Call for Proposals
2019 Community Health Conference:
Examining Roots to Build our Healthy Future

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, LEARNING STATIONS

Due by Sunday, June 9, 2019, 11:59 PM
Apply online after reviewing instructions and preparing the proposal
Please note: You cannot save your proposal and return to it later

How to apply to present at the Community Health Conference

- Use these instructions to draft your proposal for a concurrent session or learning station before applying online
- You must submit your application by 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 9, 2019; you can print or email yourself a copy of your application after you submit it
- MDH will notify all applicants of the status of their proposal via email the week of July 8, 2019

Conference theme: Examining Roots to Build our Healthy Future

Each year, members of the SCHSAC Community Health Conference Planning Workgroup create a theme that highlights common priorities, experiences, and goals shared by conference attendees. Our 2019 theme is: Examining Roots to Build our Healthy Future. MDH will announce general sessions speakers this summer.

Roots, depending on your perspective, may invoke grounding in culture and community that builds belonging and connection. Roots may prompt you to think of discovering the underlying causes that create healthy outcomes and inequities. Upstream prevention focuses on finding root causes so we can change policies, systems, or environments—rather than only addressing the symptoms.

Examining refers to the ongoing need to assess current conditions and future trends, plan, and then take action. We must know the people and communities we serve, in addition to knowing our own culture, values, and beliefs. Awareness of our own culture enables us to honor differences and respect commonalities.

Our healthy future describes many individual and community paths heading toward the same destination—a future where everyone has the opportunity to be healthy. As public health allies, we have a responsibility to work together and engage others in the journey to eliminate health inequities.

About the Community Health Conference

The 2019 Community Health Conference will be held October 2, 3 and 4, at Cragun’s Conference Center, Brainerd, Minnesota. The State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) and the Minnesota Department of Health Center for Public Health Practice sponsor this event.
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The conference welcomes people from every community and the organizations that serve them, the state health department, local public health agencies, environmental health agencies, tribal governments and American Indian health agencies, health plans and providers, educational institutions, and local elected officials.

If you have any questions about the conference or the selection process, please visit [www.health.state.mn.us/chc](http://www.health.state.mn.us/chc) or contact Becky Buhler with the MDH Center for Public Health Practice ([becky.buhler@state.mn.us](mailto:becky.buhler@state.mn.us)).

Conference learning objectives

- **Honor** individual contributions and diverse collective experiences in conversations to build understanding
- **Unite** and mobilize across partnerships, communities, cultures and organizations to improve health for all
- **Share** best practices, knowledge and lessons learned from our successes, challenges, and failures
- **Anticipate** emerging needs and trends and be willing to adapt to shape our healthy future
- **Inspire** by encouraging each other, welcoming new ideas, celebrating our efforts, and adapting what was learned for our communities

Details: Concurrent sessions and learning stations

You should decide if a concurrent session or a learning station is the best format for your proposal. All concurrent sessions and learning stations should support the conference theme and overall learning objectives.

- **Learning station**: Think of learning stations as a flexible, informal networking opportunity for conference participants to ask questions in subject areas and to begin connecting with presenters and others. Learning stations will focus on exposing and introducing participants to innovative practices and tools. Participants can dig deeper by asking questions.

- **Concurrent session**: Concurrent sessions are 60-minute breakouts, so presenters can provide more information about innovative practices/tools or can delve into issues related to the conference theme. Concurrent sessions cover all areas of public health responsibility with emphasis on at least one of the following categories.

Learning stations format

- A learning station is a networking opportunity, similar to a poster session or resource table, with a focus on conversation and interaction
- Learning stations will take place Thursday, October 3, from approximately 8:15 AM to 9:45 AM, in Cragun’s Sports Center
- Conference participants will move at their own pace to stations of interest
- As presenters, you should prepare a brief introduction to your topic, and plan to engage attendees in conversation
- Possibilities include: Create a display or poster for your round table; do a short demonstration or activity; provide contact information/materials
- You may have up to three presenters per learning station
- The conference planning workgroup will select approximately 20 learning station proposals.

Concurrent sessions format

- Concurrent sessions will be 60 minutes long, for an audience of about 75 attendees
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- Concurrent session speakers will present concurrent sessions on Thursday, October 3, and Friday, October 4; exact times to be determined
- You may have up to three presenters per concurrent session
- After the selection process, SCHSAC will arrange concurrent sessions in tracks for the conference program; program tracks will vary from the categories used for the selection process

Categories for the selection process
When you submit your application to present a concurrent session, determine which of these categories best describes your proposal. Your proposal may fit multiple categories, but submit it in only one category that best describes the primary focus.

Concurrent sessions are 60-minute breakouts, so presenters can provide more information about innovative practices/tools or can delve into issues related to the conference theme. Concurrent sessions cover all areas of public health responsibility with emphasis on at least one of the following categories:

- **Health equity**: Explore topics and best practices based on cultural and community experiences; share health equity successes and challenges related to geography, race/ethnicity, disability status, socioeconomic status, sexual and gender identities.
- **Root causes and upstream prevention**: Identify and address underlying causes of complex problems; invest in the future to prevent crises and promote healthy communities; explore ways local elected officials, tribal governments and others engage in public health policy.
- **Partnerships for common goals**: Talk about public health in new ways to connect with partners; work with all types of organizations and across jurisdictions; improve relationship-building skills and community engagement.
- **Mental health and resiliency**: SCHSAC is concluding a workgroup on the needs of children of incarcerated parents and would like to highlight this issue and other topics related to mental health and resiliency, intergenerational health, and Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adverse Community Environments (known as “the pair of ACEs” by the Building Community Resilience Collaborative).

Prepare your proposal
You cannot save and return to your proposal once you begin the submission process. Please prepare the following information in advance.

1. Select type of session: Concurrent session or learning station.
2. Provide contact information for applicant and up to three presenters (name, organization, email)
3. Suggest a short, descriptive title
4. Suggest the primary target audience(s) (local elected officials, American Indian and tribal health partners, local governmental public health, community-based organizations and community partners, decision-makers and leadership, all of the above, or other)
5. Select the category that best describes your concurrent session (listed above under “categories for the selection process”)
6. List one or two learning objectives that participants will gain from your session or station
7. Provide a description for use in the conference program (fewer than 100 words, 4-6 sentences)
8. Give additional context or background information to use during the selection process
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Presenter expectations

- Submit ADA-compliant material for MDH to post online prior to the conference (what does this mean? visit: MN.IT: Electronic documents (https://mn.gov/mnit/about-mnit/accessibility/electronic-documents.jsp))
- Follow presentation guidelines, incorporate feedback from the conference planning committee into your presentations, and provide information requested by the conference coordinator
- Present concurrent sessions on Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 4; exact time to be determined
- Present learning stations on Thursday, October 3
- The conference registration fee will be waived for up to three presenters for each selected concurrent session or learning station
- Presenters are responsible for their own travel, food, and lodging

Selection criteria

Through a rigorous review process, the conference planning workgroup strives to select a balanced schedule. Concurrent sessions and learning station are selected based on the proposal's ability to:

- Support the overall conference theme and meet the needs of conference participants
- Clearly and succinctly describe the session’s purpose, learning objectives and value to participants
- Suggest an engaging, dynamic, or interactive format for conference participants
- Be submitted by 11:59 PM Sunday, June 9, 2019

Questions

If you have any questions about the conference or the selection process, please visit www.health.state.mn.us/chc or contact:

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May 2019. To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3880.