



Raising the  
Public's Health:

**Becoming Better Ancestors  
through History, Hope, and Action**

MPHA 2023 - Moorhead, MN

Minnesota Public Health Association

# 2023 Annual Conference Program

In-Person and Virtual Conference

Monday, May 22, 2023, 12:30 - 6:00 pm and  
Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 7:30 am - 1:00 pm CT

Concordia College, Knutson Campus Center  
624 9th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560



# WELCOME

The MPHA annual meeting gathers public health professionals at every level from students to mid-career professionals to retired experts from around the state to exchange information and create a healthier Minnesota through effective public health practice and engaged citizens.

Dedicated public health professionals who want to connect with peers, pick up new ideas and gain skills to bring back to their workplace or community are encouraged to attend.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We ask that you take a moment to honor and acknowledge that we are on the ancestral homelands of the Dakota and Anishinaabe. Indigenous people have a long-standing history and connection to the land since time immemorial, and are the original stewards of lands and waters. Many American Indians were forcibly exiled from their lands because of aggressive and persistent settler colonialism and U.S. Governmental policies, but they persevered. We make this acknowledgement to honor the Dakota and Anishinaabe people, ancestors and descendants, as well as the land itself.



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# OBJECTIVES

Upon conclusion of the conference, attendees will:

**Begin  
Intentionally**

Thoughtfully use lessons learned from public health challenges and successes

**Build  
Responsibly**

Strengthen strategies to advocate for and communicate the value of public health and collaboration with partners

**Deliver  
Reliably**

Leave with tools to make meaningful change in their organizations and community environments to increase health for future generations



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# THANK YOU!

Planning a conference requires the time and commitment of many people. Thank you to the many members, contributors, and partners for creating an outstanding program this year, and to the Governing Council for their support. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the following people for their significant work with the conference:

Delaine Anderson  
Anu Bompelli  
Shehrose Charania  
Evettt Ellis

Brittanie Fort  
Victoria Karpeh  
Kinsey Manneback

Jaime Martinez  
Kristin Moore  
Ellen Saliaras  
Jean Streetar  
Chloé Wallace  
Cat Gangi, MN-SOPHE  
Concordia College

**Sincerely,**

*Merry, Antonia, and Tyler*



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## AUDIENCE

All stakeholders interested in improving the health of Minnesota communities are encouraged to attend. MPHA attendees consist of students, mid-career professionals, and retirees from a variety of communities and disciplines across the state.

## EVALUATIONS

All attendees, please [complete the brief general conference evaluation](#).

CHES credit seekers, in addition to the general evaluation, please also complete [this CHES evaluation](#).

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

CHES/MCHES, Nursing CEUs, certificates of attendance and CPH credits are available for attendees. Please [click here to request a certificate](#) if needed.

## QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

The 2023 MPHA Annual Conference Planning Committee is chaired by Antonia Apolinario-Wilcoxon, Ed.D and Tyler Pyle, MPH, DrPH-C. Please direct questions to Merry Grande, Executive Director, at [admin@mpha.net](mailto:admin@mpha.net) or 612-963-3243.



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# MONDAY, MAY 22ND

11:30 am to 12:30 pm **Check-in and Exhibitors**

 Atrium, Knutson Campus Center

12:30 to 12:40 pm **Welcome and Ancestral Lands Statement**

Antonia Apolinario-Wilcoxon and Tyler Pyle, Conference Co-Chairs

 Centrum, Knutson Campus Center \ Virtual

12:40 to 1:40 pm **Opening Plenary**

 Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

**The Sovereignty of Wellbeing: Intergenerational Restoration, and Resiliency**

Lori New Breast, Blackfeet/Pikuni, Native Wellness Institute

Intergenerational resiliency is an active process of collective healing within multi-cultural systems of knowledge and practices to advance health and safety through relationships with self, family, culture and between communities. Restoration of community wellbeing through culturally based agreement principles will be presented that reflect the matrix of diverse cultural paradigms, historical and contemporary impact of multi-jurisdictions, and health promotion principles to ensure wellbeing for all communities.

Participants will:

1. Understand principles of restorative culturally based responses and inclusive actions
2. Learn cultural solutions and principles of causing no further harm
3. Learn about paradigms of cultural restorative and strength-based responses and practices
4. Understanding three ways of becoming better ancestors

1:40 to 1:50 pm **Transition Time**

# MONDAY, MAY 22ND

1:50 to 2:50 pm

## Concurrent Presentations



Jones A/B, Knutson Campus Center

### Oral Health in Population Health: More than a pretty smile

Jessica Flotterud, LDH, MS, MPH, Chief Strategic Officer, Apple Tree Dental;  
Lyubov Slashcheva, DDS, MS, FABSCD, DABDPH, FICD, Research  
Director/Dentist, Apple Tree Dental

Inequalities in oral health access among Minnesotans persist, despite legislative, administrative, and workforce advancements over the past several decades. Stakeholder organizations have collaborated in the past five years to promote innovative programs and strategies to advance oral health equity. This presentation will spotlight these organizations and their activities in oral health education, workforce, advocacy, and research. In-depth examination of initiatives will occur at subsequent webinar presentations. Best practices from these case studies can be applied to overall public health efforts as reflected by the Minnesota Public Health Association core values.

Participants will:

1. Review challenges and opportunities in Minnesota's oral health landscape, including workforce, payment, and other policy innovations
2. Identify organizations that collaborate to advance oral health equity in Minnesota
3. Describe key innovative activities in oral health education, workforce, advocacy, and research that are underway in Minnesota
4. Summarize best practices from initiatives to advance population oral health in Minnesota and apply these to overall public health efforts and MPHA core values



Jones C/D, Knutson Campus Center

### Safe Drinking Water for All

Frieda von Qualen, she/her, MDP, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Water Policy Center, Minnesota Department of Health; Tannie Eshenaur, she/her, MPH, Manager, Water Policy Center, Minnesota Department of Health

Safe drinking water is essential to healthy families and communities. John Snow's research on sanitation and water drove a public health focus on safe drinking water. The 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) protects public health by regulating public drinking water supplies. While ancestors laid a strong foundation for safe drinking water, there is more to do. New contaminants, expanded health effects knowledge, aging infrastructure, and workforce shortages threaten the safety of Minnesota's drinking water. The 1.2 million Minnesotans who drink from private wells have inequitable protections.

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# MONDAY, MAY 22ND

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To ensure that Minnesotans can go anywhere in the state and have safe drinking water, Minnesota is developing activities and policies that address technological, behavioral, economic, and social factors that either protect or threaten drinking water. This work requires everyone. This session will share how activities and policies will be developed and how you can engage in the process.

