.76%, including both programmatic and administrative costs.

FY27 Chair & Vice Chair Election

Alex Lam made a motion to re-elect Drew Belsky to continue serving as the IIPHEC Advisory Board Chair, Jerico seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Nantucket: Y

Oak Bluffs: Not present

Tisbury: Abstain

West Tisbury: Y

Communications Round-Up

The Board discussed recent and ongoing community outreach initiatives. Jerico reported that yard surveys are underway in coordination with local Boards of Health on Nantucket, and ongoing collaboration with local conservation agencies is expected to increase referrals to the IIPHEC tick resources page. The Board is also expanding its focus on AGS education, having recently engaged the local hospital's director of nursing to increase awareness. Patrick confirmed that new AGS educational flyers and fact sheets are available to support these efforts.

Additionally, Patrick provided an update on the School Resources project, noting that a comprehensive collection of tick education materials for parents and school nurses has been organized and is now live on the IIPHEC website. Regarding public engagement events, Lea Hamner reported a highly successful Agricultural Fair, with visitor counts nearly tripling compared to previous years. She plans to continue this outreach at the Edgartown Village Market, noting that the diverse audience at these markets provides a valuable opportunity to reach both year-round residents and seasonal visitors.

FY27 Workplan Review

Performance Standards Objective - Housing

The Board reaffirmed housing as a high-priority area, noting the continued relevance of managing short-term rentals and rooming houses. To support this objective, members are actively pursuing professional development

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through the state's tiered training program. Coordination with regional training hubs is underway to schedule Tier 2 and Tier 3 sessions, which will enhance the team's inspection capabilities, particularly during the off-season. The Board clarified that while housing inspection training is a core focus, lead inspection certification remains a separate, specialized requirement. Staff members provided updates on their current training status, with progress toward Tier 1 completion expected by late 2026.

Performance Standards Objective - Food

The Board noted that recent regional food establishment closures underscore the necessity of increasing inspectional capacity, particularly given the pressures of the summer season. To support this, staff are actively pursuing state-mandated Tier 1 and Tier 2 training. The group also reviewed the importance of collaborative inspections, noting that coordination between jurisdictions, such as Edgartown and Tisbury, has already proven effective for managing complex, multi-town compliance issues. While the Board expressed interest in standardizing administrative functions and plan reviews, it was agreed that full standardization should be deferred until more staff complete their advanced tiered training. In the interim, the team will begin compiling existing plan review templates and examples to establish preliminary shared best practices.

Elective 1 - Grant Writing

The Board discussed the work that was done to support this elective last fiscal year, and a number of Board members shared their interest in engaging in the self-paced portion of the Grant Writing workshop that has been attended by Anna McCaffrey and Patrick.

Elective 1 - Strategic Planning

The Board discussed their desire to engage in Strategic Planning, but to tack it onto an existing event where all of most Board members will be in attendance.

MAVEN MOU Access Discussion

The Board is still waiting on feedback from the MAVEN division at DPH. Once that feedback has been received, the group can proceed with discussion.

Adjournment

Brice motioned to adjourn the meeting. Drew seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM.

Documents Referenced:

- 8.18.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 8.18.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Slide Deck
- 7.22.26 IIPHEC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- IIPHEC FY27 Workplan
- MAVEN MOU_Draft