The Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC)

Neptune-Benson
Annual Partner Summit
March 8, 2017

Douglas Sackett
Executive Director, CMAHC
MAHC/CMAHC and Other Acronyms

- Who knows about the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC)?
- Who knows about the Council for the MAHC (CMAHC)?
- Who is a member of the CMAHC?
AGENDA

- Intro to MAHC and CMAHC
- MAHC Renewal
- Adoption & Impact of the MAHC
- Questions & Answers
What is the MAHC?

- Voluntary model public pool and spa code based on science and best practices created by the CDC
  - 1st Edition released August 2014
- Helps local and state authorities and aquatics sector make swimming and other water activities healthier and safer
- States and localities can use the MAHC to create or update existing pool codes
  - To reduce risk for outbreaks, drowning, and pool-chemical injuries
- All-inclusive and addresses design, construction, operation, maintenance, policies, and management of public aquatic facilities
MAHC Scope

- All areas of public health concern
  - Illness, injury, drowning
  - Public venues
  - Water, air, & facility exposures that impact the health of swimmers and facility users
  - Leave other areas to building codes, etc.

- Facility types
  - Man-made, treated, recirculated water venues
  - Health care-based pools
  - Therapy pools
Why Create the MAHC?

- No federal regulatory agency responsible for aquatic facilities

- 68% of state and local health departments regulate, inspect, or license public swimming pools

- Significant variability in standards and requirements exist that are often outdated

- Significant time and resources spent by individual jurisdictions to create and update codes

MAHC Core Work Strategies

- The core work strategies used for MAHC development included:
  - Use an “Evolution NOT Revolution” approach
  - Build a strong partnership between public health and the aquatics sector
  - Actively seek, listen to, and incorporate public input

- Rationale
  - Incremental change is most likely to be adopted by state and local jurisdictions
  - Partnership will yield the best product, greatest buy-in, and will be most likely to be adopted
  - Incorporating public input improves overall quality and national buy-in
What’s Inside?

1) Preface
2) User Guide
3) Glossary, Acronyms, Initialisms
4) Design and Construction
5) Operation and Maintenance
6) Policies and Management
7) MAHC Resources
8) Appendices
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document type?</th>
<th>Model code, not a law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creation Process?</td>
<td>CDC led, with substantial input from state and local public health, aquatics sector, and academia Evolution NOT revolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public comment?</td>
<td>Yes, two public comment periods plus 3\textsuperscript{rd} comment period when users choose to adopt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be updated?</td>
<td>Yes, improvements based on data and expertise from public health and aquatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforceable?</td>
<td>Must be adopted by state or local authority first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All pools?</td>
<td>No, only public facilities in adopting jurisdictions. Also, design and construction provisions mostly apply to new and remodeled construction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Conference for the Model Aquatic Health Code (CMAHC)

- What is CMAHC?
  - 501c(3) non-profit organization

- Why does it exist?
  - Established in 2013 to manage updates to the MAHC

- Administration & Operation
  - Bylaws, Board of Directors, Executive Director
  - Committees include Technical Review Committee and Ad Hoc Committees
The Conference for the Model Aquatic Health Code (CMAHC)

Role
- Conduit for funneling advice and data-driven, science-based information from public health and aquatic industry experts to CDC
- Support use of MAHC

Vision
- To keep the MAHC up-to-date, science-based, sustainable, easily understood and implemented by pool programs across the U.S. so as to support healthy and safe aquatic experiences for everyone.
The Conference for the Model Aquatic Health Code (CMAHC)

- **Mission**
  - Collect, assess, and relay input on MAHC revisions back to CDC for final acceptance
  - Provide advocacy and needed support to health departments and other partners on using the MAHC
  - Solicit, coordinate, and prioritize research needs
MAHC RENEWAL
Released July 15, 2016

Incorporated results of CMAHC member vote

- CMAHC passed 92/159 (58%) change requests. CDC accepted 84/92 (91%) plus one editorial CR that was not passed
- Underscores CDC’s CMAHC partnership commitment

Demonstrates the CMAHC process works

- On track to support biennial review and updating of the MAHC so users can expect a regular biennial update schedule
MAHC ADOPTION
MAHC Adoption Status

- **Key considerations**
  - States must review and fit into regulatory process and timeframe: adoption can take \( \geq 2 \) years; Food Code sped up after 3-6 years

- **Endorsements**
  - NACCHO 2015; NEHA imminent; CSTE 2017?

- **Adoption**
  - Full adoption: NM (08/01/2016 after 2+ years prep); Nova Scotia, Canada
  - Partial adoption: DE, PWTAG/UK
  - In review for potential adoption: almost 30 jurisdictions such as CO; IA; IN; MD; NY; OH; Ontario, Canada; Colombia

- **Clear role for aquatics sector advocacy to speed adoption**
Visible Groundswell Following MAHC Release: Becoming a Standard While Waiting for Adoption

- Operational adoption: Use in operations, MAHC-compliant operational materials, and operational assistance
  - e.g., YMCA operations manual, Great Wolf Lodge operational guidance, Jeff Ellis & Assoc. guarding materials
- Variances granted: MAHC-based variances/waivers given liberally to requestors while discussing adoption (e.g., FL, NY, CT)
- Surrogate pool code: States without a pool code pointing to MAHC for design, operation, management guidance (e.g., MS)
- Acceptance of design requirements: MAHC design features becoming accepted and not immediately removed from designs due to cost
  - Clients signing liability waivers if they require removal (e.g., UV disinfection on increased risk venues)
- Standard of care: Being referred to as standard of care based on expert witness feedback
SUSTAINABILITY
Sustainability

Membership
- 659 members
  - 320 at October 2014 conference time
  - Slow increase in off year for conference
- Membership renewal to occur post-2017 conference

Sponsorship
- 2016
  - 3 Founding, 3 Gold, 5 Bronze*
    - *THANK YOU NEPTUNE BENSON!

Need members to be help generate new ideas for organizational sustainability
Sponsor Thoughts

- CMAHC hopes that current sponsors continue leadership in the CMAHC process in support of CDC’s MAHC
  - CDC relies on CMAHC for national advice on needed MAHC updates and improvements
  - Keeps the MAHC cutting edge and current with the latest in aquatic development and technology
  - Underscores sponsor leadership role in promoting health and safe aquatics experiences
MAHC and Aquatics Industry Partnership

Keeping Pools Safe

and

Keeping Pools Open

are shared motivators for the MAHC and aquatics industry
MAHC
More Information: Search on “CDC MAHC” or visit the Healthy Swimming MAHC Website: www.cdc.gov/mahc
Email: mahc@cdc.gov

CMAHC
More Information: Search on “CMAHC” or visit the CMAHC Website: www.cmahc.org
Email: info@cmahc.org
Contact Information

Doug Sackett
Executive Director, CMAHC
E-mail: DouglasSackett@cmahc.org
Phone: 678-221-7218
QUESTIONS ?