Participants will:

1. Be able to name at least one key issue threatening safe drinking water for public water system users in Minnesota
2. Be able to name at least one key issue threatening safe drinking water for private well users in Minnesota
3. Be able to name two ways they can engage in developing and providing feedback on the safe drinking water plan

1:50 to 3:15 pm



Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

## **Strength within the Latiné Community: Promotorés and Liderazgo**

Laura V. Villarreal, MPH, she/they, Health and Violence Prevention Specialist, Esperanza United; Patricia Emmanuelli, she/her, Community Health and Wellness Manager, Esperanza United

Esperanza United recognizes that solutions and treatment for approaching intimate partner violence, domestic violence, and COVID-19 require the actions of the community to decrease and eliminate these experiences for Latinés. This presentation will highlight the experiences of the barriers of care faced by Latiné survivors of IPV, pre and during COVID-19, and how community leaders have uplifted leadership to expand health equity within the national and global community.

Participants will:

1. Identify barriers to healthcare access and services experienced by Latiné and Latiné survivors of intimate partner violence
2. Participants will conceptualize the impact of COVID-19 on Latiné health, including intimate partner violence and vaccine hesitancy
3. Participants will connect community mobilization frameworks, such as Promotorés, as a strategy to improving community health during COVID-19

*with*

# MONDAY, MAY 22ND

## After the mask: The impacts of of COVID-19 on Latines in Minnesota, three years later

Rodolfo Gutierrez, PhD, he/him, Executive Director, HACER; Angeles Juarez, she/her, RN, BSN, MA, Outreach specialist, HACER

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a fundamental impact on many in our community, including Latines. Though programming and funding priorities by governments and organizations have shifted from covering basic needs to vaccination and other forms of prevention, there are many in the Latine community who have still not recovered and are desperately looking for resources to cover those basic needs. HACER, as a Latine-led and Latine serving organization, had to make intentional shifts to adapt to the changing needs of Latines in Minnesota as they navigated through the pandemic. In this presentation, we share HACER's experience the past three years as a nimble and evolving organizations that puts the needs of Latines at the forefront.

Participants will

1. Identify barriers to healthcare access and services experienced by Latiné and Latiné survivors of intimate partner violence
2. Participants will conceptualize the impact of COVID-19 on Latiné health, including intimate partner violence and vaccine hesitancy
3. Participants will connect community mobilization frameworks, such as Promotorés, as a strategy to improving community health during COVID-19

2:50 to 3:20 pm

## Break and Exhibitors



Atrium, Knutson Campus Center

3:20 to 4:20 pm

## Concurrent Sessions



Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

## Community Building and Social Connectedness to Promote Children's Health

Beth Ann Dodds, she/her/hers, Project Coordinator, Department - Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative, Indigenous Visioning, LLC; Andrea Heras, she/her/ella, Family Educator, Early Childhood, Centro Tyrone Guzman; Jason Lee, Program Management Consultant, Korean Service Center

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Social connectedness has become an important determinant of health as populations grow and become more racially and ethnically diverse. Meaningful and supportive relationships serve as community building blocks that propel people to share interests and experiences, and work towards shared goals. This session will focus on one type of community building block, that of involving community members in various capacities in all aspects of children's health programming. Their active involvement ensures that any resources created and work accomplished remain in the community from which current and future generations can benefit. Presenters will discuss co-creating a cultural foundations curriculum and a home visiting model; recruiting parents to serve on advisory, planning, design, and steering teams; conducting a community needs assessment and hosting an online forum to inform programming; and empowering parents to be change agents in promoting well-being within the family and community.

Participants will learn:

1. Learn about the importance of community building in addressing health equity
2. Learn about how active involvement of community members fosters connections and creates the infrastructure for building community
3. Learn about meaningful roles for community members in the implementation of health programs

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## **Working Upstream for Children's Health Equity**

Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts, she/her/hers, Program Director, Early Childhood Dakota and Ojibwe language immersion, Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals dba Wicoie Nandagikendan; Maren Christenson Hofer, Executive Director, Multicultural Autism Action Network (MAAN)

Advancing health equity requires addressing root causes of inequity often historically ingrained in communities, institutions, and systems. A systems approach has the advantage of producing results that are more long-term and sustainable. But it also must be grounded in relationships, trust, and a respect for people's lived experiences. The Community Solutions program at the Minnesota Department of Health funds community-based solutions to challenges related to healthy child development. This session focuses on two upstream strategies grantees are implementing using resources co-created with community: enhancing system capacity to provide culturally appropriate services and reducing stigma. Activities include training Latine childcare providers, primarily Friends, Families, and Neighbors; networking with Indigenous food growers and other community members to promote health and wellness through language and food; and combating stigma around autism in children through media campaigns.

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Participants will:

1. Understand the systems change approach to advancing health equity
  2. Learn about building system capacity and reducing stigma as approaches to systems change
  3. Learn about specific examples of community-led systems changes to advance children's health equity
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Jones A/B, Knutson Campus Center

## Improving Breast Cancer Screening in Minnesota BIPOC Populations through Targeted Education

Donna DeGracia, MPAS, PA, she/her, Breast Cancer Education Association (BCEA) President; Mehnaz Parvez (aka Geeta Deka), MBBS, MS, she/her, Assistant Professor, St. Catherine University MPAS Program; Ashley Pohlenz MPH, BCEA, she/her, Vice President; Gay Lynn Richards, DNP RN MPH, she/her, BCEA Board of Directors

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in U.S. women and second leading cause of cancer death in women. Stage at diagnosis is an important indicator of survival. Mammography allows for early detection thereby reducing risk of death. Despite similar incidence, breast cancer mortality is significantly higher in Black women. Women in BIPOC populations are more likely to be diagnosed with advanced breast cancer, and have poorer survival rates. In Minnesota, the gap between those with commercial insurance and Medicare and those with state insurance suggests that barriers extend beyond insurance coverage. We describe work done in collaboration between the BCEA and St. Catherine University to better understand barriers in populations with disproportionately lower screening rates. We share what we learned about barriers, work currently being done, and ideas for improving targeted education that speaks to specific barriers and needs through multi-pronged public health approaches.

Participants will:

1. Define healthcare disparity as it pertains to breast cancer
  2. Identify three barriers that prevent women in each studied population from obtaining timely breast cancer screening
  3. Identify at least three educational or other interventions or incentives that may increase screening participation in the studied populations
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# MONDAY, MAY 22ND



Jones C/D, Knutson Campus Center

## Let's Talk About Occupational Burnout and Recovery

Presentation by: Erin Ulrich, Ph.D., she/her/hers, Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Drake University

Moderated by: Chris Espersen, MSPH, she/her/hers, Racial Health Equity Coordinator, MPHA; Civil Rights Commission at City of Des Moines

Feel like work stressors are overwhelming and often bury your energy and focus? While news sources are sharing on the rapid turnover of public health leaders due to COVID, research is showing that 53% of public health employees have been diagnosed with at least one mental illness. Public health employees have one of the highest levels of PTSD among health professionals (36.8%). It is critical to not just talk about the prevalence of burnout in public health but to discuss what literature says occupational burnout is, what the symptoms are, and what theory-based occupational recovery activities can allow an individual to mend or prevent occupational burnout.

