

Statewide Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2008 Meeting, 12:30-4:30 pm

Locations linked by video conference:

Maine CDC, 286 Water Street, Augusta

DHHS, 17 Eastward Lane, Ellsworth

DHHS, 161 Marginal Way, Portland

Members Present: Andy Coburn, Marla Davis, Kate Dufour, Deborah Erickson-Irons, Barbara Ginley, George Hill, Joanne Joy, Eleody Libby, Becca Matusovich, Doug Michael, Rep. Lisa Miller, Dora Anne Mills, Nancy Rines, Lisa Sockabasin, David Stockford, Dennise Whitley, Shawn Yardley

Interested Parties Present: MaryAnn Amrich, Debbie Andrews, Mark Griswold, Sharon Leahy-Lind, Christine Lyman, Mary Mayhew, Kellie Miller, Karen O'Rourke, Tina Pettingill

1. Welcome: Co-chairs Dennise Whitley and Joanne Joy welcomed everyone to the meeting, reviewed the agenda and took a roll call.
2. Workforce Development: Dora Mills reported that workforce development efforts will be postponed until early next year to allow for other important SCC initiatives such as legislation and membership. National standards for accreditation will be released this winter, which will help guide workforce development.
3. SCC Membership and Proposed Public Health System Legislation: Based on discussion at the June SCC meeting, an ad hoc workgroup worked with the SCC Executive Committee over the summer to research public health advisory bodies in other states and delineate membership criteria for the SCC. Based on this research and the December 2007 Public Health Work Group report to the legislature, Dr. Mills drafted legislative language that would serve to codify the new public health infrastructure, including specific language about the charge and composition of the SCC. The draft was sent to members prior to the meeting. The Governor's Office on Health Policy and Finance reviewed and provided comments will likely provide additional input. The co-chairs and Dr. Mills lead the group in a discussion about the proposed intent and content and specific language, inviting feedback and input from the larger group. Some highlights of this discussion follow:
 - The proposed legislation should include a statement about how the SCC formulates a public health improvement plan for the state and how the SCC reports to/advises both the legislature and the Governor's Office on Health Policy and Finance. Part of that report should include how the public health system is improving the health of Maine residents.
 - The proposed bill would put DHHS districts in statute, and Dr. Mills will discuss this aspect with appropriate representatives of the Department..
 - The - Essential Public Health Services are referred to in the document, but not referenced directly, since they may change over time.
 - One of the principal reasons for proposing this bill is to move toward public health accreditation, which Maine will need to apply for by 2011. Accreditation requires us to have continuing quality assurance and a formalized process for stakeholders to review

public health efforts. This should be reflected in the bill, and may be an effective way to market the proposed bill to legislators.

- This proposed legislation does not describe the entire public health system, instead focusing on new elements of the system that create improvements in efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of public health services.

Action Steps:

- Any additional comments from the SCC should be submitted to Dora Mills or an SCC Executive Committee member prior to the next Executive Committee meeting on 10/14/08.
 - Dora Mills will incorporate input and comments from the SCC. She will then request a more comprehensive review from the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance and the DHHS Commissioner's Office.
 - Dennise Whitley and Kellie Miller offered to help Dora Mills with talking points as the proposed legislation gets considered.
4. District Public Health Update: Mark Griswold provided a brief updated from the Office of Local Public Health.
- Second DCC meetings are scheduled in many districts, along with a first expanded DCC meeting in Downeast and an initial meeting in the Western District. Most DCC are working on group structure, with some also choosing short-term priority projects. Cumberland continues their longstanding meetings, and has just completed a process to create group bylaws.
 - An on-line LHO certification training is nearing completion. A beta version will be available for review in mid-October, with end-user testing beginning soon. The beta version will be shared at an exhibit table at the Maine Municipal Association Annual Meeting in October.
 - OLPH is contracting with the Maine Center for Public Health to conduct Local Public Health System Assessments in all districts. DCCs will be approached to request volunteers to help with this process.
5. Planning for the 12/11/08 Joint Meeting with the Advisory Committee on Health Systems Development (ACHSD): The ACHSD has requested a joint meeting with the SCC. Members discussed how the meeting should be constructed and how the SCC could both provide and obtain input from ACHSD. Dora Mills, who serves on both groups, reported that ACHSD members are most interested in learning about progress with implementing the public health infrastructure. Suggestions for the meeting included the following:
- Request that three of four people in the districts, who do not have specific ties with Healthy Maine Partnerships (HMPs), SCC or Maine CDC, present at the meeting about the new sub-state structure.
 - The SCC report out should be concrete and structured to ensure that the ACHSD gets essential information about the system.
 - Meet for 2 hours jointly, and have an additional 2 hours with just the SCC.
 - It would be useful if ACHSD could articulate their expectations for the SCC and DCCs.
 - Concerning the State Health Plan, what does ACHSD need from the SCC to develop that document? Given that work will soon begin on Healthy Maine 2020, is there a way to

align the two documents going forward?

- Discussion should include the importance of including public health in health reform policy.

Action Steps:

- The Executive Committee will work with Dora Mills and Trish Riley? to determine the needs of ACHSD and provide input into the joint agenda for the two groups.
- Mark and the Office of Local Public Health can assist in approaching district representatives to speak at the meeting
- Mark and the Office of Local Public Health will identify possible video conferencing options.

6. SCC Workplan Development: The group talked briefly about how to proceed with membership and development of specific tasks going forward into 2009. In particular, members wondered if the new legislation would increase the timeline for creating revised membership. It was decided that new SCC membership guidelines can be put in place pending passage of the bill, and tweaked after passage if required. Appointment of legislators would wait until after passage of the bill. It was suggested that new SCC membership could be deferred until the March 2009 SCC meeting, which would give DCCs more time to nominate members. (does this mean new members will be present in March – will be identified by March – more specificity is needed here.

Action Steps:

- The Executive Committee will continue discussion of workplan development and present a timeline for new membership at the December meeting.
- Executive Committee meeting minutes will be shared with the full group on the website with notification of their availability being send in an email to all members and interested parties.