Michigan Premier Public Health Conference

MPPHC 2025
PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

October 28–29, 2025

Delta Hotels by Marriott
Muskegon Convention Center

Partners in Planning:

Central Michigan University

Ferris State University

Grand Valley State University

Great Lakes Chapter Society for Public Health Education

Michigan Association for Local Public Health

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Michigan Public Health Association

Michigan Public Health Institute

Michigan State University

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

Region V Public Health Training Center

University of Michigan School of Public Health

Pre-Conference Sessions

1:30–3:30pm

P-101   **Partnering With the Community for Public Health Improvement**

To effectively foster trust, ensure programs are tailored to community needs, and promote sustainable efforts, it is crucial to engage with community members and organizations. There are many ways to involve the community in public health efforts, from informing to assessing to planning and sharing decision-making power. This highly interactive pre-conference workshop will provide an overview of the ladder of community engagement, discuss methods and considerations for data collection efforts, and involve participants in a dialogue to identify ways to effectively navigate barriers to and incentives for engagement. Participants will learn from MPHI presenters and public health colleagues and will leave with tools and approaches to use in their engagement efforts.

Jeanette Ball, Michigan Public Health Institute

Jessie Jones, Michigan Public Health Institute

Brittney Spitzley, Michigan Public Health Institute

Madeline Starr, Michigan Public Health Institute

Monique Williamson, Michigan Public Health Institute

1:30–4:30pm

P-102   **Public Health Law 101**

This workshop will review the powers and responsibilities (authority) of Michigan's Local Health Departments to protect and improve the public's health. The training will provide attendees with an overview of Michigan's Public Health Code (Public Act 368 of 1978, as amended) and the legal context in which it operates. Presenters will also provide a framework for incorporating legal and ethical considerations into public health decision-making.

Carrie Waggoner, JD

Pre-Conference Sessions

1:30–3:30pm

P-103   Hands-on Workshop: Using R for Epidemiologic Analysis

In this interactive workshop, we will present a short overview of the uses of R and describe how R can be used to streamline and standardize epidemiological and public health analyses. This will be followed by an interactive workshop on using R for common data visualizations and reports using common MDSS data formats. This will include lesson segments on ggplot charts, gt tables, and reproducible reports.

Marisa Eisenberg, PhD, University of California

Julie Gilbert, University of Michigan

Juan Luis Marquez, Washtenaw County Health Department

2:00–4:00pm

P-104   Local Health Department Collaboration and Exploration of Shared Approach to Delivery of Services

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has provided funds to continue the exploration of service sharing agreements and/or collaboration in the operations (role and function) of Michigan's local health departments. Collaboration and/or a shared approach to delivery of services, also known as Cross Jurisdictional Sharing (CJS), are significant concepts in public health service delivery in America. CJS is recognized by NACCHO and supported by the Center for Sharing Public Health Services. The Center serves as a national resource on CJS, building the evidence, and disseminating tools, methods and models to assist local health departments and policy makers as they consider and adopt CJS approaches. Nineteen local health departments received dollars to implement CJS projects. A panel of those health departments and MDHHS local health services staff will discuss their road map to include exploration, preparedness and planning, and finally implementation and improvement.

Schedule at a Glance

TUESDAY

October 28, 2025

7:30–8:15am
Breakfast, Registration, Posters/Exhibitors, and Networking

8:30–9:00am
Welcome

9:00–10:00am
Keynote Address

10:15–11:15am
Breakout Sessions

11:20–12:20pm
Lightning Presentations, Exhibitors, and Posters

12:20–1:20pm
Lunch/Awards

1:30–2:30pm
Breakout Sessions

2:45–3:45pm
Breakout Sessions

3:45–4:00pm
Networking Break and Poster Presentations/Exhibitors

4:00–5:00pm
Keynote Address

5:00pm
Wrap Up and Adjourn

Session Details

9:00–10:00am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Strategic Shifts and Mental Makeovers: Public Health in Motion