Participants will:

1. Identify the stages and symptoms/experiences leading up to occupational burnout, during burnout, and functional burnout
2. Identify what job hassles are associated with occupational burnout
3. Identify the four psychological experiences one must feel during occupational recovery activities to reverse or prevent occupational burnout

4:20 to 4:25 pm

Transition



# MONDAY, MAY 22ND

4:25 to 5:00 pm

## Day 1 Closing Plenary Session



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### Healing the Healers, Healing the Systems: How to Find Hope in Action

Gwen Wagstrom Halaas, MD, MBA, FAAFP, Dean, Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions, Concordia College, Moorhead

Public health relies on the health of the healthcare workforce and the systems that provide the majority of healthcare services. Healthcare access and health equity are longterm issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Our systems, as designed, and our healthcare workers, as trained, are not able to meet the needs of families and communities. As a result, healthcare workers are experiencing burnout and leaving the workforce. How can we reimagine the work, the workers and the system to reignite the passion for creating and sustaining healthy communities?

Participants will:

1. Identify current challenges impacting the health and resilience of the healthcare workforce
2. Define interprofessional education and collaborative care
3. Describe opportunities for change in systems of healthcare to create a healthier workforce and communities

5:00 to 6:00 pm

## Networking



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### Connect with the Minnesota Health Equity Networks


Facilitators: Shor Salkas, they/them and Lil Pinero she/her of the Minnesota Health Equity Networks

The Power of Knowing Each Other: Being in relationship and connection with each other is a powerful tool in advancing health equity in our communities. Come connect with Minnesota Health Equity Network staff and each other!

- End of Day 1 -


# TUESDAY, MAY 23RD

7:30 to 8:25 am **Breakfast, Poster Symposium, and Exhibitors**

 Atrium, Knutson Campus Center  
See Posters, pages 23-25

8:25 to 8:30 am **Transition**

8:30 to 8:35 am **Day 2 Welcome**

 Centrum, Knutson Campus Center  
Mayor Shelly Carlson, City of Moorhead

8:35 to 9:35 am **Day 2 Plenary Session**

 Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

## **Resurgence of Vaccine Preventable Disease and the Role of Mis- /Dis-information**

Tracie Newman, MD, MPH, FAAP, she/her, Adjunct Associate Professor, Management of Infectious Diseases, College of Health Professions, Department of Public Health, North Dakota State University

This talk will highlight some of the recent disease outbreaks experienced in this country and the increases being seen around the world. We will define misinformation and disinformation and explore the role they play in these disease resurgences. We will also review current public perception, cultural influences, and political legislation regarding vaccines and vaccine preventable illnesses. This session ends by outlining how to combat mis- and dis-information individually, professionally, and on a community level.

Participants will:

1. Define misinformation and disinformation and be able to distinguish between the two
2. Identify recent vaccine preventable disease outbreaks occurring in the US
3. Become familiar with current American attitudes around vaccines
4. Learn helpful and evidence-based ways to confront health misinformation

# TUESDAY, MAY 23RD

9:35 to 9:45 am

Transition

9:45 to 10:45 am

Concurrent Sessions



Jones C/D Knutson Campus Center

## **Bridging Generations in Early Childhood Health and Development**

Gevonee Ford, he/him/his, Founder & Executive Director, Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (NdCAD)

Much has been said about the generation gap, mostly its economic impact, with the rapid aging of America and concerns for the future of social security. A different demographic shift happening is the increasing racial and ethnic diversity. The generation gap in communities of color and American Indian communities reveals differences in experiences, values, and priorities. But these communities choose to tap into these as strengths. Presenters will discuss using an intergenerational approach to promote greater understanding and respect between generations, and to build strong and resilient communities. It will feature an Ojibwe language and culture immersion program where children interact with elder first-speakers; a two-generation family literacy program that engages African American children and their caregivers in culture-centered programs and activities; and a holistic, multi-generational Anishinaabe care coordination model that also promotes family reunification and preservation.

Participants will:

1. Learn about the value of an intergenerational approach
2. Learn about examples of culturally specific intergenerational approaches in early childhood health and development



Jones A/B, Knutson Campus Center

## **Human-centered Technology and Services: Building Better in the 21st Century**

Mathias Rechtzigel, he/him, Digital Service Expert, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Designing services that lead to great public health outcomes is hard. Throw a layer of technology in the mix, and it becomes harder. By leveraging Human-centered Design and Agile project management methods there are small things that you can do that can lead your team to better project outcomes! In this talk Mathias Rechtzigel will give an introduction to practical human-centered design techniques that will allow you to build services with confidence, and show how these techniques can be added to your software processes so that you can deliver great services. Services that will be more accessible and responsive. Services that will be more resilient to upgrade over the years, and with your help, services that will lead to better public health outcomes. Mathias Rechtzigel is a Digital Service Expert working within the federal government. His work is currently focused on making intersection of technology and public health more accessible for the public.

Participants will:

1. Be introduced to human-centered design techniques that will give the audience additional tools to serve the public
2. Begin to understand how to use these human-centered design tools to deliver better technology project outcomes
3. Develop language to better communicate with technology partners, and language to include in contracts with external organizations to hold them accountable to deliver good services



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**Building workforce pathways from public health schools to the governmental public health enterprise - Lessons learned from a pilot project**

Harshada Karnik, PhD, MS, MPP, she/her, Researcher, Center for Public Health Systems, University of Minnesota; Chelsey Kirkland, PhD, MPH, CHW, she/her, Researcher, Center for Public Health Systems, University of Minnesota; Kari Oldfield-Tabbert, she/her, Director, Local Public Health Association of Minnesota; Rachel Schulman, CPHS, UMN

The governmental public health workforce has been understaffed for decades, and the pandemic has accentuated staffing shortages, causing program and service to be scaled back and staff to be burned out perpetuating attrition and staffing shortages. One solution is through LHD and

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academic public health program partnerships, though few exist, and are often marred with barriers. Therefore, we developed and piloted an innovative placement program model to connect University of Minnesota Master of Public Health Students to LHDs across Minnesota for project-based internships. In all, 10 LHDs hosted 10 students for the 10-week program. All students completed the program and evaluation provided critical insights into what worked and what could be improved. In this session we will present the replicable pilot program, provide actionable program materials, and describe lessons learned from implementing the program that may assist others develop similar programs.

