

# Healthy Minnesota Partnership Meeting: May 20, 2025

## VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

### Meeting summary

During the May meeting, attendees received updates about the adopted statewide health improvement framework for 2025-2029 and learned about the statewide health assessment curriculum project. Attendees also provided input about future Healthy Minnesota Partnership (“Partnership”) meetings.

### Meeting notes

#### Welcome and introductions

Healthy Minnesota Partnership co-chair Sarah Grosshuesch (Local Public Health Association) opened the meeting and introduced the new co-chair, Assistant Commissioner Dr. Robsan (Halkeno) Tura of the MDH Health Improvement Bureau.

Introductions included interactive polling and small group introductions in breakout rooms. Out of 37 attendees who participated in a warmup poll, 15 people (41%) attended for the first time, and 22 people (59%) had attended previously.

#### Statewide health improvement framework

##### Background

MDH staff briefly described the improvement framework for new attendees.

It is a multi-year action plan in response to the statewide health assessment that includes health priorities, objectives, and strategies. It was developed in 2024 and adopted by the Partnership during the February meeting. The health priorities include:

- Belonging, Wellbeing and Substance Use Prevention
- Housing and Health
- Equitable Access and Care

It is a living and dynamic document that can evolve during implementation. It may be used to identify areas for collective action and coordination, advance health in all policy approaches, shift narratives or mental models, and implement more asset-based approaches.

More information about the improvement framework is available online:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/healthymnpartnership/framework.html>

## Updates

Since the February Partnership meeting:

- The Improvement Framework steering committee met in late February to debrief the process of the past year and identify lessons learned.
- The designed improvement framework was posted online on May 7 and shared with Partnership members and partners.
- Staff onboarded the new co-chair and have met with Partnership co-chairs.

## Overview of plans for Year 1

Implementation is beginning with a focus on setting the groundwork for a 2025 to 2029 implementation period. This will include

- Reconvening the Partnership Advisory Committee, formerly called the Steering Committee. This committee will advise on improvement framework implementation activities and monitoring, as well as overall Partnership operations and future assessment and planning cycles Discussion
- Reconvene three health priority workgroups. Staff will reach out to workgroup members previously involved and then open recruitment to include a mix of sectors and communities.
- Develop workplans and begin initial action steps. Workplans and process will be developed with workgroups.
- Strengthen the Partnership's capacity by improving engagement and retention with new and existing partners

## Discussion

*Question:* do you have a plan or goal for first year of work groups? Where do you see these work groups going? We will work with the workgroups to identify the initial steps to address the strategies. This might look different for each workgroup.

*Question:* is there still an opportunity to join the workgroups? Yes. Staff will first reach out to 2024 workgroup members and then open recruitment. If you are interested in joining a workgroup, email us at [health.healthymnpartnership@state.mn.us](mailto:health.healthymnpartnership@state.mn.us).

*Meeting poll:* How do you think you will be involved in implementing the statewide health improvement framework?

- I plan to attend and participate in HMP meetings (17 selections)
- I plan to observe and stay informed about the work (14 selections)

- I plan to share this with my organization or networks (12 selections)
- I'm interested in participating on a workgroup (11 selections)
- Unsure/other (5 selections)
- I don't see how my work intersects at this time (no one selected this option)

## Statewide Health Assessment Curriculum Project

With the release of the Minnesota Statewide Health Assessment (SHA) in Spring 2024, there have been several audiences and uses for the SHA that have been identified for dissemination over the past year, one being schools and students of public health. Dr. Susi Keefe, professor of public health at St. Catherine University, shared slides on the partnership between MDH, her, and an MPH practicum student for a project to create academic modules for instructors to include in their existing courses, based around the SHA.

During summer of 2024, Dr. Keefe worked with SHA project manager and practicum student (Kaitlin Corey) to develop modules and pilot them with undergraduate courses during fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters. Findings from this project and piloting these modules included strong increases in knowledge around system-thinking, meaningful partnerships created while fulfilling the need for engagement with the SHA, and a better understanding of undergraduate public health knowledge. These modules (outlines, PowerPoints, scripts, activities, and assignments) are available on the MDH website: [Statewide Health Assessment Learning Modules - MN Dept. of Health](#)

### Discussion

- Question from audience about community health workers (CHWs) and their in-person apprenticeship program with childcare providers. Wondering if this might be an opportunity to collaborate. MDH CHW staff shared contact information to connect.

