

## Speaker Bios

### 2022 SCHSAC RETREAT

#### **Melissa Huberty, Stearns County Human Services Administrator**



Melissa Huberty has been the Stearns County Human Services Administrator for the past five years where she oversees public health, community corrections, social services, public assistance and a finance and technology division. Prior to that, she worked for six years in Ramsey County and 17 years in Hennepin County. She began her career as a licensed mental health therapist, working with people who have severe and persistent mental illness and substance use disorders. Since 2002 she has worked through progressive leadership positions from supervisor, manager, and director to her current position as a county human services administrator. Melissa also teaches the Principles of Resilience in her various roles and has been training on

the subject for the past few years. Overall, Melissa has nearly 30 years of professional experience working in county government.

#### **Janet Goligowski, Stearns County Public Health Director**



Janet is a Human Services Public Health Director through Stearns County. Janet has been with Human Services for 14 years. She earned a BA in Liberal Studies from CSB/SJU and holds a Masters Degree in Psychology from SCSU. She has served as a Commissioner, a Non-Profit Director and a therapist throughout her career. In her free time she enjoys hunting, fishing, and being at the cabin.

## Sheila Kiscaden, SCHSAC Chair and Olmsted County Commissioner



Sheila Kiscaden is an Olmsted County Commissioner (2013-present) who previously served in the Minnesota Senate representing Rochester/Olmsted County (1993.-2006). Sheila's career has focused on human services and has included managing non-profits, being a human services planner, and an organizational development consultant, and an adjunct faculty member.

In her role as a County Commissioner, Sheila frequently serves on state task forces and commissions. Currently, she is the Chair of the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee. She previously co-chaired the SCHSAC Health Equity Work Group and the SCHSAC Children of Incarcerated Parents Workgroup. She continues to advocate for services for the children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers as a member of Minnesota's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, which is continuing the SCHSAC workgroup's efforts with a cross-sector Children of Incarcerated Parents Subcommittee.

Sheila is also active on housing issues as a member of the Olmsted County HRA Board, the Rochester Coalition for Affordable Housing, and the cross-sector Housing Alliance. She was a founder and continues to co-chair *SE MN Together*, a regional grassroots group that seeks to promote regional collaboration to address Southeast Minnesota's workforce issues.

## Jan Malcolm, Minnesota Commissioner of Health



Jan Malcolm was appointed in January 2018 as commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Health. Malcolm is responsible for directing the work of the Minnesota Department of Health. MDH is the state's lead public health agency, responsible for protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans.

Prior to being appointed commissioner, Malcolm was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, where she co-directed a national research and leadership development program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Earlier she also helped develop initiatives to strengthen the nation's public health system as a senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Malcolm previously served as CEO of the Courage Center and as President of the Courage Kenny Foundation following the merger of Courage Center and the Sister Kenny Rehabilitation Institute. She has also worked as Vice President of

Public Affairs and Philanthropy at Allina Health. From 1999 to 2003, Malcolm served as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health. 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.

## **Reena Chudgar, Public Health National Center for Innovation**



As Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) director of Innovation, Reena Chudgar brings more than 15 years of direct public health experience to her efforts to support health departments and their communities in using innovation as a tool for transformation and to create equitable opportunity for optimal health. Her work centers around strategy and program implementation, and she is passionate about social and systems change, addressing root causes of historical and current racial and health inequities, and local and people-centered decision-making.

Reena aims to support public health by engaging in dynamic partnerships, fostering cross-sector collaboration, looking to community expertise, and advocating for public health needs. She previously directed the National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) Performance Improvement team. She has prior experience working internationally in both Ghana and Kiribati. Reena earned a Master's in Public Health and a Bachelor's in Chemistry from Emory University.

## **Sarah Grosshuesch Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA) Chair and Wright County Public Health Director**



Sarah Grosshuesch has over 10 years of experience in Public Health administration, including 5 years as the Public Health Director for Wright County based in Buffalo, Minnesota and 6 years as the Health Officer for Adams County in rural, Central Wisconsin. She holds a Master of Public Health with a certificate in Maternal and Child Health Leadership from the University of Alaska Anchorage. In 2018, she completed a Health Equity Fellowship with Human Impact Partners. Over the course of her career, she has worked in a large municipal, a small rural and, most recently, a mid-sized health department across three states. In 2018, Sarah was elected

as Secretary of Minnesota's Local Public Health Association and became Chair in January of 2022. Sarah is also the local public health representative on the Minnesota Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council.