Participants will:

1. Be able to explain current challenges facing the public health workforce
2. Participants will be able to describe and apply the placement internship model
3. Participants will be able to identify high needs PH jobs and corresponding skills in Minnesota

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## **Public Health Education in Minnesota: It's Not Your Parent's (or Grandparent's) MPH!**

Jon Roesler, he/him, Assistant Professor and Program Director, Public Health Programs, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

As public health threats have increased and become more complex, the roles of local and state health departments have expanded, and demand new and different skills for its workforce. To establish the capacity to address the changing roles of local health departments, and the consequential workforce challenges, we must develop enhanced competency through education and continuous training of public health workers. This will require delivery of training courses that are available and accessible in multiple platforms including online, self-study, traditional, and non-traditional classrooms toward either certificate or degree programs. This presentation will look at the rapidly changing landscape of public health educational opportunities available from Minnesota higher education institutions, including the classic MPH, as well as the CHW (Community Health Worker) Certificate, the BPH (Bachelor of Public Health), specialized MPH and MS degrees, and doctoral degree opportunities.

Participants will:

1. Learn about the trends for Public Health degrees
2. Learn about what degrees are being offered
3. Know how many schools are in the market and what the online market look like



# TUESDAY, MAY 23RD

10:45 to 11:15 am **Snack and Exhibitor Break**



Outside Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

11:15 to 11:20 am **Transition**

11:20 am to 12:20 pm **Concurrent Sessions**



Jones A/B, Knutson Campus Center

## **Ramsey County Food Security Needs Assessment 2022**

Carissa Dillon, MPH, RD, she/her, Food Security Coordinator, Health and Wellness Service Team, Ramsey County; Sarah Auten, she/her, Planning and Evaluation Analyst, Health and Wellness Administration Department, Ramsey County

Ramsey County facilitated an assessment using qualitative and quantitative data to address Ramsey County's role in supporting greater food security rooted in community engagement and included broad stakeholder input from partners across the food system. The Food Security Coordinator engaged more than 400 Service Providers and Recipients of Food Assistance, through interviews, online and in-person surveys in 2022. Additionally, a review of Ramsey County-specific data was conducted to assess current food insecurity rates and other proxy measures. Key themes that emerged included priorities to move toward long- and short-term steps to address food security. The presentation will share the process and the findings, and discuss next steps for a county to combat food insecurity. The results are being used to build a more resilient food system for all residents, especially those who are most vulnerable to food insecurity, such as our racially and ethnically diverse communities.

Participants will:

1. Increase understanding of assessment process of qualitative and quantitative data collection, with a particular focus on community engagement and how to utilize county-specific primary data for strategic planning
  2. To collaboratively learn how to apply findings to address food insecurity incorporating a race and health equity lens
  3. Discussions will allow us to collaborate with other jurisdictions and learn more about their strategies to address these issues
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 Jones C/D, Knutson Campus Center

## **Strengthening the MN Public Health System through Data Standards and Centralization: The MDH Data Technical Assistance Unit**

Hannah Woods, MPH, Data Technical Assistance Unit Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Health; Chris Brueske, Lead, Covid-19 Data Team, Minnesota Department of Health

Learn about the newly formed Data Technical Assistance Unit within the Office of Data Strategy and Operability. The office was created to address a need for a more coordinated approach to data, interoperability, and data exchanges. The COVID-19 response created significant challenges with existing siloed structures as data needs skyrocketed. As solution, the office created a centralized data and information source with more standardized, secure, electronic data exchanges. GIS mapping, via the Find My Vaccine Tool, is one innovative example. The office works on building data literacy, capacity and other components utilized by local public health and MDH customers to improve population and public health across the state.

Attendees will:

1. Describe the overall purpose and scope of MDH's Data Technical Assistance unit and associated objectives
  2. Attendees can clearly describe how the MDH TA Unit will support LPH data infrastructure
  3. Attendees can clearly identify the importance of a standard set of data tools in the data lifecycle
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 Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

## **Promoting a Healthy Inclusive Democracy is Public Health**

Erica Fishman, MSW, MPH, she/her/hers, Minnesota Public Health Association Health Equity Committee Co-chair; Pat Stieg, MA CHES, he/him/his, Minnesota Society for Public Health Education and Senior Public Health Program Specialist, Carver County Public Health Department; Jeanne Ayers, R.N. MPH, she/her/hers, Healthy Democracy Healthy People, Executive Director

Inequitable access to civic and voter participation is a critical public health concern and requires advocacy to secure democracy. Voting promotes health by giving people a role in policy processes that affect all social determinants of health. Healthy Democracy Healthy People (HDHP) reports that states that make elections more accessible through policies like same day registration, felon re-enfranchisement, and mail voting options enjoy higher levels of voter participation and stronger public health outcomes. Additionally, disparities shrink for racial and ethnic groups in states that have better civic participation.

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Minnesota enjoys many inclusive democratic policies but there is more we can do to strengthen civic and voter participation among priority populations. MPHA, MN SOPHE, HDHP and other organizations are vitalizing efforts throughout MN with the goal of improving, educating, and promoting civic and voter participation as a means of creating healthier communities for all.

Participants will:

1. Describe three ways that health, health equity and inclusive democracy are connected
2. List two opportunities and threats to democracy in Minnesota, and explain their implications
3. Describe four action steps public health professionals can take to be active allies in efforts to increase access to civic and voter participation, especially for marginalized populations

## 12:20 to 12:25 pm **Transition**



Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

## 12:25 to 12:55 pm **Closing Keynote**



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### **The Light at the End of the Tunnel**

Jan Malcolm, Former Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner

Join former MN Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm as she talks about the lessons she hopes we take away from the pandemic, and what she hopes can happen going forward. Jan will talk a bit about her personal career journey along the way as she sends conference attendees off to become better ancestors through history, hope, and action!

Participants will:

1. Describe lessons in emergency preparedness
2. Describe lessons in public health communications and community engagement
3. Identify one or more strategies for improving health system readiness and effectiveness going forward



# TUESDAY, MAY 23RD

12:55 to 1:00 pm **Closing**



Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

1:00 pm **Boxed lunch**



Atrium, Knutson Campus Center

Grab a boxed lunch and enjoy the conference space if you have time. Otherwise, take it to go!

