Minnesota Partners in Public Health Conference

Agenda for the 2026 Minnesota Partners in Public Health Conference

UPDATED NOV. 2 2026

Subject to change. For full keynote and breakout session descriptions, visit: Minnesota Partners in Public Health Conference - MN Dept. of Health

Day 1: Tuesday, Nov. 17

Exhibit hall open: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

11:00 a.m.	Registration/Conference check-in opens for LPHA members
11:30 a.m.	Lunch/LPHA Annual Meeting
1:30 p.m.	Registration/Conference check-in opens for all attendees
2 p.m.	Welcome and announcements
2:45 p.m.	**Keynote session with Dr. Michael Yellow Bird:** Cultural Humility, Relational Accountability, and Structural Decolonization: Advancing Equitable and Sustainable Public Health Systems.
4:15 p.m.	*15 min break/Exhibit hall open*
4:30 p.m.	Plenary session
5:30 p.m.	*30 min break/Exhibit hall open*
6 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Game night! Board games in Mavericks Fireside Dining Room (7:00 – 10:00 p.m.) Music Trivia in Glacier/Yosemite (7:30 – 8:45 p.m.)

Day 2: Wednesday, Nov. 18

Exhibit hall open: 10:30am – 12:15pm; and 1:00pm – 5:00pm

7:30 a.m. Morning activity – Walk & Talk (7:30 – 8:15 a.m.)

9 a.m. **Keynote session with Dr. Amit Sood:** How to get more mileage from your brain

10:30 a.m. *30 min break/Exhibit hall open*

11 a.m. **Breakout session 1 (60 minutes). Locations TBD.**

- **1A: From Principle to Policy: Advancing Tribal data sovereignty at MDH** *with Julie Raslston Aoki, Senior Advisor on American Indian Policy, Office of American Indian Health and Tribal Relations; An Garagiola, MPP, Senior Advisor on American Indian Data and Analytics, MDH Office of American Indian Health and Tribal Relations*
- **1B: The Power of collaboration: Rural, urban, and coalition perspective on improving immunization attitudes and access** *with Holly Blilie, BSN, RN, PHN, Nursing Supervisor, Polk County Public Health; Annie Halland, MPH, Coalition Coordinator, Immunize Minnesota*
- **1C: Building community resilience through trusted partnerships: Public health interventions during operation metro surge** *with Christine Lees, Population Health Program Manager, City of Bloomington Public Health; Nadira Mohamed, Substance Use Prevention, Well Being, and Policy Supervisor, City of Bloomington Public Health; Jill Collins Mattson, Public Health Outreach Coordinator, City of Bloomington Public Health*
- **1D: Lead in drinking water in schools and childcare: Past to present** *with Anna Schliep, Lead in Drinking Water State Program Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Health; Caroline Olstad, Lead in Drinking Water Specialist, Minnesota Department of Health, Johanna Hayden, Communications Specialist, Minnesota Department of Health*

12 p.m. *90-minute lunch and break (Exhibit hall open @ p.m.; chair massage available 12 – 5 p.m.)*

1:30 p.m. **Breakout session 2 (75 minutes). Locations TBD.**

- **2A: We are the ones we've been waiting for** *with Jaclyn Litfin, Community Health Services Administrator/Public Health Director, Benton County; Brittany Pfannenstein, Manager Health Equity and Community Health, CentraCare; Peggy Sammons, Public Health Planner, Sherburne County; Caleb Frauendienst, Central Minnesota Alliance Coordinator, RnC Consulting; Corinne Dahl, Human Services Supervisor, Stearns County*
- **2B: The next chapter: Moving from the community health assessment to a community health improvement plan** *with Spencer Crawford, Public Health Planner, Nicollet County Public Health; Kiona Hermanson, Community Health Strategist, Countryside Public Health*
- **2C: Stronger together: Before, during, and after June 21 with** *Christopher Muller, Director/PIO, Beltrami County Emergency Management; Amy Bowles MSN, PHN; Public Health Director and Community Health Services Administrator*

- **2D: Where there's smoke there's summer: Preparing for extreme heat and wildfire smoke due to climate change** *with Brenna Doheny, PhD, MPH, Minnesota Department of Health, Climate and Health Epidemiologist; Crystal Myslajek, Master of Public Policy, Minnesota Department of Health, Climate and Health Analyst*
- **2E: After County Health Rankings: Rebuilding your county profile from public sources** *with Melissa Degidio, Co-founder, Stratum Health*

2:45 p.m. *30 min break/Exhibit hall open*

3:15 p.m. **Breakout session 3 (60 minutes). Locations TBD.**

- **3A: When health concerns point back to the building: navigating moisture and mold as a public health concern** *with Craig Sandok, Founder and Handler, Clarity Canine Inspections*
    - **3B: From statewide expectations to local practice: A regional approach to FPHR annual reporting** *with Erika Guenther (she/her), MPH, Public Health Planner, Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Board; Anne Graves (she/her), MHI, RN, PHN, CIC, Contracted Project Manager, St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services, Public Health Division; Mary Parsatoon (she/her), MPH, Public Health Planner, Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board; Ann March (she/her), Systems and Strategy Planning Director, Minnesota Department of Health, Public Health Strategy and Partnership Division*
- **3C: Before it becomes a case number: What public health and criminal justice keep missing about trauma** *with Eric Uddin, Community Corrections Supervisor, Dakota County Community Corrections*
- **3D: Restorative session: Addressing burnout and chronic stress in public health** *with Ben Cahill, Regional Health Equity Network Coordinator. Minnesota Department of Health; Sonja Fernández (they/them), Founder and Owner of Punto Medio Restorative Services*

4:15 p.m. *45 min break/Exhibit hall open (last chance to visit with vendors!)*

5 p.m. Dinner and awards

7:30 p.m. Karaoke Celebration Dance Party @ Mavericks Bar

Paint a Mug activity in Glacier (7:00e – 9:00 p.m., pre-registration required)

Day 3: Thursday, Nov. 19

9 a.m. **Breakout session 4 (60 minutes). Locations TBD.**

- **4A: Shaping today's cannabis narrative: Regional strategies for effective public health communication** *with Maggie Cichosz, MPH, Planner and Healthy Communities Team Lead, Goodhue County Health and Human Services; Jessica Seide, MS, Communications Specialist and PIO, Goodhue County Health and Human Services*
- **4B: Beyond evidence-based: Recognizing Tribal knowledge in public health evaluation** *with Angie Nason, Programs Specialist, Office of American Indian Health and Tribal Relations; Raquel DeHerrera, Programs Specialist, Office of American Indian Health and Tribal Relations; An Garagiola, MPP, Senior*

Advisor on American Indian Data and Analytics, MDH Office of American Indian Health and Tribal Relations

- **4C: Language access in public health: The role of plain language and transcreation** *with Lissee Thao, Hmong Cultural Communicator, MDH Communications Division; Mohamed Bulhan, Somali Cultural Communicator, MDH Communications Division; Kee Vang, Cultural Communications Coordinator, MDH Communications Division*
- **4D: Olmsted County fall prevention** *with Brenna San Angelo, B.S., NCMA, Environmental Health Analyst, Olmsted County; Lauri Clements, R.S., M.S., Environmental Lab Manager, Olmsted County*

10 a.m. *15 min break*

10:15 a.m. **Keynote session with Dr. Jermaine Davis:** Communicate like a champ! Why courageous conversations matter more than you think

12 p.m. Box lunch served