

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
11 State House Station
286 Water Street
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel; (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-9058
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health Meeting Draft Minutes 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	Absent	Corrie Brown	Healthy Androscoggin	Western District
4	x	Christine Lyman	Mid Coast District	Mid Coast District
5	x	Anne Conners	MaineGeneral Medical Center	Central District
6	Absent	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
	x	Puthiery Va	Maine CDC	State Government
10	x	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	x	Joe Legee	Maine Emergency Management Agency	Statewide Emergency Management
15	x	Bethany Sanborn	Maine Health	Statewide Healthcare
16	x	Susan Kring	Maine Medical Association	Public Health Policy
17	Absent	Jess Maurer	Maine Council on Aging	Statewide Aging and Health
18	x	Yvonne Jonk	USM Maine Rural Health Research Center	Higher Education
19	Excused	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	Excused	Sue Mackey-Andrews	Helping Hands with Heart	Statewide Community Action
22	x	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: 2	Quorum total: 18	Quorum is met: 18 /23 Members
		Absent: 3		

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	
Adam Hartwig, MECDC York District	Kristine Jenkins, MECDC Cumberland District
Lauren Gauthier, MECDC Western District	Paula Thomson, MECDC Central District
Jessica Fogg, MECDC Penquis District	Stacy Boucher, MECDC Aroostook District
Sheila Krouse, MECDC ORR	Alfred May, MECDC Downeast District
Allison Harvell, MECDC Cumberland District	Meghan Richards, MECDC Western District
Rachel Robbins, MECDC Penquis District	Courtney Wall, MECDC Aroostook District
Kawther Mohamed, MECDC BHP	Nicole Breton, MECDC Rural Health & Primary Care
Andrew Finch, MECDC HPP	Chanbopha Himm, MECDC Special Lead Advisor
Jamie Bourque, MECDC Division of Violence Prevention	Ann Mukherjee DHHS, Rural Health Transformation Program
Rebecca Boulos, Maine Public Health Association	Caitlin Price American Heart Association
Amanda Campbell Maine Municipal Association	Megan Stewart Maine Primary Care Association

Meeting Minutes SCC September 17, 2026

Co-Chairs: Jen Gunderman and Bethany Sanborn, Maine CDC James Markiewicz

Agenda:	Discussion:	Actions/Resources:
Welcome & Introduction	Bethany Sanborn as the Chair welcomed the members and introduced Dr. Puthiery Va for her opening remarks. • Respiratory season - Working with many regional partners and putting out a statement and letter for awareness of vaccines • Measles – beyond 3000 cases – 4 reported deaths for this year. 1 case in Maine. • Multiple updates on other units within the Maine CDC • District and Tribal Visits • Data Ecosystem: expanding Maine InfoNet for better coordinated personal health records • Veterans and Suicide • Extreme Temperature Tracking Data • SHIP Goal on Racial Equity • Preparedness and Response	2024-2029 Maine State Health Improvement Plan: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/sites/mainegov.dhhs.mecdc/files/Maine_SHIP_r3_122324.pdf
Council Business Jen Gunderman Bethany Sanborn	Reviewed the agenda by Bethany Sanborn • Approval of June 18, 2026, Minutes: Motion made by Emily and seconded by Joshua to approve minutes as written • Member Introduction: ✓ Emily Poland, Team leader, coordinator for School Health Team - MDOE ✓ Joshua Toner, Tribal Public Health Liaison. Connecting Tribal communities with public health partners ✓ Susan Kring, Outreach director at Maine Medical Association. Health advocacy and policy work with partners ✓ Wil O’Neal, Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services Promote and provide support for EMS; Paramedicine Model	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
Bethany Sanborn	SCC Roles and Responsibilities: Leadership-Membership Committee will hold two or three ninety-minute sessions to develop shared understanding of the statutes and purpose of the SCC.	<i>See SCC statutes below</i> If member or interested party wants to join in these ad hoc planning meetings, please contact Al May at

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	Recommendations will be discussed at the December meeting. Questions to consider: • How do we modernize the SCC? • How do we provide meaningful engagement for members and support for the Maine CDC?	alfred.may@maine.gov
Rebecca Boulos, Executive Director, Maine Public Health Association	Setting Public Health Priorities for 2027 • MPHA as an organization: started in 1984 and we have over 500 people registered for this year's conference • Approach State: Policy and Engagement ✓ Partner and Member Feedback ✓ 100 Bills last legislative session ✓ Policy Session Report Federal: Healthy States Collaborative ✓ APHA Action Board ✓ Funding Priorities for Public Health • Priorities ✓ Funding ✓ Workforce ✓ Access to HealthCare	Email: Rebecca.Boulos@Mainepublichealth.org 2024 Policy Report: https://www.mainepublichealth.org/uploads/docs/MPHA-2024-Policy-Report.pdf
Kristen McAuley, Director RHTP	Rural Health Transformation Project Update • RHTP Overview and Status • Advisory Committee Meetings • Early Success and Challenges • Maine RHTP initiative Review • Population Health • Workforce • Technology and Innovation • Access • Sustainability ○ Regional Health Ecosystem Planning ○ Strengthen long-term sustainability and resilience of Maine's rural health system	Email: Kristen.Mcauley@Maine.gov Website: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth Go to last section of website for Adviroty Committee Meetings. Website will be moving to a more dynamic site, outside of Maine Government and will include data dashboard.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.	Next meeting: December 17, 2026

Statutory Language: The Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health shall:

(1) Participate as appropriate to help ensure the state public health system is ready and maintained for accreditation;

(4) Assist the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention in planning for the essential public health services and resources to be provided in each district and across the State in the most efficient, effective and evidence-based manner possible;

(5) Receive reports from the tribal district coordinating council for public health regarding readiness for tribal public health systems for accreditation if offered; and

(6) Participate as appropriate and as resources permit to help support tribal public health systems to prepare for and maintain accreditation if assistance is requested from any tribe.

MRS Title 22, Chapter 152, Section 412 (6):

<https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/22/title22sec412.html>