**Thank you for attending the 2023  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Annual Conference!**

*- End of Day 2 -*



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# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

## Poster Symposium (live)

- **Community health agents changing gender norms: A mixed method data analysis**
  - Presented by Michael Van Skiba, MPH Candidate, Saint Catherine University
- **The Landscape of Immunization Information Systems in the United States: An Analysis of the Infrastructure and Readiness of IISs during the COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign and the Impact on Equitable Vaccine Distribution**
  - Presented by Elena Tran, MPH Candidate, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- **Quality Improvement Study Through the Examination of Diabetes Management at a Student Run Free Clinic (SRFC)**
  - Presented by Erin Collins, MPH Candidate, University of Minnesota
- **Uncovering the Burden: Analysis of Surveillance Data for Severe Maternal Morbidity and Maternal Mortality in the Dominican Republic, 2018-2022**
  - Presented by Estefanía Henríquez Luthje, MD, MPH Candidate, University of Minnesota; Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)-Frontline graduate, Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic
- **Lost in Translation: The Association Between Limited English Proficiency, Healthcare Access and Communication with Providers Among Hispanic Adults in the United States**
  - Presented by Arantxa Hernandez-Chaire, Population Health & Healthcare Administration Management Analysis, Department of Human Services
- **Our Tobacco-Free Campus Policy: It's Implemented, Now What?**
  - Presented by Mary Kramer, Department of Health Science, Minnesota State University Mankato
- **Community Health Worker Emergency Response and Preparedness (CHW-ERP) Project**
  - Presented by Meghan R. Mason, PhD, MPH and Amanda Wasielewski, MPH, Public Health, St. Catherine University

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# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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- **Park Planning: A New SHIP Statewide Strategy**
  - Presented by Elise Olson, AmeriCorps Member, MN Moves, OSHII, MDH
- **Testing Plant-Based Eating Messages: Survey Methods and Results**
  - Presented by Marna Canterbury, MS, RDN and Andrea Anderson, MPH, HealthPartners
- **Building Community Through Yoga**
  - Presented by Amy Zellmer, Editor-in-chief, MN YOGA + Life Magazine
- **An interactive web-based dashboard representing Medicare-accepting Rural Health Clinics and General Hospitals in Minnesota**
  - Presented by Andrew Kotz B.S., Student, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Saint Louis University
- **PowerUp with Plants Online Program: Consumer Engagement Results**
  - Presented by Andrea Anderson, MPH and Marna Canterbury, MS, RDN, HealthPartners
- **Survival status and Predictors of Mortality among Patients with Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis Treated in Tigray Region, Northern Ethiopia: Multicenter retrospective cohort study**
  - Presented by Getahun Kebede Embaye, UNICEF/SLL





# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

## Poster Hall (virtual)

- **Family and Community Partnerships for Ethiopian Children's Development**
  - Presented by Tabby Teklu and Belay Abebe, Faith Community Health Program, Tserha Aryam Kidist Selassi
- **Breast Cancer Champions: A peer-to-peer education and mobile mammography program improving breast cancer screening rates for women of African heritage**
  - Presented by McKenna Haas, Graduate Assistant, Institute for Health Informatics, University of Minnesota
- **Fostering a Climate of Curiosity to Enhance Research Opportunities in a Primary Care Setting: Scaling up a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN)**
  - Presented by Kristin Boman; Samantha Alch, MPH; Chloe Botsford; Jill Bengtson, MPA; Timothy Beebe, PhD; Genevieve B. Melton, MD, PhD; Jerica Berge, PhD, MPH, LMFT, CFLE, all Practice Based Research Network, University of Minnesota
- **A Review of the Indicators of and Barriers to Minnesota Women's Health: 2018-Present**
  - Presented by Jenna Kacheroski, MPH Candidate, University of Minnesota
- **Qualitative Research Shines at the Bright Spots Mini-Lab**
  - Presented by Lauren Roach, Bright Spots Mini-Lab at the University of Minnesota

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Lori Ann New Breast (Blackfeet/Sisikaitstapi)

Native Wellness Institute

Lori New Breast is a member of the Amskapi Pikuni (Blackfeet) Nation in Montana and a member of the Siksikaitstapi (Blackfoot Confederacy Canada/U.S.). Lori has over 30 years of extensive professional experience as a wellness, and policy consultant in collaborative engagement with Indigenous Peoples, multicultural communities, private foundations, governmental and international entities. Lori is committed to the worldwide Indigenous wellness movement and dedicated to the principles of cultural expression to ensure community health, safety and self-determined wellbeing.



## Jan Malcolm

Jan Malcolm, former Commissioner of Health, Minnesota Department of Health

Jan Malcolm served as the leader of the Minnesota Department of Health for a total of nine years under three different administrations, including leading the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During her tenure, the department made noteworthy advances in areas such as health equity, mental health and emergency preparedness.

Throughout her career, Malcolm has been active in state and national health care, public health associations and government commissions on health care access and quality. Jan is a Past-President of MPHA.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Gwen Wagstrom Halaas, MD, MBA, FAAFP

Dean, Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions  
Concordia College, Moorhead.

The school has programs in healthcare leadership, nursing, nutrition/dietetics, exercise science, social work and the prehealth sciences. Previously, she has been Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Washington State University Health Sciences Spokane, Senior Associate Dean for Education at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. Dr. Halaas received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School, family medicine training at the University of Minnesota, and an MBA in Health Care from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Halaas practiced full spectrum family medicine for many years in St. Paul Minnesota, and has worked in administrative leadership for large health plans, including Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and HealthPartners in Minnesota, and has worked as a consultant in ministerial health and wellness for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She was profiled for her administrative leadership in Fitzhugh Mullan's book, *Big Doctoring in America: Profiles in Primary Care*. She has worked in medical education since 1986 in family medicine residency programs and as director of a rural longitudinal training program for medical students. She has been a leader, teacher and advisor for interprofessional health education. She was awarded Minnesota Academy of Family Physician Teacher of the Year in 2008. She has written books, chapters and articles on professional wellness, medical and interprofessional education.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Tracie Newman, MD, MPH, FAAP

Adjunct Associate Professor, Management of Infectious Diseases, College of Health Professions, Department of Public Health, North Dakota State University

Dr. Tracie Newman is a board-certified pediatrician who practices at Sanford Health Fargo. Dr. Newman received her medical training at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She completed her pediatrics residency at the University of Minnesota where she also received her master's degree in Public Health.

Dr. Newman serves as Health Officer for the City of Fargo and Medical Director at Fargo Cass Public Health. She is an elected official on the Fargo Public Schools Board of Education, currently serving as Board president.

Dr. Tracie Newman is an adjunct associate professor at North Dakota State University, department of Public Health, where she teaches Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases. Dr. Newman is involved with the NDSU Center for Immunization Research and Education and has traveled the state giving talks at clinics and hospitals regarding vaccine efficacy and safety. She is also an associate professor of medicine at the University of North Dakota, where she teaches medical students and residents clinical medicine.

