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Governor

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Commissioner



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TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

**Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health Meeting**  
**Approved Minutes September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Held in Person Maine**  
**DHHS, 109 Capitol St.**  
**10:00am-1:00pm**

**Member Attendance**

Seat	Roll Call	Name	Organization	Representing
1	Excused	Betsy Kelly	Southern Maine Health Care	York District
2	X	Courtney Kennedy	Good Shepherd Food Bank	Cumberland District
3	X	Corrie Brown	Healthy Androscoggin	Western District
4	X	Chris Lyman	Mid Coast District	Mid Coast District
5	Excused	Denise Delorie	Mid Maine Substance Use Prevention	Central District
6	X	Matt Donahue	United Way	Penquis District
7	X	Maria Donahue	Healthy Acadia	Downeast District
8	Excused	Sue Bouchard	Fish River Rural Health	Aroostook District
9	X	James Markiewicz	Maine CDC	State Government
	X	Puthiery Va	Maine CDC	State Government
10	Excused	Leona Alvarado	Tribal Liaison	Tribal District
11	X	Emily Poland	Maine Department of Education	Maine Department of Education
12	X	Julie Churchill	Department of Environmental Protection	Maine DEP
13	X	Kristen McAuley	Office of Behavioral Health	Maine DHHS
14	X	Joe Legee	MEMA	Statewide Emergency Management
15	X	Heather Drake	SCHNA	Statewide Planning
16	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Higher Education
17	X	Susan Kring	Maine Medical Association	Public Health Policy
18	X	Bethany Sanborn	Maine Health	Statewide Healthcare
19	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Statewide EMS
20	Excused	Sue Mackey-Andrews	Helping Hands with Heart	Statewide Community Action
21	Excused	Jess Maurer	Maine Council on Aging	Statewide Aging and Health
22	X	Jennifer Thompson	National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maine	Statewide Mental Health Prevention

*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*

23	X	Jen Gunderman	Bangor Public Health and Community Services	Municipal Public Health Agency
Member Seats: 23; Excused 6; Vacant 2: Quorum total 15. Attending Members 15 (Maine CDC has one seat of 23) Quorum is majority of members attending: 15/15 = 100%: Quorum Achieved.				

### Interested Parties and Stakeholders

Adam Hartwig	Maine CDC York District
Kristine Jenkins	Maine CDC Cumberland District
Allison Harvell	Maine CDC Cumberland District
Lauren Gauthier	Maine CDC Western District
Paula Thomson	Maine CDC Central District
Drexell White	Maine CDC Midcoast District
Lindsey O'Hara	Maine CDC Midcoast District
Jessica Fogg	Maine CDC Penquis District
Rachel Robbins	Maine CDC Penquis District
Stacy Boucher	Maine CDC Aroostook District
Al May	Maine CDC Downeast District
Kawther Mohamed	Maine CDC Downeast District
Jennifer Jamison	Maine CDC
Jamie Bourque	Maine CDC
Eden Hale	Maine CDC
Lane Simsarian	Maine CDC
Nancy Birkhimer	Maine CDC
Maggie Jansson	Maine Office of Maine Care
Kelley Bowden	Maine Office of Maine Care

## Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING NOTES: James Markiewicz chaired and facilitated the meeting.</b>		
<b>Agenda:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>	<b>Actions/Resources:</b>
<p>Welcome and Introductions (Dr. Puthiery Va, Director)</p>	<p>Dr. Va welcomed SCC members and provided an overview of the changing healthcare landscape that we are facing in Maine and federally. Maine CDC depends on 80% of their funding from federal agencies like HRSA, HHS and ACIP.</p> <p>Maine CDC continues to monitor the vaccine recommendations and the impact it has on the communication with pediatric providers and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maine CDC is focused on the rapidly changing healthcare landscape and potential shifts in Medicare and Medicaid covered services.</li> <li>• A top priority is ensuring that communities can be as resilient as possible through Emergency Preparedness. Maine CDC has transformed the Division of Public Health Systems into Office of Readiness and Response. I</li> <li>• Navigating barriers that affect vaccine access Maine CDC is working through policy to provide access to pharmacists, healthcare systems and healthcare providers.</li> </ul>
<p>Welcome (James Markiewicz)</p> <p>Approval of Minutes:</p>	<p>James welcomed the participants and shared an overview of the meeting.</p> <p>Approval of June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion was made to hold off on acceptance of meeting minutes until December to allow new SCC members and representatives to review previous meeting minutes.</li> </ul>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:james.markiewicz@maine.gov">james.markiewicz@maine.gov</a></p> <p>All meeting minutes and materials are uploaded to the Statewide Coordinating Council website.</p> <p><a href="#">SCC Reports</a></p>
<p>Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Budget (Nancy Birkhimer)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Birkhimer provided a presentation on the Grant Budget and updates/changes occurring in fiscal year 2026.</li> <li>• Clarifications were given to attendees and members about the position of community health workers in the TB and Asthma programs</li> <li>• Motion was made by Courtney and seconded by Bethany to approve the changes to budget,</li> </ul>	<p>For more information on the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Budget contact: <a href="mailto:nancy.birkhimer@maine.gov">nancy.birkhimer@maine.gov</a></p>

