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Maine Department of Health and Human Services
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Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health Meeting
Minutes June 18, 2026 / Approved September 17, 2026
Virtual by Zoom

Member Attendance

Seat	Roll Call	Name	Organization	Representing
1	x	Betsy Kelly	Partners for Healthier Communities South	York District
2	x	Hannah Siladi	University of New England	Cumberland District
3	x	Corrie Brown	Healthy Androscoggin	Western District
4	x	Christine Lyman	Mid Coast District	Mid Coast District
5	Excused	Anne Connors	MaineGeneral Medical Center	Central District
6	x	Matt Donahue	Heart of Maine United Way	Penquis District
7	x	Maria Donahue	Healthy Acadia	Downeast District
8	x	Sue Bouchard	Fish River Rural Health	Aroostook District
9	x	James Markiewicz	Maine CDC	State Government
	Excused	Puthiery Va	Maine CDC	State Government
10	Excused	Kristen McAuley	Maine DHHS Office of Behavioral Health	Maine DHHS
11	x	Emily Poland	Maine Department of Education	Maine Department of Education
12	x	Julie Churchill	Maine Department of Environmental Protection	Maine DEP
13	x	Heather Drake	Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment	Statewide Planning
14	Excused	Joe Legee	Maine Emergency Management Agency	Statewide Emergency Management
15	x	Bethany Sanborn	Maine Health	Statewide Healthcare
16	Excused	Susan Kring	Maine Medical Association	Public Health Policy
17	x	Jess Maurer	Maine Council on Aging	Statewide Aging and Health
18	x	Yvonne Jonk	USM Maine Rural Health Research Center	Higher Education
19	x	Jennifer Thompson	National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maine Chapter	Statewide Mental Health Prevention
20	x	Wil O'Neal	Maine Emergency Medical Services	Statewide EMS
21	x	Sue Mackey-Andrews	Helping Hands with Heart	Statewide Community Action
22	Excused	Joshua Toner	Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	Tribal Liaison
23	x	Jen Gunderman	Bangor Public Health and Community Services	Municipal Public Health Agency
Member Seats: 23 Excused: 6 Quorum total 17 Quorum is met: 17/23 Members				

The Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health, established under Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 14-G, is a representative statewide body of public health stakeholders for collaborative public health planning and coordination

Interested Parties and Stakeholders

Adam Hartwig	York PHD		Allison Harvell	Cumberland PHD
Lauren Gauthier	Western PHD		Meghan Richards	Western PHD
Paula Thomson	Central PHD		Alexis Furbush	Central PHD
Lindsey O'Hara	Midcoast PHD		Courtney Wall	Aroostook PHD
Jessica Fogg	Penquis PHD		Kawther Mohamed	Downeast PHD
Stacy Boucher	Aroostook PHD		Amanda Campbell	Maine Municipal Association
Al May	Downeast PHD		Lane Simsarian	Maine CDC
Samson Omole	Maine CDC		Kate Woodworth	Maine CDC
MaryClaire Worrell	Maine CDC		Heather Sneff	Maine CDC
Megan Stewart	Maine Primary Care Association		Max Adam	
Jennifer Jamison	Maine CDC		Dan Dent	Maine CDC
Nicole Breton	Maine CDC		Sheila Krouse	Maine CDC
Nancy Birkhimer	Maine CDC		Anne Sites	Maine CDC
Eden Hall	Maine CDC		Jamie Bourque	Maine CDC

Meeting Minutes SCC June 18, 2026

<i>Co-Chairs: Jen Gunderman and Bethany Sanborn, Maine CDC James Markiewicz</i>		
Agenda:	Discussion:	Actions/Resources:
Welcome & Introduction	James welcomed the participants	James.markiewicz@maine.gov
Council Business Jen Gunderman Bethany Sanborn	Reviewed the agenda by Jen Gunderman - Approval of March 19, 2026, Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve minutes as written - Member Introduction: will have at September meeting.	Email: Bethany.Sanborn@mainehealth.org Jennifer.gunderman@bangormaine.gov All meeting minutes and materials are uploaded to the Statewide Coordinating Council website. https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/about-us/commissions-review-panels/statewide-coordinating-council-for-public-health/meetings
Heather Drake	Shared Community Health Needs Assessment The Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is transitioning its triennial assessment model to continuous, in-house community engagement. Additionally, the collaborative is reducing the number of monitored indicators to create a more manageable, representative list of state and county health priorities.	To sign up to receive the newsletter or to get more information on CHNA contact Heather.drake@mainehealth.org Community Health Needs Assessment Data Dashboard: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/data-reports/population-health/community-health-needs-assessment/chna-interactive-data
Nancy Birkhimer	Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant Advisory Committee - Background and Context of PHHS Block Grant. - Annual review of programs and budget allocation: - Public Hearing: no comments were received. - Motion: As the Advisory Council for the Maine CDC Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, do you approve of the Fiscal 2026 Allocation of Program Funding as presented at the June 18, 2026, Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health (SCC) Meeting? Yes: 14 votes; No: 0 votes; Abstain: 1 vote; Non-voting: 8	Presentation shared on website For more information on the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant contact: nancy.birkhimer@maine.gov