Dr. Newman is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, has been active in the North Dakota state chapter, and was elected to the National Council on School Health Executive Committee where she currently serves and creates national school policies around health.

Dr. Newman is married to Dr. David Newman who practices endocrinology and andrology. He specializes in transgender medicine. They have three children who keep them very busy, humble, and, most days, laughing.



# CONCURRENT & POSTER PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

- **Samantha Alch, MPH**, Research Facilitator, Primary Care Service Line Practice Based Research Network (PCSL PBRN), University of Minnesota
  - Samantha Alch is a Research Facilitator for the Primary Care Service Line Practice Based Research Network (PCSL PBRN) at the University of Minnesota. She earned her MPH in Public Health Administration and Policy from the University of Minnesota and has spent the last seven years of her academic and professional career working to improve health and health care for all.
- **Andrea Anderson, MPH (she/her)**, Community Health Program Manager, HealthPartners
  - A Community Health Program Manager, Andrea supports community health initiatives throughout HealthPartners service area. Andrea received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Health from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She earned her Masters of Public Health in Community-Oriented Public Health Practice from the University of Washington, where she studied public health from a social justice lens, addressing inequities upstream and collaborating with community to affect change. Prior to joining HealthPartners, Andrea worked for the YMCA of Snohomish County in Washington state, where she coordinated chronic disease prevention programming throughout the county, working in partnership with community stakeholders.
- **Sarah Auten (she/her)**, Planning and Evaluation Analyst, Ramsey County
  - Sarah Auten is an evaluation specialist with twenty years of experience evaluating and reporting for federal, state and county agencies including the U.S. Departments of State, Treasury, Labor, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). She has worked for Ramsey County for two years, evaluating the CARES-funded Small Business Relief Fund Grants, as well as \$25 million in ARPA-funded Workforce Solutions programs and activities funded by the Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant, including the 2022 Food Security Needs Assessment. She holds a Master's degree in International Education from George Washington University.
- **Kristin Boman, MPH**, Manager, Practice Based Research Network, University of Minnesota
  - Kristin Boman is Manager for the Practice Based Research Network at the University of Minnesota. She has over 17 years administering programs and federally-funded center grants related to primary care, health equity, cancer, and mentoring. She has her master's degree in public health administration from UMN.

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- **Chloe Botsford, she/her**, Research Facilitator, Practice Based Research Network, University of Minnesota
  - Chloe Botsford is a Research Facilitator for the Primary Care Service Line Practice Based Research Network at the University of Minnesota. In her role she provides support for clinicians and other clinic staff on their research ideas and works to increase research capacity within primary care clinics. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in community health promotion at UMN.
- **Chris J Brueske**
  - Chris is the Chief Data Strategist for the MN Department of Health where he works closely with data teams and leadership across the agency to harmonize data policy and practice. He has worked for the agency for 16 years in several roles, including as a bench chemist, a case manager, an IT manager, and an assistant laboratory director. Chris enjoys advancing the understanding and use of modern data infrastructure and tool sets to promote improving public health and equity in MN.
- **Marna Canterbury, MS, RDN**
  - Marna serves as Senior Director of Community Health for HealthPartners, providing leadership for the development, implementation and evaluation of community health priorities, initiatives and partnerships. This includes Community Health Needs Assessments and Implementation Plans and initiatives including PowerUp, Make It Ok and SuperShelf. Marna serves on multiple nonprofit boards, with a focus on food insecurity and health access. She has authored or co-authored multiple program evaluation and research publications. Marna received her bachelor's degree in nutrition and biology from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and completed her training as a Registered Dietitian at the University of Iowa. She received her Master's in Community Health from Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- **Erin S. Collins, she/her, MPH**, University of Minnesota
  - Erin is a recent MPH graduate from the Policy and Administration program from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She spent her time at the U in various leadership roles, including Clinic Operations Chair at the Student Run Free Clinic, Phillips Neighborhood Clinic. She focused her studies on quality improvement strategies, research, health equity and health policy reform. She hopes to continue her career working towards a more accessible, equitable and affordable healthcare system in an advocacy role.
- **Donna DeGracia, MPAS, PA (she/her)**, BCEa 2023 President
  - Donna DeGracia is a retired physician assistant, educator, and author who currently serves as the Breast Cancer Education Association president and chair of the education committee. Her interest in public health and health care disparity comes from her experience as a community health provider.

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- **Carissa Dillon, MPH, RD (she/her), Food Security Coordinator, Ramsey County**
  - Carissa Dillon has been with Ramsey County for over 8 years, with experience working within the Public Health Department as a Planning Manager, focused on chronic disease prevention through grant coordination, working across the local government system and within community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she led the Incident Management Team's Food and Basic Needs branch to respond to community's identified needs of consistent food access. More recently she moved into the role of Food Security Coordinator within the Office of the Deputy County Manager for the Health and Wellness Service Team. Prior to her county position, she was a health coach at a corporate organization and worked at several non-profits focused on health equity. She has a Master of Public Health and is a Registered Dietitian and is passionate about healthy food access.
- **Patricia B Emmanuelli**
  - Patricia Emmanuelli has 10 years of experience advocating for Domestic and Sexual Violence survivors. Patricia has been committed to providing empowerment-based services to those affected by gender-based violence. She previously served as the Advocate Coordinator of The Rape Recovery Team at the Women's Center of Jacksonville (WCJ), F.L. During her time there she accompanied survivors during their forensic exams and assisted survivors in navigating the criminal justice system, and working through their self-identified needs. She also focused her advocacy work in Jacksonville to ensure folks within the Latiné community had access to confidential services by conducting focus groups in different areas of the 3 serviced counties. She implemented DE&I work at The WCJ and then Co-chaired the committee for 18 months. She recently earned a certificate in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the workplace from The University of South Florida. Prior to moving to Florida, she worked at Hogar Nueva Mujer in Puerto Rico as a Transitional Housing Case Manager and a Community Advocate. There she provided services to the Rural Counties of the east coast and central towns of the island. She assisted with bridging the gap of housing needs of those experiencing gender-based violence and facilitated elder abuse prevention workshops at assisted living facilities.

