



Substance Use Disorder Services Commission

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Behavior Health | State House Station
41 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
(207-287-2595)

Janet T. Mills, Governor

Bruce A. Campbell, Chair

Commission Members

Sen Joe Baldacci
Sen Marianne Moore
Rep Nina Milliken
Pending appointment

Andrea Truncali, MD
Physician

Vacant
Public School Administrator

Vacant
Elementary Education

Guy Cousins
Post Secondary Education

Leslie Clark
Statewide Recovery Coalition

Vacant
Criminal Justice

Jamie Comstock
Prevention

Bill Lowenstein
Intervention/Harm Reduction

Eric Haram
Treatment

Tracey Martin
Recovery Practitioner

Kathleen Chichester
Co-Occurring Disorders

Sheila Thibodeau
Private Sector EAP

Vacant
Public Employment

Bruce Campbell, Chair
Recovery Community

Deb Doiran, AdCare
Recorder

April 14, 2025

Maine State Legislature
Joint Committee on Health and Human Services
Sen. Henry Ingwersen, Senate Chair
Rep. Michele Myer, House Chair

RE: LD 503, SPO 221, An Act Regarding the Substance Use Services Commission

Dear Senate Chair Senator Ingwersen, Representative Chair Myer, and members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Bruce Campbell and I serve as Chair of the Maine Substance Use Disorder Services Commission, established under MRS Title 5, Chapter 521: Subchapter 4A. The last time this statute was updated and approved by the Governor was in June 2019. In the six years since, the Commission now proposes amendments to that Act which reflect a more accurate description of the Commission and its operations.

Attached is a summary of those changes as related to Membership; Meetings, compensation, quorum; and Duties of the commission. There are no substantive changes to the Commission, but these changes do reflect minor changes to these sections, in addition to the creation of a set of bylaws.

Specifically, these bylaws will address a change in operations that add Harm Reduction to the continuum of care related to substance use disorders. In addition, it calls for separate subcommittees for each of the pillars or links to the continuum of care for substance use disorder services. In the alternate months of the Commission meetings, subcommittees representing prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery will meet separately to address specific concerns that would then be presented to the full Commission. The subcommittee meetings will be recorded on zoom and minutes of the full Commission meeting will be recorded and distributed.

Attached is a summary of the proposed changes to the amendment. I am willing to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce A Campbell, LCSW, LADC
Representing the Recovery Community
Chair, Maine Substance Use Disorders Services Commission
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207-217-8400

Attachments

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 5: CHAPTER 21: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY

To reflect changes over the past 6 years, the Substance Use Disorders Commission is submitting proposed amendments to its statute delineated in Subchapter 4-A under which it is established. A copy of the proposed amendments is attached, but the following is a summary of those proposed changes.

20065. Membership

1. Members appointed amended to a total of ~~18~~ **of 19 members**. This reflects the combination of two education representatives into one (1), and the addition of the proposed members representing Harm Reduction and the Native Americans.
6. Officers. The Commission does not have a set of bylaws. The proposed amendment states **“The Commission will create and approve a set of bylaws.”**
7. Subcommittees. Proposed amendment adds **“as set forth in the bylaws.”**

The remainder of Membership remains unchanged.

20066. Meetings, compensation, quorum

2. The Commission will meet at least ~~12-6~~ times per year and at least every other month.
3. The Commission shall keep minutes of **all full commission meetings**, including a list of people in attendance. The commission shall ~~immediately~~ send copies of the approved minutes to the Governor and the leadership of the Legislature, who shall provide for their appropriate distribution and retention in a place of safekeeping.

The remainder of Membership, compensation, quorum remains unchanged.

20067. Duties of the commission

2. **Advise, consult, and assist.** The commission shall.... Re-orders and adds harm reduction to read, “related to substance use disorder prevention, intervention, **harm reduction**, treatment and recovery.
3. **Serve as an advocate; review and evaluate; inform the public.** Adds harm reduction. The commission shall serve as an advocate and resource for the State on substance use disorder prevention, intervention, **harm reduction**, treatment and recovery.

Adds **and the Legislature**. The commission, based on its activities pursuant to this subsection, shall make recommendations relating to substance use disorder to the department and the Governor **and the Legislature**.

The remainder of Duties of the commission remains unchanged.

Title 5: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND SERVICES
Part 25: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND
RECOVERY

Chapter 521: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION,
TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Subchapter 4-A: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES COMMISSION

§20066

§20065. Membership

1. Members; appointment. The Substance Use Disorder Services Commission, as established by section 12004-G, subsection 13-C, consists of ~~18~~ 19 members.

[PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

2. Qualifications. To be qualified to serve, members must have education, training, experience, knowledge, expertise and interest in substance use disorder in the areas of intervention, prevention, treatment and recovery. Members must reflect experiential diversity from across the State and must have demonstrated active participation in issues related to substance use disorder.

[PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

3. Members; representation. The commission consists of the following members:

A. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, and 2 members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Of the 2 members of the House of Representatives, one must be a member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and one must be a member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters; [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

B. One physician or health care provider experienced in the treatment of substance use disorder, appointed by the Governor; [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

C. One ~~public~~ representative from the field of education who has experience with school-based substance use intervention, prevention and education programs, appointed by the Governor; [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

D. ~~One elementary school educator, appointed by the Governor;~~ [PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12 (NEW).]

