§412. Coordination of public health infrastructure components

1. Local health officers. Local health officers shall provide a link between the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and every municipality. Duties of local health officers are set out in section 454-A.
[PL 2009, c. 355, §5 (NEW).]

2. Healthy Maine Partnerships. Healthy Maine Partnerships is established to provide appropriate essential public health services at the local level, including coordinated community-based public health promotion, active community engagement in local, district and state public health priorities and standardized community-based health assessment, that inform and link to districtwide and statewide public health system activities.

Healthy Maine Partnerships must include interested community members; leaders of formal and informal civic groups; leaders of youth, parent and older adult groups; leaders of hospitals, health centers, mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers; emergency responders; local government officials; leaders in early childhood development and education; leaders of school administrative units and colleges and universities; community, social service and other nonprofit agency leaders; leaders of issue-specific networks, coalitions and associations; business leaders; leaders of faith-based groups; and law enforcement representatives. Where a service area of Healthy Maine Partnerships includes a tribal health department or health clinic, Healthy Maine Partnerships shall seek a membership or consultative relationship with leaders and members of Indian tribes or designees of health departments or health clinics of Indian tribes.

The department and other appropriate state agencies shall provide funds as available to coalitions in Healthy Maine Partnerships that meet measurable criteria as set by the department for comprehensive community health coalitions. As funds are available, a minimum of one tribal comprehensive community health coalition must be provided funding as a member of a Healthy Maine Partnerships coalition. The tribal district is eligible for the same funding opportunities offered to any other district. The tribal district or a tribe is eligible to partner with any coalition in Healthy Maine Partnerships for collaborative funding opportunities that are approved by the tribal district coordinating council or a tribal health director.
[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §65 (AMD).]

3. District public health units. District public health units shall help to improve the efficiency of the administration and coordination of state public health programs and policies and communications at the district and local levels and shall ensure that state policy reflects the different needs of each district. Tribal public health programs and services delivered by the tribal district or a tribal health department or health clinic must help improve the efficiency of the administration and coordination of publicly and privately funded public health programs and policies and communications at local, district, state and federal levels.
[PL 2011, c. 306, §2 (AMD).]

4. District coordinating councils for public health. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in consultation with Healthy Maine Partnerships, shall maintain a district coordinating council for public health in each of the 9 districts as resources permit. If the district jurisdiction includes tribal lands and tribal members, and is not the tribal district, the district coordinating council for public health may not represent the tribe or tribes but shall consider Indian health status and pursue a consultative relationship with the tribe or tribes. Tribal representatives may choose to participate in the district coordinating council for public health as members or function in a consultative relationship. The tribal district shall have a tribal district coordinating council.

A. A district coordinating council for public health shall:

(1) Participate as appropriate in district-level activities to help ensure the state public health system in each district is ready and maintained for accreditation; and

(4) Ensure that the essential public health services and resources are provided for in each district in the most efficient, effective and evidence-based manner possible. [PL 2011, c. 90, Pt. J, §7 (AMD).]

A-1. The tribal district coordinating council shall:

(1) Participate as appropriate in department district-level activities to help ensure the tribal public health system in the tribal district is ready and maintained for tribal public health accreditation; and

(2) Ensure that the national goals and strategies for health in tribal lands and the tribal district health goals and strategies are aligned and that tribal district health goals and strategies are appropriately tailored for each tribe and tribal health department or health clinic. [PL 2011, c. 306, §2 (NEW).]

B. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in consultation with Healthy Maine Partnerships, shall ensure the invitation of persons to participate on a district coordinating council for public health and shall strive to include persons who represent the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, county governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes and their tribal health departments or health clinics, city health departments, local health officers, hospitals, health systems, emergency management agencies, emergency medical services, Healthy Maine Partnerships, school districts, institutions of higher education, physicians and other health care providers, clinics and community health centers, voluntary health organizations, family planning organizations, area agencies on aging, mental health services, substance use disorder services, organizations seeking to improve environmental health and other community-based organizations. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §66 (AMD).]