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- **Tannie Eshenaur, MPH**, Water Policy Center Manager, Minnesota Department of Health
  - Ms. Eshenaur is the manager of the Water Policy Center at the Minnesota Department of Health in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her primary responsibilities include leading activities that ensure safe drinking water in Minnesota now and in the future. These activities include protection strategies for public and private water supplies, risk management of contaminants of emerging concern, and policy development with other state agencies and local government partners. In the past, she served as a state specialist for health education, community involvement and risk communication activities related to hazardous waste sites and toxic chemical releases.
- **Erica Fishman, MSW, MPH (She/her/hers)**; Minnesota Public Health Association Health Equity Committee Co-chair
  - Erica Fishman, MSW, MPH, has been an active member of the American Public Health Association and the Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA) for years. She was a founding member, and is currently co-chair, of MPHA's Health Equity Committee. She retired from the Minnesota Department of Health after working in reproductive health, asthma, health equity, and the Sage Screening Program. She brings her passion for public health and its grounding in social justice and health equity to her volunteer activities.
- **Rodolfo Gutierrez**
  - Rodolfo is the executive director of HACER, engaged with the Latino communities of Minnesota who gave no access to resources in health and other critical areas. We engage through research and outreach looking to empower the diverse communities in the state and beyond.
- **McKenna Haas (she/her), MPH Candidate**, at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health
  - McKenna is a first year master's student at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in the Environmental Health Sciences program. She is passionate about the intersection of human and planetary health and strive to be involved in community-driven, innovative solutions to population-level health concerns.
- **Andrea Heras (she/ella)**, Early Childhood Community Educator/Centro Tyrone Guzman)
  - Andrea Heras, Montessori Home Visiting Connector: Andrea was born in New York from Ecuadorian parents. She has an AMI 0-3 and 3-6 Early Childhood assistance diploma, and an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. She worked in Siembra preschool for 5 years before becoming an Early Childhood Community Educator in 2020.

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- **Arantxa Hernandez-Chaire, MPH, she/her**, University of Minnesota School of Public Health Administration & Policy
  - I am Arantxa (pronounced Ah-rand-sah), I grew up in Kasson, MN, and was born in Mexico. I am a very curious human, always interested in understanding the ambitions and passions of others, and aim to work on projects and set intentions TOGETHER, in a TEAM. I completed my Bachelor of Arts in Nutrition Sciences, dietetics concentration at the College of St. Benedict (CSB). Here, I grew passionate about public health. I worked with Hennepin County's Women Infants and Children program (WIC) as a Nutritionist for two years, led as the Racial Equity Task Force Co-Chair for Hennepin County, from July 2020 to January 2021. I am currently at the Department of Human Services as a Health Policy Specialist, and am finishing a Master in Public Health in Administration and Policy, set to graduate this May. I hope we can all work towards the greater good, and halt all systematic ignorances.
- **Harshada Karnik, PhD**
  - Dr. Harshada Karnik is a researcher at the Center for Public Health Systems at the University of Minnesota. Her research interests include public health workforce, local food systems, public health systems, program evaluation, rural/community development, and health equity. She holds a PhD in applied economics and master's in public policy from the University of Minnesota.
- **Andrew Kotz, BS**
  - Andrew Kotz, BS, is a newly graduated Engineer from the Twin Cities, Minnesota. He earned his degree in Electrical Engineering from Saint Louis University in Missouri and has since returned to his home state of Minnesota. While in college, Andrew became interested in research at the intersection of technology and public health. Notably, Andrew designed and created "Minnesota Rural Health Connect," a web-based tool that displays accurate information and locations of Medicare-accepting rural health clinics in Minnesota and has published and presented about its effectiveness. Andrew plans on continuing his work in rural public health in a future career as a physician. In his free time, Andrew enjoys skiing, mountain biking, and getting bossed around by his golden retriever.
- **Mary Kramer, Ph.D., M.P.H, MCHES, CHWC, NCTTP (she/her)**
  - Dr. Mary Kramer is an associate professor in the Department of Health Science at Minnesota State Mankato. She completed her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, Exercise & Wellness Education from AZ State Univ. and received an MPH in Health Education from Univ. of HI, as well as BA's in Health-Fitness and Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College. Certifications include: MCHES 2012; CHWC 2018; and NCTTP 2021. Her work experience includes Health Educator at St. Francis Medical

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- Center and the Hawaii Department of Health in Honolulu; Ohio Department of Education as tobacco-free schools program director; American Cancer Society, Ohio Division; and the American Red Cross in Phoenix.
- **Jason Lee, Ed.M.**, Program Management Consultant, Korean Service Center
  - Jason Lee has been serving as Program Management Consultant at the Korean Service Center since 2022. KSC is dedicated to providing supportive resources and services to Koreans of all ages and other immigrant Americans since 1991. Jason received his Master of Education at Harvard University Graduate School of Education and BA in Urban Studies from Columbia University. His diverse experiences include management consulting, international franchise business, and global joint venture company. Currently, he works as Program Director at several Christian Montessori schools in Minnesota (Hand In Hand Christian Montessori) and Korea (Kids of Nations International School) as well as consulting for Christian Montessori Training Center in Bloomington, MN.
- **Estefanía Henríquez Luthje, MD (She/Her)**, Maternal and Child Health MPH student, University of Minnesota School of Public Health
  - Estefanía Henríquez Luthje is a first-year Maternal and Child Health (MCH) MPH student at the University of Minnesota and a Fulbright Scholar from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She holds a medical degree from Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo and a clinical research certificate from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Estefanía worked for two years as a research analyst in the Department of Nutrition of the Ministry of Public Health in the Dominican Republic, helping establish the first national nutrition surveillance system for pregnant women and children under five. Currently, she is a trainee at the UMN Center for Leadership Education in Maternal & Child Public Health, where she co-edits the MCH Leads blog. The platform connects students and alumni from HRSA-funded Centers of Excellence in MCH or Catalyst programs across the United States and helps them apply MCH Leadership Competencies to their work while sharing their experiences.
- **Meghan R. Mason (she/her/hers), PhD, MPH**, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Director, St. Catherine University
  - Dr. Mason has served as the program director for the undergraduate public health program at St. Catherine University since 2017, which includes overseeing the Community Health Worker (CHW) certificate program. In this capacity, she works closely with the admissions office, academic advising, career development, and other student services to support student recruitment, retention and successful degree completion. Dr. Mason received her MPH and PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. With a particular passion

