

Janet T. Mills
Governor

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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
Approved Minutes March 19, 2026
Virtual by Zoom

Member Attendance

Seat	Roll Call	Name	Organization	Representing
1	X	Betsy Kelly	Southern Maine Health Care	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	Vacant			Central District
6	X	Matt Donahue	Heart of Maine United Way	Penquis District
7	X	Alternate Angela Fochesato	Beth C. Wrigth Cancer Resource Center	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	Excused	Kristen McAuley	Office of Behavioral Health	Maine DHHS
11	X	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 Community Needs Health 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	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	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
Member Seats: 23 Excused: 1 Vacant: 1 Quorum is met: 21/23 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	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
Alexis Furbush	Maine CDC Central 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
Jamie Bourque	Maine CDC
Heather Sneff	Maine CDC
Andrew Finch	Maine CDC
Eden Hale	Maine CDC
Nancy Birkhimer	Maine CDC
Dan Dent	Maine CDC
Samson Omole	Maine CDC
Chan Himm	Maine CDC
Sheila Krouse	Maine CDC
Lisa Letourneau	DHHS Commissioner's Office
Megan Stewart	Maine Primary Care Association
Courtney Kennedy	Prior Cumberland Representative
Kari Pedersen	Maine Public Health Association
Amanda Campbell	Maine Municipal Association

Meeting Minutes

MEETING NOTES: James Markiewicz chaired and facilitated the meeting.		
Agenda:	Discussion:	Actions/Resources:
Welcome and Introductions (Dr. Puthiery Va, Director)	Dr. Va welcomed SCC members and provided a briefing on the following items: • Legislation bills: Vaccine LD 2146 and Injury & Violence Prevention. • National discussions on vaccines, measles, maternal and child health, World Cup prep. • Regional: Northeastern Public Health Collaborative of states in the northeast with counterparts in Western and Central regions. • Maine CDC response to measles cases and monitoring close contacts, vaccine status, trends in cases, focus on vulnerable populations • Rural Health Transformation Program focuses on population health and data ecosystems.	
Council Business (James Markiewicz)	James welcomed the participants and reviewed the agenda. • Approval of December 18, 2025, Minutes: Jennifer Thompson made motion to approve and Sue Mackey Andrews seconded; minutes approved. • Member directory – Twenty-three seats with an ex-officio seat for Dr. Va; please check • Member Introduction (provide a brief introduction including organization, expertise, and what they bring to SCC): Sue Mackey Andrews, Joe Legee, Bethany Sanborn, Jen Gunderman • SCC Leadership: Jennifer Gunderman and Bethany Sanborn have accepted the leadership roles for the SCC. Jess Maurer made the motion to elect Jennifer and Bethany as chairs and seconded by Sue Mackey Andrews: election approved.	Member Directory: please contact Al May with any edits to name, position, organization, and email. Leadership team—Jennifer and Bethany will start their terms at the June 2026 meeting.
Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant	Nancy provided a grant update in relation to work plan changes, specifically:	For more information on the Preventive Health and Health

Advisory Committee Nancy Birkhimer	• Asthma self-management education program. • Maine Shared CHNA dashboard. • Sexual Assault Prevention/Response. • TB Prevention and Control • PFAS Exposure Reduction Highlighted 2025 Work Plan changes: motion to approve by Sue Mackey Andrews and seconded by Jess Maurer: approved. • Discussed 2026 Work Plan Progress	Services Block Grant contact: nancy.birkhimer@maine.gov
Rural Health Transformation Program Dr. Lisa Letourneau	Lisa discussed Maine's RJHTP application: • Priority areas and budget allocations. ○ Population Health ○ School-Based Health Centers ○ Telehealth ○ Community Paramedicine ○ Regional Rural Health Planning • New director is Kristen McAuley. • Internal and External Informational Webinars have been set	RHTP: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth
Maine CDC's Office of Injury and Violence Prevention Jamie Bourque	Jamie introduced herself and provided a brief introduction to this new office. Focus of the office will be: • Domestic Violence and Abuse • Substance Use Prevention • Data Research Hub: data dashboard like Maine Tracking Network • Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey Fact Sheets • Community Grant Creation • Expansion of School-Based Health Centers • Secure Storage of Weapons • Suicide Prevention (Sheila Nelson) • Legislative Work: LD 2108 (Suicide Fatality Review Board)	Injury and Violence Prevention Website: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-living/health-and-safety/injury-prevention How will this program collaborate and address violence and injury affecting older adults?

District Representative Report: Central Paula Thompson Alexis Furbush	Central Public Health District serves Kennebec and Somerset Counties • Our long-time district representative Denise Delorie is retiring, and we are in the process of recruiting for a new representative. • Demographics and Geography of District • District Coordinating Council work Question: How do you handle the borders with other counties? • Being consistent with partners in other districts is important.	
SCC 2025-2026 Work Al May	Al continued the education about the Foundational Public Health Services and Capabilities as a new platform for governmental public health services. • Reviewed the purpose of the introduction and breakout groups at the December meeting. • Focused on the Foundational Capability <i>Emergency Preparedness and Response</i> as an example of how each of the capabilities or skills are necessary for each of the Foundational Services to meet the full expectations of what a governmental public health agency needs to mee.	PHAB Background and Video on Foundational Public Health Services: The Foundational Public Health Services - Public Health Accreditation Board Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations: Homepage PCRITP Perinatal Quality Collaboration for Maine: Homepage PQC4ME ALICE: Maine UnitedForALICE
Adjourn	Motion made by Matt and seconded by Jennifer to adjourn meeting at 11:32 am.	Next meeting: June 18, 2026