C. In districts, other than the tribal district, that contain tribal members, population health assessments and health improvement plans and strategies developed by municipal health departments, Healthy Maine Partnerships and district coordinating councils for public health must consider Indian health issues and disparities. Data used for these assessments must be sound and at the most local level available. Assessments must include any quantitative or qualitative data the tribes agree to share. Tribal health assessments and tribal health improvement plans and strategies may focus exclusively on tribal members but may be conducted only at any tribe's discretion. [PL 2011, c. 306, §2 (NEW).]

D. Population and personal health programs, interventions and services that formally include or focus on tribal members must be developed in close consultation with tribes and must be culturally competent in design and implementation. In addition, tribes must be consulted prior to their inclusion in any grant applications. [PL 2011, c. 306, §2 (NEW).]

A district coordinating council for public health, after consulting with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, shall develop membership and governance structures that are subject to approval by the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health except that approval of the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health is not required for the membership and governance structures of the tribal district coordinating council.
[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §66 (AMD).]

5. Municipal and tribal health departments. Municipal health departments or tribal health departments or health clinics may enter into data-sharing agreements with the department for the exchange of public health data determined by the department to be necessary for protection of the public health. A data-sharing agreement under this subsection must protect the confidentiality and security of individually identifiable health information as required by state and federal law.

[PL 2011, c. 306, §2 (AMD).]

5-A. Tribal district. The tribal district shall deliver components of essential public health services through the tribal district's public health liaisons, who are tribal employees or tribal district employees, and report to the tribes, the department's office of population health equity and any other sources of funding. Responses to federal and state requests for applications may be issued by one tribe, 2 or more tribes collectively or the tribal district as the recipient of funds. The directors of the tribal health departments or health clinics serve as the tribal district coordinating council for public health in an advisory role to the tribal district. The council may establish subcommittees to work on specific projects approved by the council.
[PL 2021, c. 495, §1 (AMD).]

6. Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health. 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.

A. 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.

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall provide staff support to the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health as resources permit. Other agencies of State Government as necessary and appropriate shall provide additional staff support or assistance to the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health as resources permit. [PL 2011, c. 306, §2 (AMD).]

B. Members of the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health are appointed as follows.

(1) Each district coordinating council for public health, including the tribal district coordinating council, shall appoint one member.

(2) The Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention or the director's designee shall serve as a member.

(3) The commissioner shall appoint an expert in behavioral health from the department to serve as a member.

(4) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a health expert from the Department of Education to serve as a member.

(5) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall appoint an environmental health expert from the Department of Environmental Protection to serve as a member.

(6) The Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with the cochairs of the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health, shall convene a membership committee. After evaluation of the appointments to the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health, the membership committee shall appoint no more than 10 additional members and ensure that the total membership has at least one member who is a recognized content expert in each of the essential public health services and has representation from populations in the State facing health disparities. The membership committee shall also strive

to ensure diverse representation on the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health from county governments, municipal governments, tribal governments, tribal health departments or health clinics, city health departments, local health officers, hospitals, health systems, emergency management agencies, emergency medical services, Healthy Maine Partnerships, school districts, institutions of higher education, physicians and other health care providers, clinics and community health centers, voluntary health organizations, family planning organizations, area agencies on aging, mental health services, substance use disorder services, organizations seeking to improve environmental health and other community-based organizations. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §67 (AMD).]

C. The term of office of each member is 3 years. All vacancies must be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. [PL 2009, c. 355, §5 (NEW).]

D. Members of the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health shall elect annually a chair and cochair. The chair is the presiding member of the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health. [PL 2009, c. 355, §5 (NEW).]

E. The Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health shall meet at least quarterly, must be staffed by the department as resources permit and shall develop a governance structure, including determining criteria for what constitutes a member in good standing. [PL 2009, c. 355, §5 (NEW).]

F. The Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health shall report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the Governor's office on progress made toward achieving and maintaining accreditation of the state public health system and on districtwide and statewide streamlining and other strategies leading to improved efficiencies and effectiveness in the delivery of essential public health services. [PL 2011, c. 90, Pt. J, §9 (RPR).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §67 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 355, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 90, Pt. J, §§7-9 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 306, §2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §§65-67 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 495, §1 (AMD).

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