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- for infectious disease transmission dynamics, Dr. Mason was St. Catherine University's Contact Tracing Team Lead from 2020-2021. In the classroom, Dr. Mason is eager to work with students in strengthening their quantitative skills and translating numbers into meaningful public health messages.
- **Elise Olson, she/her, MPH**, Minnesota Department of Health
  - Elise worked in hospitality until she decided to change her career direction to public health. She completed her Master of Public Health in 2020 and began working in the Covid-19 response effort. Elise is currently serving her Public Health Corps term in the MN Moves unit of the Office of Statewide Health Improvement Initiatives at the Minnesota Department of Health. She works on strategies to improve safety and access to active transportation and physical activity opportunities throughout the state.
- **Mehnaz Parvez (aka Geeta), she/her/hers, MBBS (MD), MS**, Associate Professor, St. Catherine University
  - Mehnaz (aka Geeta) Parvez is an Associate Professor at St. Catherine University Master of Physician Assistant Studies program. She is a Physician and an educator with more than 18 years of experience in hospitals, clinics, and educational institutions. She brings in a blend of career experience from India and the US. Her research focus is global health, infectious disease, and innovative teaching education.
- **Ashley Pohlenz, MPH**, BCEA Vice President
  - Ashley Pohlenz, MPH, is a Senior Research and Program Coordinator with the Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) at Masonic Cancer Center. In her role, Ashley evaluates the impact of the COE Team, researches grant opportunities, and engages with the Community Impact Board and Internal Advisory Board. Before joining Masonic Cancer Center, Ashley served for three years at the American Indian Cancer Foundation as an evaluation coordinator, evaluating multiple programs across the nation. Ashley also serves as the current Vice President of the Breast Cancer Education Association, assisting with evaluation and data collection. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from St. Catherine University. Ashley strives to make her evaluation work meaningful to better address the cancer disparities of our Minnesota community.
- **Jon Roesler**, Director of Public Health Programs, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
  - Jon Roesler (ray-slur) is currently Assistant Professor and Program Director of Public Health Programs at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, which include a Master of Public Health degree and a Community Health Worker certificate. Before joining SMU in the summer of 2022, Jon served with the Minnesota Department of Health for

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- more than 33 years as an epidemiologist and supervisor, as well as having served for two years as an epidemiologist at the North Dakota Department of Health, and two years as a biostatistician at the University of Minnesota's Division of Epidemiology. Although most of Jon's work has been in the public health surveillance and epidemiologic investigations of injury and violence, Jon has also worked on a broad range of public health concerns including diabetes, heart disease, oral health, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), excessive alcohol use, and occupational health. Jon continues to consult with the MDH regarding spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, FASD, oral health, and law enforcement involved fatal encounters.
- **Elena H Tran, MPH (she/her)**
  - Elena Tran received a master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has a background in health promotion and population health, and her favorite part of her work is developing systems-level public health strategies with a human-centered design approach. Elena grew up in Minnesota and is committed to eliminating health inequities that exist in her community. You can usually find her with a cup of coffee and a good book or trying out a new restaurant.
- **Erin Ulrich, PhD**
  - Dr. Erin Ulrich has spent her education and career on improving health services in a variety of health care settings. She earned her M.S. Health Services Research from the University of Iowa and her Ph.D. in Social and Administrative Sciences from the University of Michigan. Over the past four years, she has been a Practice Transformation Coach for the Community Pharmacy Extended Services Network. Dr. Ulrich works with pharmacies to assess their current workflow then assists them to implement new technology and processes to allow for the implementation of quality patient care services. It was clear to Dr. Ulrich realized that occupational burnout and staff turnover were the main barriers to practice improvement. This inspired her to spend her sabbatical examining occupational burnout and recovery strategies. Since 2021, Dr. Ulrich has been presenting to health professionals about the importance of occupational recovery to prevent or reverse signs of occupational burnout.
- **Laura V. Villarreal, MPH (She/They)**
  - Laura V. Villarreal, MPH (she/they) is the Health and Violence Prevention Specialist for Esperanza United. Prior to joining Esperanza United, Laura earned her Master of Public Health in Maternal and Child Health with an emphasis in sexual and reproductive health and health services research from the University of Minnesota. Laura has completed work with state health organizations to increase information on

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- Social Determinants of Health, inclusive language, reproductive health and women's health. Laura currently leads presentations and trainings on navigating health systems and supporting Latine survivors of IPV. Lastly, Laura has five years of experience providing advisory and leadership services within multicultural organizations on empowerment, health equity, and community development.
- **Michael Van Skiba (he/his/him)**
  - Michael Van Skiba is a recent graduate of Saint Catherine University for his Masters of Public Health in Global Health. He currently works as an Emergency Medical Technician in the clinical setting and is passionate about health equity and social justice. Michael had clinical experience specializing in pediatrics including emergency pediatric care and preventative health screenings. He has contributed significantly to the evaluation of WellShare International's Mankato HUB Community Health Worker program. Michael has assisted in publishing research regarding women's empowerment for community health workers in Peru and continues research on changing social and gender norms in this context. His strengths are self-sufficiency, assessing situations quickly, solving complex problems & definitive decision-making.
- **Frieda von Qualen, MDP, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Health**
  - Ms. von Qualen is a planner in the Water Policy Center at the Minnesota Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health. She leads private well outreach, education, and strategic planning and helps facilitate cross-sectional drinking water projects and policies at the agency. She received her master's degree in International Development Practices with a minor in Public Health from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs in 2016.
- **Hannah Woods (she/her/hers), MPH, LSSGB, Data Technical Assistance Unit Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Health**
  - Hannah is the Supervisor of the Data Technical Assistance Unit, a new unit in the Office of Data Strategy and Interoperability (DSI) at the MN Department of Health, where she helps to align and simplify the agency's data work with a practical and standardized approach across the MN Public Health System. She has worked at MDH for just over one year, beginning as a project manager. Hannah comes to MDH from two large health systems, as well as several years at a Local Public Health Department in Central MN. Hannah enjoys expanding her unit to provide high quality data services to MN Counties and improve data skills across the Minnesota Public Health System.

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- **Fawn YoungBear-Tibbetts**

- Aaniin Boozhoo Giidagakoons anishinaabe-izhinikaazowin. Hello, my name is Fawn YoungBear-Tibbetts, White Earth Band of MN Ojibwe. I am a mother, an artist, an activist and educator. I am Currently the Program Director and Indigenous Foods Coordinator at Wicoie Nandagikendan Minneapolis's Ojibwe and Dakota Language Immersion Early Childhood Center. I have been working to reintroduce and increase access for urban families to traditional foods and processing Methods. I have been working in indigenous environmental education for over 15 years. At my time at University of Wisconsin Madison I founded the Indigenous Arts and Sciences Restoration Program as well developing the Burial Mounds Management plan for the UW-Madison Arboretum. I Hold a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Life Science Communications from UW-Madison Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences and obtained my A.A.S in Sustainable Development from College of Menominee Nation in Keshena Wisconsin. My family lineage comes from the Headwaters of the Mississippi<leech Lake Reservation and my father was a traditional harvester, hunter, fisher, and trapper. I have a unique experience and relationship with food and bring creative ways to overcome barriers to serving traditional foods in schools in south Minneapolis that I'm excited to share with you during this presentation and you can find more information about our program at [www.wicoienandagikendan.org](http://www.wicoienandagikendan.org) or by contracting me directly at [coordinator1@wicoienandagikendan.org](mailto:coordinator1@wicoienandagikendan.org)