

SaMS Steering Committee Meeting Opening Remarks:

Given the nature of the Governor's declaration of a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we must hold this meeting entirely virtual as it would not be safe to meet in person. In fact, the ability to meet entirely virtually as a public body is guided by a new set of rules, one of which requires this opening. Additionally, this meeting will be recorded and posted on DEQ's website. We will still be preparing meeting notes like we always do, however the requirement to record the meeting and post it is also a part of what allows us to hold a meeting virtually.

The purpose of today's meeting is to resolve any outstanding comments on the draft SaMS Toolkit and vote to approve it moving into final review with the SAC. As a result, for today, and for the remainder of the Toolkit finalization, it is time to turn our attention toward resolution. If new ideas arise, it is important to remember that the document will be a living document with opportunities to improve it as it is implemented. We spent a lot of time brainstorming in other meetings, and that has produced the wealth of resources and recommendations that make up the Toolkit. However, now is time to resolve outstanding items so that we can wrap up the Toolkit development with the goal of reaching consensus.

With that in mind, and remembering the roster that we showed you, it is important to remember that as a Steering Committee member you are representing both your organization and your workgroups. As we go through the meeting, we may call on representation for each workgroup to ensure that those conversations are represented.

We understand that some of us are more familiar with virtual meeting technology than others, so we will provide a brief introduction to the GoToMeeting platform after these introductions. If at any time during this meeting you experience technical difficulties, we have a DEQ staff person dedicated to handling those issues. Her name is Cathy Nicely. If ever you experience any technical issues, you can call her number that is on every slide of the presentation, the agenda, and in the meeting invite. You can also reach out to her in the chat if you are able to use that option. For your convenience, and in case you lose access to the video feed, we have provided meeting materials in the email sent September 22, in addition to posting them on our SaMS Meeting Materials webpage.

Lastly, we have divided our roles today so that we can give our undivided attention to an efficient and productive meeting. In particular, we thought it important to mention Dave's role. He will be monitoring the chat working to bring the comments from the chat into the verbal discussion. So while we encourage you all to participate verbally, we understand that the chat may be a good option for a number of reasons. If you choose to use the chat, rest assured that there are eyes on it.