	Question or Comments Q: How are you meeting health equity? Health equity is being communicated through these programs. C: Maine CDC and hospital system partners are providing funding for Shared CHNA. C: SCC is not in position to be an advocate with the legislature. MPHA tracks federal and state budgets. Could MPHA be made aware of the PHHS BG future funding and put it on their list for advocacy? C: PHHS BG does not show up in the President's budget or the House's budget, but mostly in the Senate budget. This uncertainty makes it difficult to plan for allocations each year. Discussion on Grant and SCC as Advisory Committee: Other states ask the Advisory Committee for areas to consider for funding. For the SCC, we could provide context and how decisions are made and have SCC provide questions about programs and funding. We could change the information on program and allocations during the earlier quarterly meetings, so SCC members have a better understanding on the work that the programs are doing. Action steps: information on PHHS BG prior to the annual vote; in relation to the legislature, how do we educate our legislators on public health work; can the SCC leadership work with MPHA to develop relationship with legislators; would a meet and greet between SCC leadership and the HHS Committee be a benefit?	
Eden Hale	Meet Maine CDC Division of Population Health Equity • DPHE Current Operation ○ See attached presentation ○ With closing of birthing centers, is DPHE working with the TMaH initiative? No, working more with the RHTP initiative but coordinating with TMaH makes sense. ○ DPHE should connect on paramedicine initiative and how it can be sustained under RHTP. ○ Health Equity: are their other "isms"	Presentation shared on website For more information on the Division of Population Health Equity contact eden.hale@maine.gov / lane.simsarian@maine.gov Link to more information: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/health-y-living/health-equity/community-care-program

	that can be described and included in the DPHE work. ○ Utilize clear definition of health equity to determine eligibility for equity infrastructure funding. ○ Expand knowledge of Community Care Refund Program into different community/hospital systems. ○ PCP meeting Social Determinants of Health: community paramedicine, community health workers, and general assistance (Maine Municipal Association) ○ Health Equity Advisory Council: working on SHIP Objectives and calling for new members ● Save the date ○ July 22nd 1:00-2:30 virtual event on SHIP. You will need to register if you are interested in attending. Registration information to come ● Looking Ahead ○ Rural Health transformation work, Work with PHEP, staff training, language accessibility, advocacy.	Sign up for DPHE Newsletter: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-living/health-equity
Anne Sites Kate Woodworth Jen Gunderman Jame Markiewicz	Emerging Public Health Issues ● <u>HIV Outbreak Community Response</u> ○ Anne Sites and Jen Gunderman gave an update on the HIV outbreak in Bangor/Penobscot County. ○ Initially in 2024, due to a breakdown in Syringe Services Programs (SSP) in region along with homelessness and other social determinants, services were disconnected. ○ Syndemic is when two or more diseases or health conditions (HIV, Hep C) cluster and interact within a population because of social and structural factors, leading to excess burden of disease. ○ Today (2026), individuals are receiving better and more effective care than in 2024 due to collaborative efforts. ● <u>Situational Awareness: Ebola: Hantavirus</u> ○ Kate Woodworth gave an update, stating there are no cases of these two in Maine; risk to US is low. ● <u>Large Scale Events Readiness</u> ○ Using the World Cup Preparedness to	All Presentations shared on website Anne.sites@maine.gov Kate.woodworth@maine.gov Jennifer.gunderman@bangormaine.gov James.markiewicz@maine.gov Maine CDC Health and Safety Preparedness Website: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-living/health-and-safety/preparing-for-emergencies/health-safety-preparedness

	plan large scale events in Maine, we are ramping up our summer preparedness. ○ Updating the all-hazards plan for all our programs, especially drinking water, foodborne emergencies, and specialized plans like Ebola. ○ Developing new Health and Safety Preparedness website.	
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.	Next meeting: September 17, 2026