

Preliminary Agenda: State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) Retreat

Oct. 8-9, 2025

Hennepin Technical College | 9000 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

All times approximate, *agenda subject to change. Updated 9/30/25*

The goal of the 2025 SCHSAC retreat is to deepen connections among SCHSAC members and local, state, and Tribal public health leaders; to build on our shared knowledge and experience; to expand our understanding of the public health system and policy; and to inspire continued efforts to strengthen and transform the public health system to more efficiently and effectively promote and protect the health of all people in Minnesota.

Wednesday, Oct. 8

9:00a.m. Registration opens – Event Center

10 a.m. Opening Session

Drum Circle & Opening Prayer

Hoka Hey and Elder Moose

Opening Remarks

DeAnne Malterer, Waseca County Commissioner, SCHSAC Chair

Sara Hollie, CHS Administrator, Hennepin County

Dr. Brooke Cunningham, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health

10:45 a.m. Welcome and icebreaker activity

Kris Rhodes, Assistant Commissioner; Ravyn Gibbs, Tribal Relations Director; Julie Ralston Aoki, Policy Coordinator; and Heather Brink, Communications Coordinator, Office of American Indian Health and Tribal Relations (OAIHTR), MDH

Please have your “Gratitude Table” item for this part of the agenda.

11:15 a.m. Introduction to Tribal Sovereignty and Tribal Public Health Systems

Ravyn Gibbs, Julie Ralston Aoki, and Heather Brink, OAIHTR, MDH

This session will provide an overview of how Tribal public health systems have developed in the larger context of the history and timeline of federal Indian policy, highlighting the central role of the Tribal sovereignty and the federal trust responsibility.

12:15 p.m. *Lunch Break*

Please find someone new to talk to over lunch!

1:00 p.m. Tribal Health Leader Panel

Panel Moderator: Kris Rhodes, MDH

Panelists:

- **Jennifer DuPuis**, Senior Director of Health and Human Services for Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong/ Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- **Robin Johnson**, Community Health Director for Fond du Lac Health and Human Services, Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong/ Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- **Kathy LeMieux**, Health Director, Tinta Wita/Prairie Island Indian Community
- Michelle Walking Elk, Director of Health and Human Services, Tinta Wita/Prairie Island Indian Community
- **Anna Deschampe**, Tribal Programs Administrator, Gichi-Onigaming/Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Panelists will share about how their Tribal health departments are structured and function, how they interact with state and local systems, and the challenges and opportunities they face.

2:30 p.m. *Break with refreshments*

2:40 p.m. Introduction to Emerging Topics in Tribal Public Health

Ravyn Gibbs, Julie Ralston Aoki, and Heather Brink, OAIHTR, MDH

- *Tribal Data Sovereignty*
- *Indigenous Social Determinants of Health*
- *Framing “foundational” public health responsibilities from Tribal and American Indian perspectives*

3:40 p.m. Facilitated discussion: Best practices for partnering with Tribal Nations and American Indian communities

Ravyn Gibbs, Julie Ralston Aoki, and Heather Brink, OAIHTR, MDH

4:30 p.m. Reflections and closing

DeAnne Malterer, SCHSAC Chair

Dinner: There is no scheduled dinner as part of the Retreat. Dinner is on your own.

Thursday, Oct. 9

8 a.m. Registration opens- Event Center

9:00 a.m. SCHSAC Business Meeting

Agenda provided separately. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

10:00 a.m. Break with refreshments

10:15 a.m. Opening remarks and reflections from day 1

Laurie Halverson (Dakota), SCHSAC Vice Chair & Steve Gardner, Commissioner (Kandiyohi-Renville)

This interactive session is focused on reflecting on the things learned in Day 1 and how your own work may be informed or influenced moving forward.

11:30p.m. Lunch Break

Please take a break, grab your box lunch, and then find your table by 12:00 p.m. It is fine if you are still finishing your meal as we begin.

12:00 p.m. Public Health in Action: Tools that work and stories that inspire

Panel Moderator: Tarryl Clark (Stearns)

Facilitator: Michelle Gin, MDH

Panelists:

- Amy Bowles, CHS Administrator (Beltrami)
- Sara Benson, CHS Administrator (Kandiyohi-Renville)

SCHSAC is often informed about various tools and trainings that support the work of public health in Minnesota. This panel is focused on sharing how stories and tools have been used successfully to educate, build relationships and inspire support for public health through the lens of “hot topics”.

1:30 p.m. Wrap up and close

DeAnne Malterer, Chair

2:00pm Adjourn

Three simple rules of the state-local public health partnership

- I. Seek First to Understand
- II. Make Expectations Explicit
- III. Think About the Part and the Whole

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