

distance from meetings. The newly adopted MAHC guidelines took effect in August 2016

In 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the first edition of the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC), a free, science-based resource to help states and localities make swimming and other water activities healthier and safer (Figure 1). MAHC guidelines address the design, construction, operation, maintenance, policies, and management of public aquatic facilities. States and localities can use it to create or update existing pool codes to reduce risk for drowning, waterborne illness outbreaks, and injuries from pool chemicals.

Every state and local jurisdiction is different, so a “one size fits all” approach will not work for everyone. The MAHC is a comprehensive guideline, but it can be easily adapted to fit the needs of various jurisdictions. Health departments interested in MAHC adoption can adopt the whole guid-

ance or choose parts to fill the gaps in their state or local codes. New Mexico and Florida took different approaches to using the MAHC to strengthen aquatic safety and health.

All-Inclusive: How New Mexico Adopted the Entire MAHC

How Long Did MAHC Adoption Take?

In September 2013, the New Mexico Aquatics Program started reviewing the state aquatics code to update its Public Aquatics Program regulations. This time consuming process involved getting our aquatics team together multiple times for meetings and following the state procedural timelines for changing the regulations (Figure 2). Scheduling meetings with staff and interested inspectors was challenging for various reasons, including conflicting work schedules, time constraints, and