## Kate Dean, Jefferson County Commissioner (WA)



Kate Dean was elected to the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners in 2017. Kate moved to rural Jefferson County in the late 1990s as a young farmer and entrepreneur committed to growing the local food economy. She was the co-founder of Old Tarboo Farm, Finnriver Farm and Mt. Townsend Creamery. After leaving the farm, Kate started a consulting firm with an eye to projects that leveraged public, private and non-profit resources to find innovative solutions to complex rural issues. She coordinated the Jefferson Landworks Collaborative (a farmland preservation and enterprise development initiative), managed WSU Extension's Small Farm Program, worked for WA Dept. of Labor & Industries, and was the Regional Director for the

North Olympic Development Council, a council of governments tasked with community and economic development. Kate holds her Master's in Public Administration from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington.

## Robert Gelder, Kitsap County Commissioner (WA)



Commissioner Robert Gelder was born and raised in a small upstate New York community where his family still resides. He received a degree in Political Science from the University of Rochester in 1988 and studied Norwegian at the University of Oslo in Norway. Through friendships made in Norway, Commissioner Gelder made the decision to move to Seattle in January 1990.

Commissioner Gelder's career has afforded him the opportunity to focus on service to the community whether that be health or human services. With 20-plus years working in the not-for-profit sector, he has over a decade of experience as either the chief executive or as a member of the senior leadership team. Commissioner Gelder has called North Kitsap

home for over sixteen years, with the past fourteen years residing in the Keyport area.

Prior to joining the Board of County Commissioners in March 2011, Commissioner Gelder spent his career working in not-for-profit, mission-driven organizations. He believes the County exists to provide service to our community. The challenge before us is to meet the service demands that citizens require given the budgetary constraints that exist.

The Commissioner's priorities include efficient and effective government in the current economy – maintaining Kitsap's quality of life and promoting business vitality – advocating for our most vulnerable residents and veterans – and keeping Kitsap safe – and, above all, service.

## **Eric Johnson, Executive Director of Washington State Association of Counties**



Eric Johnson has served as the Executive Director for the Washington State Association of Counties since 2008. Prior to joining the WSAC staff, Eric served as a Lewis County (Washington) Commissioner being first elected in 2000 and again re-elected in 2004. As a County Commissioner, Eric primarily focusing on transportation and public works, land use and natural resources, and improving health and human services in distressed rural communities.

Eric started his professional career in parks, recreation, and natural resource management, serving in administrative positions with Lewis County as well as the cities of Chehalis and Bellingham. He served for 9 years as Assistant Director for the, then, Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (now Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office).

Eric is passionate about effective and efficient delivery of public services. He works tirelessly to improve public policy and processes, strategic organizational improvement, and ensuring prioritization and accountability for public expenditures. Eric holds a Bachelor of Arts from Western Washington University and a Certificate in Executive Management from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

## **Kari Oldfield-Tabbert, Local Public Health Association of Minnesota**



Kari Oldfield, JD, is the Executive Director for the Local Public Health Association (LPHA) of Minnesota. In her role, she works with more than 230 leaders from health departments across the state. Kari works statewide to improve and protect the health of the population of Minnesota by providing leadership and advocacy on behalf of local public health. Prior to her role at LPHA, Kari worked four years in tobacco prevention. Kari received her JD from Hamline University

School of Law where she focused on health law and compliance and her BA from Coe College focusing on communications and political science.



## Kim Milbrath, Minnesota Department of Health



Kim Milbrath has 25 years of experience in public health project management, advocacy, and policy campaign planning and execution and business development with state and federal agencies, foundations, health care systems and local and national non-profit organizations. She has worked with leading national organizations including the American Heart Association, Susan G Komen Advocacy Alliance, the National Alzheimer's Association, the Centers for Disease Control, as well as local level groups such as the NYC Smoke Free Coalition and BCBS of Minnesota's Center for Prevention to develop community population health and system change initiatives.