	<p>approved by vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Link to presentation</a></li> </ul>	
<p>District Representative Report Penquis District: (Jessica Fogg Penquis District Liaison and Western District Representative Corrie Brown)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Link to Penquis District Presentation</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Link to Western District Presentation</a></li> </ul>	<p>December meeting: Aroostook, Central, and Midcoast Districts.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:Jessica.Fogg@maine.gov">Jessica.Fogg@maine.gov</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:Lauren.Gauthier@maine.gov">Lauren.Gauthier@maine.gov</a></p>
<p>Transforming Maternal Health Initiative (TMaH) Maggie Jansson and Kelly Bowden, Maine DHHS Office of Maine Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maggie and Kelly discussed the TMaH Innovation Grant that is aimed at improving maternal health care and outcomes for Medicaid and CHIP enrollees. This is a ten-year Innovation Program grant, with a three-year pre-implementation (planning) period and a seven-year implementation period.</li> <li>● Model elements were presented and discussed, some having to do with infrastructure changes like licensing birthing centers, consistent certification of doulas, and adopting Maine Care rules for reimbursement.</li> <li>● Rural Regional Planning has been a primary focus at the start in developing collaborative groups in each of the public health districts.</li> <li>● Consider cross-district meeting invitations for rural areas closer to adjacent district.</li> <li>● Clarifications were provided on the incorporation of rural Cumberland and tribal regions into public health districts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Link to presentation</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:Kelly.Bowden@maine.gov">Kelly.Bowden@maine.gov</a></p> <p>Next public information webinar on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 12:00-1:00pm.</p> <p>For more information and to register for the webinar: <a href="#">Meeting Registration - Zoom</a></p>
<p>Maine’s Rural Health Transformation Program, (Jessica Fogg and Kristen McAuley)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jessica and Kristen introduced Maine’s Rural Health Transformation Program. The NOFO was recently released on September 15<sup>th</sup> with the application by the state due November 5<sup>th</sup>. If successful, funding would start on January 1, 2026.</li> <li>● Funding needs to be spent totally and quickly spent by the states.</li> <li>● Discussions on the definition of a rural state and sustainability planning were held and awaiting further clarifications.</li> <li>● What are next steps: communication by</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Public comment form</a> (October 1, 2025)</p> <p>Public information webinars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sept. 23, 2025   Noon -- 1pm: <a href="#">Register here</a></li> <li>● Sept. 24, 2025: 1 p.m. -- 2 pm: <a href="#">Register here</a></li> </ul> <p>For more information: <a href="#">Rural Health Transformation Program</a></p>

	<p>district liaisons to local partners; promote input using electronic Public Comment Form;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Link to presentation</a></li> </ul>	<p>Questions:  <a href="mailto:Lisa.Letourneau@Maine.gov">Lisa.Letourneau@Maine.gov</a></p>
<p>SCC 2025 (Al May and James Markiewicz)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Orientation Packet Review.</li> <li>● Question on how to get a topic on the agenda. According to the bylaws, we have an executive committee that works to create the meeting agendas for the year; however, the SCC has no appointed chair or vice chair at this time that makes up the executive committee, so we have been using our membership committee for bringing up ideas on the agenda.</li> <li>● Bylaws were included in the packet for review.</li> <li>● Presentation of the Maine CDC Director's priorities and agencies strategic goals.</li> <li>● In relation to readiness, Maine CDC staff are all taking specific ICS type trainings.</li> <li>● Also there is a focus on workforce safety, especially for field workers like public health nurses and health inspectors.</li> <li>● Question for SCC: how can the SCC consider the State Public Health System, not just DHH and Maine CDC, when thinking about advice and recommendations.</li> </ul>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:Alfred.may@maine.gov">Alfred.may@maine.gov</a></p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Motion made &amp; seconded to close meeting at 12:59 pm.</p>	<p>Next meeting: December 18, 2025</p>