E. One representative from nominations by a statewide community-based recovery coalition, appointed by the Governor; [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

F. One representative from the criminal justice system who represents or is involved with the substance use disorder criminal justice system, appointed by the Governor; [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

G. One educator involved in postsecondary substance use disorder intervention, prevention, treatment and recovery education, appointed by the Governor; [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

H. One substance use disorder prevention practitioner, intervention practitioner, harm reduction practitioner, ~~one substance use disorder prevention practitioner,~~ one substance use disorder treatment practitioner and one substance use disorder recovery practitioner, appointed by the Governor; [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

I. One private sector employer familiar with employee assistance programs, appointed by the Governor; and [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

J. Three-Four members of the public, appointed by the Governor, with experience in substance use disorders. In appointing these 3 4 members, the Governor shall select members who are actively involved in the areas of:

(6) Co-occurring disorder services;

(7) Employment; and

(8) Substance use disorder recovery.

(9) Representation of Native American tribes. [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]
[PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

4. Term; vacancies. Terms of appointment begin and expire on June 1st. A vacancy in the commission does not affect the commission's powers, but must be filled in accordance with this subsection.

A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed may be appointed only for the remainder of that term.

A. The terms of the 3 public members appointed under subsection 3, paragraph J are for terms of 3 years, except that a member appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term serves only for the remainder of that term. Members hold office until the appointment and confirmation of their successors. A public member may not be appointed for more than 2 consecutive, 3-year terms. [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

B. Members who are members of the Legislature and appointed by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. [PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

C. [PL 1993, c. 700, §2 (RP).]
[PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

5. Reappointment; termination. Members may be appointed for 2 consecutive terms only and may serve after the expiration of their terms until their successors have been appointed and qualified and have taken office. The appointing authority may terminate the appointment of a member for good and just cause and the appointing authority shall communicate the reason for the termination to the member terminated. The appointment of a member of the commission is terminated if a member is absent from 3 consecutive meetings without a good and just cause that is communicated to the chair of the commission.

[PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12 (NEW).]

6. Officers. The Governor shall designate one member to chair the commission. The commission may elect other officers from its members as it considers appropriate. The Commission will create and approve a set of bylaws for operations.

[PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12 (NEW).]

7. Subcommittees. The commission may appoint from its membership subcommittees relating to particular problem areas or other matters, provided that the commission functions as an integrated committee as set forth in the bylaws.

[PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12 (NEW).]

8. Administrative and financial assistance. The department shall provide the commission administrative or financial assistance that is available from department resources.

[PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §43 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 410, §LL12 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 700, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §L9 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §L16 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 401, §§FFF1,2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 303, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §43 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §§41-43 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 432, §1 (AMD).

Title 5: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND SERVICES

Part 25: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Chapter 521: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Subchapter 4-A: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES COMMISSION

§20067

§20066. Meetings; compensation; quorum

1. Calling meetings. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair or at the call of at least 1/4 of the members appointed and currently holding office.

[PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12 (NEW).]

2. Frequency of meetings. The commission shall meet at least ~~12~~ 6 times a year. ~~and at least once a every other month.~~

[PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12 (NEW).]

3. Minutes. The commission shall keep minutes of all full Commission meetings, including a list of people in attendance. The commission shall immediately send copies of the approved minutes to the Governor (or Governor's office?) and the leadership of the Legislature, and the Department who shall provide for their appropriate distribution and retention in a place of safekeeping.

[PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12 (NEW).]

4. Compensation. Members of the commission are entitled to compensation under chapter 379.

[PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12 (NEW).]

5. Quorum; council action. A majority of the commission members constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business and exercising all the powers of the commission. A vote of a majority of the members present is sufficient for all actions of the commission.

[PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 410, §LL12 (NEW).

Title 5: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND SERVICES
Part 25: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

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Subchapter 4-A: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES COMMISSION

§20071

§20067. Duties of the commission

The commission, in cooperation with the department, has the following duties. [PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §44 (AMD).]

1. Oversee office.

[PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. L, §10 (RP); PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. L, §16 (AFF).]

1-A. Advise the department. The commission shall advise the department in the development and implementation of significant policy matters relating to substance use disorder.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §44 (AMD).]

2. Advise, consult and assist. The commission shall advise, consult and assist the Governor, the executive and legislative branches of State Government and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court with activities of State Government related to substance use disorder prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §44 (AMD).]

3. Serve as advocate; review and evaluate; inform the public. The commission shall serve as an advocate and resource for the State on substance use disorder prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. The commission shall promote and assess activities designed to meet and remediate challenges of substance use disorder in the State. With the support of the department, the commission shall review and evaluate on a continuing basis state and federal policies and programs relating to substance use disorder. In cooperation with the department, the commission shall keep the public informed by collecting and disseminating information, by conducting or commissioning studies and publishing the results of those studies, by issuing publications and reports and by providing public forums, including conferences and workshops. The commission, based on its activities pursuant to this subsection, shall make recommendations relating to substance use disorder to the department and the Governor and the Legislature.

[PL 2019, c. 432, §2 (AMD).]