



Minnesota Partners in Public Health Conference

Transforming our system together for a healthy Minnesota

Conference Agenda

Wednesday, Nov. 13

- 11:30 a.m. Conference check in/registration opens
- 12 p.m. Local Public Health Association Annual Meeting (lunch served for those attending)
Location: Whitebirch
- 2 p.m. Grand opening, MN Commissioner of Health, Dr. Brooke Cunningham; LPHA Chair, Nick Kelley, City of Bloomington
Location: Whitebirch
- 3 p.m. Keynote: "Change the Game" with Tim Gard, CEO Tim Gard International
Location: Whitebirch
"Change the Game" empowers individuals to transform challenges into opportunities in life, work, and business. Participants will learn to reduce stress, improve teamwork, boost morale, and overcome obstacles using positive humor. Tim Gard's unique approach combines practical ideas with humor to diffuse stress and combat negativity. This rejuvenating program is immediately applicable, enhancing cooperation and efficiency. Discover how to use humor to de-escalate situations at work and at home. Professionals today face unprecedented challenges, and this keynote provides the tools to manage stress and build resilience. It focuses on practical techniques for handling daily stressors, enhancing leadership through humor, and fostering a positive work environment. Attendees will develop a balanced mix of humor and seriousness to reduce stress, improve communication skills, and boost team morale. The keynote includes audience participation, ensuring an engaging and interactive experience that leaves participants ready to tackle future challenges with a refreshed and positive.
- 4:30 p.m. Vendor break, sponsored by Medica
Location: Minnesota I
- 5:00 p.m. Partnership Building Speed Networking, sponsored by Level Up Leadership, LLC
Location: Minnesota II
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
Location: Whitebirch
- 7:30 p.m. Trivia Night, sponsored by the Minnesota Association of County Health Plans
Location: Dockside Bar

Thursday, Nov. 14

- 6:30 a.m. Yoga
Location: Pelican Room
- 7:45 a.m. Breakfast buffet
Location: Marina Dining Room
- 9:00 a.m. Opening and Keynote: “The Shift” with Michelle Nelson, Trainer and Consultant
Location: Whitebirch
“The Shift” -- Recruitment, retention, workforce development strategies and employee engagement are critical to an organization’s performance. Leaders, are you finding it more and more challenging to recruit, retain and develop your staff and teams? Everyone wants the best performing teams and individuals within their organizations, why is this becoming such a challenge to achieve? If you are in a position of Leadership, having the data to understand the “Shift” in the needs of the workforce will help you create more effective strategies to achieve your staffing goals and be better prepared to manage/supervise and lead across multi-generational teams. Learn why 2024 is forecasted to be “the year of the people”.
- 10:30 a.m. Vendor break
Location: Minnesota I
- 11 a.m. Breakout sessions 1
- 1A: Master Your Calm: How to Keep Your Head When Everyone Around You is Losing Theirs
Sarah Ciavarrri, Level Up Leadership, LLC
Location: Minnesota II
 - 1B: Making sure your message is heard and understood
Allison Thrash, and Amy Olson, Hennepin County Public Health
Location: Lakeside B
 - 1C: Unleashing the MIDOG: co-creating a deep level activities inventory for infectious disease
Ellen Hill, MDH IDEPC; Linda Kopecky, MDH CHD; Jenny Barta, Carlton County Public Health and Human Services
Location: Pelican
 - 1D: Detecting and Responding to Overdose Spikes: A Framework for State and Local Collaboration
Deepa McGriff, MDH; Hayley Hillstrom, CDC Foundation supporting MDH
Location: Governor’s Room
 - 1E: Tools for Health Equity in Emergency Preparedness and Response
Amy Smith, Erin McLachlan, Ariana Beattie, Hannah Tice, and Rachel Garaghty, MDH
Location: Lakeside A
- 12 p.m. Lunch, sponsored by Metopio
Location: Whitebirch

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1:30 p.m. Breakout sessions 2

