

# Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 2-3PM

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:

- Caitlyn Winders, Shared Services Coordinator, BME Strategies
- Martina Thornton, County Manager, Dukes County
- Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist & Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiologist, IIPHEC

Alexa Arieta called the meeting to order. Marina Lent seconded.

6/8 voting communities present, quorum met.

**Attendance Roll Call**

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: N

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: N

Nantucket: Y

Oak Bluffs: Y

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

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The meeting was called to order at 2:02PM.

*Note: Anna McCaffrey of Chilmark joined at 2:04PM.*

## ***IIPHEC NEWVEC Letter of Support***

The Advisory Board discussed the draft Letter of Support for the IIPHEC NEWVEC initiative.

Jerico Mele raised initial questions regarding the reporting structure, emphasizing the importance of explicitly defining the established working relationship with Patrick Roden-Reynolds within the IIPHEC framework.

Drew Belsky noted that the language should emphasize "shared services" rather than "regional services," explaining that establishing a dedicated county department can provide necessary administrative authority and benefit management. Marina suggested referencing Select Boards across participating islands. Brice Boutot supported keeping supervision and reporting channels as consistent with current operations as possible, and Alexa recommended adding explicit references to "governance" within the proposed structure.

Anna inquired about how a new public health department would interface with the existing Dukes County Health and Human Services department and asked about the Board's scope of authority. Martina Thornton clarified that the existing HHS department will remain intact to oversee healthcare access, public benefits, and dental programs. The proposed new public health department would focus on municipal public health functions, island-wide shared services, and staffing under the direction of the local health agents.

Drew highlighted that having a dedicated county home for shared public health services would significantly improve the island's capacity to pivot and secure competitive grant opportunities. Martina reassured the Board that their authority over program direction and management would remain unchanged, comparing it to current oversight of Caitlyn Winders (Shared Services Coordinator) and Patrick, with specific responsibilities outlined through regional agreements, job descriptions, and grant requirements.

Jerico motioned to submit the letter, inclusive of language changes made to indicate that the reporting structure is inclusive of Nantucket and Gosnold, to the Dukes County Commissioners for their review. Alexa seconded.

Aquinnah: Y

Chilmark: Y

Edgartown: Y

Gosnold: Not present

Nantucket: Y

Oak Bluffs: Y

Tisbury: Y

West Tisbury: Y

### ***Adjournment***

Jerico motioned to adjourn the meeting. Alexa 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 2:58PM.

### **Documents Referenced:**

- IIPHEC/NEWVEC Letter of Support for Biologist Position