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Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
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**Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health Meeting
Draft Minutes December 18, 2025
Virtual by Zoom**

Member Attendance

Seat	Roll Call	Name	Organization	Representing
1	X	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	X	Denise Delorie	Mid Maine Substance Use Prevention	Central District
6	Excused	Matt Donahue	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	Office of Behavioral Health	Maine DHHS
11	Excused	Emily Poland	Maine Department of Education	Maine Department of Education
12	X	Julie Churchill	Department of Environmental Protection	Maine DEP
13	X	Heather Drake	Maine Shared CHNA	Statewide Planning
14	Excused	Joe Legee	MEMA	Statewide Emergency Management
15	X	Bethany Sanborn	Maine Health	Statewide Healthcare
16	X	Susan Kring	Maine Medical Association	Public Health Policy
17	X	Jess Maurer	Maine Council on Aging	Statewide Aging and Health
18	X	Yvonne Bonk	USM Maine Rural Health Research Center	Higher Education
19	X	Jennifer Thompson	National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maine	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	X	Joshua Toner	Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	Tribal Liaison
23	X	Jen Gunderman	Bangor Public Health and Community Services	Municipal Public Health Agency

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Interested Parties and Stakeholders

Adam Hartwig	Maine CDC York District
Emilee Caradonna	Maine CDC York District
Kristine Jenkins	Maine CDC Cumberland District
Allison Harvell	Maine CDC Cumberland District
Lauren Gauthier	Maine CDC Western District
Meghan Richards	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
Andrew Finch	Maine CDC
Eden Hale	Maine CDC
Lane Simsarian	Maine CDC
Nancy Birkhimer	Maine CDC
Isaac Benowitz	Maine CDC
Kari Pederson	Maine Public Health Association
Sheila Krouse	Maine CDC
Hannah Siladi	University of New England
Amanda Campbell	Maine Municipal Association
Chris Pezzullo	Maine Primary Care Association
Dan Dent	Maine CDC

Meeting Minutes

MEETING NOTES: James Markiewicz chaired and facilitated the meeting.		
Agenda:	Discussion:	Actions/Resources:
<p>Welcome and Introductions (Dr. Puthiery Va, Director)</p>	<p>Dr. Va welcomed SCC members and provided a briefing on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity in Public Health • Building Relationships with Tribal Health • Year in Review • Measles Response • Rural Health Transformation Program Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maine CDC is looking at innovative actions in promoting and delivering public health services. • Navigating the changing federal recommendations and policies on vaccines. • Implementing the Maine CDC part of the RHTP funding opportunity.
<p>Welcome (James Markiewicz)</p> <p>Approval of Minutes:</p>	<p>James welcomed the participants and reviewed the agenda.</p> <p>Approval of June 12, 2025 Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These minutes were tabled at the December meeting. • Denise Delorie made motion to approve minutes, and Sue Mackey Andrews seconded; All approved. <p>Approval of September 18, 2025 Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Delorie made motion to approve minutes, and Sue Mackey Andrews seconded; All approved. <p>Member Profiles: Membership Committee will develop a profile for each member that will include name, affiliation, expertise, and public health knowledge.</p> <p>Member Introduction: New Agenda Item where members provide a more formal introduction. Joe Legee (next meeting), Julie Churchill, Kristen McAuley, and Jennifer Thompson.</p>	<p>Email: james.markiewicz@maine.gov</p> <p>All meeting minutes and materials are uploaded to the Statewide Coordinating Council website.</p> <p>https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/about-us/commissions-review-panels/statewide-coordinating-council-for-public-health/meetings</p>
<p>Public Health Update: Federal and State</p>	<p>Rural Health Transformation Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maine will receive up to \$200 million per year and funding is for five years. • Maine CDC's focus will be population 	<p>RHTP: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth</p>

	<p>health. This will focus on chronic disease prevention, behavioral health prevention, and data system improvements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on effectiveness of programs and efficiency of work and costs. • Implementation of some of the work is planned for public health districts. <p>TMAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten-year funding focused on transforming maternal health. • Utilization of midwives and doulas for supporting moms through pregnancy with better support for mental health. <p>PRAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Program • US CDC PRAMS Program has lost all its staff. • States are searching for ways of supporting this work, including the pre-survey, survey, and analyses. • We should have a better idea by Spring 2026. <p>March of Dimes Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to website, click on map for Maine, and get Maine Report Card. <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>PRAMS data has been very important to our region in the past to coalesce partners to collectively make needed improvements.</i> • <i>Data is important to community organizations working with schools on substance use, like the Drug Free Coalition Funding.</i> 	<p>TMAH: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/about-us/tmah-model</p> <p>PRAMS: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/data-reports/maternal-and-child-health/pregnancy-risk-assessment-monitoring-system-prams</p> <p>March of Dimes 2024 Report: https://www.marchofdimes.org/report-card</p>
<p>SCC 2025-2026 Work</p>	<p>Foundational Public Health Services and Capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Foundational Public Health Services and Capabilities as a new approach to the delivery of governmental public health services • For the discussion, we used the service Maternal and Child Health and then broke into three groups based on capabilities to give participants an introduction to 	<p>PHAB Background and Video on Foundational Public Health Services: The Foundational Public Health Services - Public Health Accreditation Board</p> <p>Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations: Homepage </p>

	<p>thinking about the service and the capabilities and the strategic questions that could be asked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The breakout sessions were first a means of acquainting members and then an introduction to the framework. <p>Comments from discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Expertise understanding available data, analyze and interpret data.</i> • <i>Understanding the work of FQHCs can help with MCH infrastructure with the rural lack of birth facilities, lack of EMS/Ambulances, and lack of transportation.</i> • <i>Role of doulas and midwives.</i> • <i>Hazards of concern: lead, fluoride, PFAS, triggers for asthma.</i> • <i>GIS data layers with MCH indicators could be useful.</i> • <i>Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations uses maps for proximity to health and maternal care.</i> • <i>MCH outcomes intersect with child development.</i> • <i>Economic development perspective would also be useful.</i> • <i>ALICE data.</i> 	<p>PCRITP</p> <p>Perinatal Quality Collaboration for Maine: Home - PQC4ME</p> <p>ALICE: Maine UnitedForALICE</p>
<p>District Representative Report</p>	<p>Midcoast District (Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and Waldo Counties)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsey O’Hara and Christine Lyman <p>Aroostook District (Aroostook County)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacy Boucher 	<p>Presentations on SCC Meeting and Materials Website: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/about-us/commissions-review-panels/statewide-coordinating-council-for-public-health/meetings</p>
<p>Public Health and Health Services Block Grant</p> <p>State Health Improvement Plan</p>	<p>Nancy Birkhimer presented the final report for grant year 2024.</p> <p>Key Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation • Informatics and Epidemiology • Healthy People 2030 	<p>Presentations at SCC Website: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/about-us/commissions-review-panels/statewide-coordinating-council-for-public-health/meetings</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual Assault Prevention <p>Nancy provided an update on the SHIP and the committee work: Access to Care Health Equity: Eden Hale and Health Equity Advisory Committee</p>	For more information on the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant contact: nancy.birkhimer@maine.gov
Action Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership Committee (Bethany Sanborn, Susan Kring, Heather Drake, and Sue Mackey Andrews) will meet before March meeting to discuss membership, leadership, and member profiles. Secretary of State Report of SCC to be submitted. For March meeting: PRAMS update, Rural Health Transformation update, and legislative bills update. 	
Adjourn	Motion made by Matt and seconded by Sue to adjourn meeting at 11:51 am.	Next meeting: March 19, 2026