- 2A: The Gens
Michelle Nelson, Trainer and Consultant
Location: Whitebirch
- 2B: Mapping communications capacity in Greater Minnesota: Lessons and Discussion
Cory Couillard, MDH; Stephanie Devitt, SDK
Location: Governor's Room
- 2C: Building up Local Public Health through an Innovative Partnership with a Local University
Liz Radel Freeman, Chera Sevcik, and Vlada Gladis, Faribault and Martin Counties
Location: Pelican Room
- 2D: Equity in Action: Engaging youth to co-create solutions for improved mental well-being
Amy Reineke and Angie Hasbrouck, Horizon Public Health; Kari Kreft, Grant County
Location: Lakeside B
- 2E: Preparing the workforce to advance racial and health equity
Leo Moreno and Veronica Schulz, Hennepin County Public Health
Location: Lakeside A
- 2F: PFAS, Nitrate, and what's next? Managing risks from environmental exposures
Tannie Eshenaur, Sam Hageman, Frieda von Qualen, and Sophia Walsh, MDH
Location: Minnesota II

2:45 p.m. Vendor break, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota
Location: Minnesota I

3:15 p.m. Breakout sessions 3

- 3A: Am I bored, overwhelmed, overworked, or depressed? Using Mindset Shifts to Understand and Address Burnout in a Time of System Transformation
Heather Britt, Executive Director, Wilder Research; Melissa Adolfson, Research Scientist, Wilder Research; Sheri Holm, Senior Communications Specialist, Wilder Research
Location: Whitebirch
- 3B: Telling Our Public Health Stories: A Workshop
Linda Kopecky, MDH; Jenna Olson, Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board
Location: Minnesota II
- 3C: Strengthening Community Partnerships and Collective Impact Through Collaboration
Kelly Ball and Leah Krotzer, First Steps Central MN
Location: Pelican
- 3D: Amplifying Youth Voices: Strengthening Partnerships to Combat Youth Vaping and Tobacco Use – A Panel Discussion
Lia Burg, Washington County Public Health & Environment; Chelsey Skogen, Liz Johnson and Pat McKone, American Lung Association
Location: Lakeside B

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- 3E: Partnering for Prenatal Care Equity: Community-led Research and Recommendations
Sadie Swenson and Sarah Stevens, Olmsted County Public Health Services; Winnie Godi, Julie Ruzek, and Beth Martinez, Cradle to Career
Location: Lakeside A
- 4:30 p.m. Vendor break, Sponsored by UCare
Location: Minnesota II
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner and awards banquet
Location: Whitebirch
- 7 p.m. Live music at the Dockside Bar: Tami and the Bachelor
Location: Dockside Bar

Friday, Nov. 15

- 7:45 a.m. Breakfast buffet
Location: Whitebirch
- 8:30 a.m. Opening and Keynote: How are you? (Seriously) with Nora McInerney, author and podcast host
How Are You? (Seriously). That's kind of a dumb question given the state of, oh, everything? But we ask and answer this every day without thinking. It's small talk, right? But it's also a question worth answering honestly with the people who matter (like yourself). In a culture where people love a winner and a success story, how do we make space for the truth when it's complicated or awkward or painful? Nobody wants to kill the vibe, but everyone wants to feel seen and heard. So let's talk about it (I promise it won't be a bummer).
- Location: Whitebirch*
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- 9:45 a.m. Vendor break
Location: Minnesota I
- 10:15 a.m. Breakout sessions 4

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- 4A: What Happens When You Think Outside the Box: Partnerships for Learning
Bonnie Brueshoff and Renee Frauendienst, Ampact/MN Public Health Corps; Sarah Sevcik Tummala, Curriculum Developer and Trainer, University of Minnesota School of Public Health; Stephany Medina, Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board, MN Public Health Corps members
Location: Minnesota II
- 4B: Getting Your Message to the Right Audiences: Communications Strategies that Deliver
Susan Thurston-Hamerski, Parker Smith, and Michale Sheldon, MDH
Location: Lakeside A
- 4C: The 5 Immutable Laws of Systems Change
Ian C. Williams, Still Point Insight
Location: Whitebirch
- 4D: Power of Food Club Program
Luke Ewald, Cottonwood/Jackson/Nobles Counties
Location: Governor's Room
- 4E: Together We Can Go Further: The Trusted Messenger Initiative
Amanda Vanyo, Trusted Messenger Initiative, Lisa Theis, Greater Eastside, District 2 Community Council; Dr. Ola Tolulope Monisola, Restoration For All; NgoziChukwu (Ngozi) Akubuike, Haven International
Location: Lakeside B
- 4F: Implementing an Info-savvy Assessment Program for Local Public Health
Michael Van Skiba, Abigail Stamm, and Hannah Woods, MDH
Location: Pelican Room

11:45 a.m. End of Conference – Box lunch available
Location: Whitebirch



Thank you to our sponsors!