## Future Healthy Minnesota Partnership Meetings

Over the past two years, Partnership meetings have focused on developing the statewide health assessment and improvement framework. As the Partnership moves into implementation, Partnership staff asked attendees for feedback on future Partnership meetings. Staff facilitated an activity using Mentimeter (an online engagement tool) to collect input to inform future Partnership meetings. The full results are included below.

### What is bringing you to this meeting today?

Updates (4), collaboration (2), Community (2), ideas for own CHIP, "to give back, support and add value, collective impact, discovery, to learn, progress, health equity, gain knowledge, make sure I am staying connected and up to date, gain ideas, CHA/SHIP, learn, commitment, children, health, information, guidance for local efforts, support

### **What two topics are you most interested in learning about during future meetings?**

- Systems and structural level approaches (11 votes)
- Prevention and upstream approaches (8 votes)
- Health equity, Health in all policy approaches, asset-based approaches (3 votes)
- Health in all policy approaches (3 votes)
- Asset-based approaches (3 votes)

### **How can we make future meetings useful and meaningful to you and your work?**

- Facilitated breakout sessions vs didactic session.
- Engagement in the framework and outcomes from the work groups
- Have presentations like we just had that showcase real-life examples of how framework strategies or ideas can be applied.
- demonstrate clear pathways for impact and systems change to move the framework forward
- advise on task groups or advocacy on areas we can make impact on in the current landscape
- What other gov work is happening and how is the work aligned/can it be aligned
- Breakout sessions that guide our work.
- How can we connect the SHA to our work across the state.
- Toolkit. Actionable insights
- Learn what other systems are doing that are working or not working.
- Learning Collaboratives
- Include “return on investment” type narrative with the strategies
- Charter
- Shorter meetings
- The platform, the opportunity to network!
- Too much warmup at the beginning - get going quicker with content.
- Consider some hybrid/in person gatherings
- Open dialogue
- Sharing opportunities

- Leverage this network
- Leverage networking and partnership opportunities for participants
- Knowing who is in the audience and finding ways for greater connection.
- Other state agencies-education, transportation, DEED participate
- Engagement opportunities, partnership; involvement doesn't have to only happen during the meeting
- Ideas on how to get others in the community interested.

## Meeting adjourned

Partnership co-chair Sarah Grosshuesch & Assistant Commissioner Tura adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm.

## Attendance

A total of 58 people attended the meeting. Attendees are listed alphabetically by first name.

## Healthy Minnesota Partnership member organizations

**Co-chairs:** Dr. Robsan Halkeno Tura (Minnesota Department of Health), Sarah Grosshuesch (Local Public Health Association),

**Representatives:** Amy Reineke (Local Public Health Association), Claire Fleming (American Heart Association), DeDee Varner (Health Care Systems), Diane Holmgren (Local Public Health Association), Heather Peterson (American Heart Association), Jim McKinstra (Board on Aging),

## Attendees and Partners

Alexander O, Alexandra DKL, Andrea Demmer, Angela Greene – CyncHealth, Annika Peterson, Armelle Etoh (South Country Health Alliance), Audrey Hansen (Blue Cross), Casey, Cassandra Shaker (Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services), Chelsie Huntley (MDH), Cierra Thibert, Danie Watson (Watson Group Marketing), Dasharath Yata, Elizabeth Hagen (Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services), Emily Morrison, Farah Baig (Age Friendly Minnesota), Gladys Chuy (MACMHP), Heather Peterson (American Heart Assn), Janessa Bakken (Watonwan County Public Health), Jessi Evjen (Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans), Katie Chatfield (Greater Twin Cities United Way), Katy Juetten (Sherburne County/student at Winona State University), Kelly Felton (MDH), Khatidja Dawood (MDH), Kristen Godfrey Walters (MDH), Laura Stumvoll (Veteran's Association), Leah Jesser (MDH), Lily Rubenstein (MDH), Lindsey Wimmer (Star Legacy Foundation), Mabee (last name unknown), Mary Parsatoon (Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board), Melissa Michels (MDH), Melissa Mikkonen (BCBS MN), Michelle Gin MDH (MDH), Nancy Taff (UCare), Nicole Ruhoff, Phyleasha Grauman (Phyleasha Grauman Moonspots & Mudboots academy), Shaunequa James (Sabathani Community Center), Stephanie Jones de Palma (MDH), Susi Keefe (St. Catherine University),

SuzAnn Stenso-Velo (Ramsey County), Taylour Blakeman (CCLS CHB), Tonayo Crow, Tracy Onchwari (St Louis County Public Health), Wynfred Russell (Anoka County). Two people joined by phone, names unknown.

## Partnership Staff

Audrey Hanson, Ash Tilahun, Deanna White, Tara Carmean

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