Kim currently is the Director of the Center for Public Health Practice at the Minnesota Department of Health and is thrilled to be working again in her home state to transform the state public health system.

## Tarryl Clark, SCHSAC Vice-chair and Stearns County Commissioner



Tarryl has served in non-profit, government and higher education leadership. Born in Virginia while her father served in the Navy, Tarryl grew up in suburban Chicago and Phoenix where she obtained her Masters in Counselor Education and counseled at-risk teens and their families. Tarryl and her then young family moved to Minnesota 34 years ago. A year later, she returned to school and obtained her law degree and practiced law. She focused on public policy and systems change through Legal Aid, the Children's Defense Fund and as head of the Minnesota Community Action Partnership. Tarryl Clark is a former Minnesota state senator from district 15, serving from 2006 to 2011. In 2006,

she was elected as the Senate Assistant Majority Leader. As a senator, Tarryl continued her focus on creating opportunities and removing barriers to help strengthen families and communities. She was the public spokesperson for the majority caucus and worked with members on overall policy and budget strategy. She returned to public office when seat opened for Stearns County Commissioner in 2018. She is the second woman to serve on the board since 1855. Past Chair of the Stearns County Board, Tarryl works on a number of local initiatives and serves on a number of committees in addition to serving as Vice-Chair of SCHSAC including as Chair of the National Association of Counties Telecommunications and Technology Policy Steering Committee and a Vice Chair of the Rural Action Caucus, Chair of the Public Health and Human Services Policy Committee and board member of the Association of Minnesota Counties, Treasurer of the Minnesota Inter County Association, board member of the Central Minnesota Council on Aging, and First Steps Joint Powers Board. She is married, has two adult sons and two small granddaughters. She loves to learn, travel, read and quilt.

## **Keith Grellner, Kitsap Public Health District Administrator (WA)**



Keith Grellner is the Administrator for the Kitsap Public Health District in Washington state and has been in that role since mid-2016. He has been employed with Kitsap Public Health since 1989 when he started out as an environmental health specialist after earning a B.S. in Environmental Health from Illinois State University. Keith spent time in all of Kitsap's environmental health programs before becoming the Environmental Health Director in 2010. Keith is a member of Washington State's Foundational Public Health Services Steering Committee, and is also the Chair of the Washington State Board of Health which he has been a member of since 2011.

Keith and Lynn, his spouse of over 33 years, live in Seabeck, Washington. They have two grown children: Sofi, a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade school teacher in West Seattle, and Keegan, a construction engineer in Kirkland, WA.

## **David Lieser, Chippewa County Commissioner**



David Lieser, Chippewa County Commissioner, has been a member of our Board of Directors since January 2018. David taught mathematics and coached tennis for 37 years in Montevideo. He now teaches adult education and serves on the 6W Community Corrections Board, Historical Society Board of Directors, Circle Sentencing Steering Committee, Prevention of Out-Of-Home Placement Team, Hospice & Bereavement Volunteer, Countryside Public Health Board, Community Education Advisory Board, Chippewa Enterprises Board, First Responders Volunteer, County Extension Committee, Montevideo Community Development Corporation Board, and the Mental Health Local Advisory Council. He also serves on the state and regional boards for the Association of MN Counties

Education/Training Committee, SCHSAC- State Community Health Services Advisory Committee, Supporting Hands Nurse Family Partnership Board, West Central Industries Board, and the Workforce Development Board

## Liz Auch, Countryside Community Health Services Administrator



Elizabeth Auch, PHN is the Countryside Public Health Administrator for Countryside Public Health. Liz has spent her career in local public health since 1993. Liz directs a five-county fully integrated local public health organization in southwest rural Minnesota. She oversees a population of approximately 43,000 residents and 30 employees. Countryside Public Health has a five-county Community Health board comprised of County Commissioners and Lay-board members that meet monthly to set the course for our organization.

Liz has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of North Dakota. She obtained her master's degree in Public Administration from the University of South Dakota in 2017. She currently serves as the Legislative Co-chair for the Local Public Health Association. She sits on various committees throughout her five counties and has been on SCHSAC work groups throughout the years.

Liz's passion is public health, her girls, grandchildren and the farm in North Dakota.

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