This session explores the evolving public health landscape, reflecting on recent crises and lessons learned. It highlights the broader public health ecosystem – centering government agencies while embracing non-governmental partners and public-private collaboration. Participants will leave energized and equipped with practical frameworks to help advance a more equitable and sustainable public health system.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships

Joneigh S. Khaldun, MD, MPH, FACEP, Public Health Accreditation Board

10:15–11:15am

SESSION 101

How Civic Engagement Strengthens Local Public Health

Civic engagement is emerging as a critical strategy for helping communities give voice to their desire for health. This proposal will review the data demonstrating the importance of civic engagement, explore how ICHD is working with their local Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hub to boost civic engagement, and evaluate the successes and failures of strategies identified by community members.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships, Public Health Law/Policy

Kara Trimbach Shirley, MS, CHES, Ingham County Health Department

Ali Rogers, BS, MPH, Ingham County Health Department

Jessie Jones, MPA, Michigan Public Health Institute

SESSION 102

Building Bridges: Enhancing Local Health Departments with Oral Health Coordination

This presentation will highlight the vital role of an Oral Health Coordinator in local health departments, emphasizing innovative funding strategies and sustainability. Our expert panel will discuss essential programs, including the mandated Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments, school-based sealant initiatives, and workplace safety measures. Participants will learn how to foster inter-jurisdictional partnerships and apply best practices to enhance community health. Join us to discover actionable strategies for integrating oral health into public health and improving overall community wellness.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships; Public Health Education/Promotion

Dawn Marie Strehl, RDH, CDIPC, Health Department of Northwest Michigan

Elisa Dack, RDH, MHSA, District Health Departments #2 and #4

Elizabeth Johnson, RDH, BSDH, District Health Department #10

SESSION 103

A Multidisciplinary Collaborative Strategy for Addressing the Diamond Shruumz™ Investigation and Response in Michigan

This presentation will provide an overview of the Diamond Shruumz™ investigation in Michigan that occurred between June and October 2024. Presenters from both the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) will discuss their roles during this response as well as how these agencies engaged and collaborated with local health departments and other organizations across the state and federally to respond to this novel hazard.

Competency: Environmental Health

Eva Kool, MPH, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Lauren Edwards, MPH, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

SESSION 104

Addressing Michigan's Overdose Crisis: Cross-Sector Partnerships, Emerging Drug Trends and the Hidden Role of Alcohol in Drug-Related Harms

This co-presentation highlights Michigan's comprehensive approach to overdose prevention through cross-sector partnerships and data-driven insights. Presenters will start by describing the innovative Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) program and discussing overdose data resources and emerging drug trends. Presenters will then use statewide administrative data to describe alcohol's critical but overlooked co-occurrence with drug use disorders and overdose. Integrating alcohol into Michigan's substance use response framework is essential for addressing the full scope of substance-related harms.

Competency: Community Health; Behavioral Health

Emily Godfrey, MPH, CDC Foundation

Sarah Konefal, PhD, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Robert Kerr, MLS, Michigan HIDTA

SESSION 105

BWell Saginaw Implementation and Success in Schools

The BWell Saginaw initiative was created to increase overall health in the county and address the top health priorities identified in Community Health Needs Assessment of obesity and chronic disease, mental health and substance use, and maternal/child health. Health Resource Advocates address physical, emotional and nutritional health needs with a focus on total wellness. They work within county schools and have developed successful programs to increase engagement and improve the health and wellness of schools.

Competency: Community Health; Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health

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Jesse McLeod, MS, MLS, CHW, Saginaw County Health Department

Meghan Wagner, BS, CHW, Saginaw County Health Department

ESCAPE ROOM 100

Not Just Fun and Games: Using an Escape Room to Increase Knowledge of Disease Investigations and Sexually Transmitted Infections

Like puzzles? Like public health? Feeling competitive? Come test your skills and see if you can beat the escape room developed by Ferris State University, Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, and the Kent County Health Department to teach people about disease investigation and sexually transmitted infections. Visit the SignUpGenius escape room website (URL: https://bit.ly/4nkAjJn) to join available timeslots.

SESSION 201

Simplifying the Complex: Community-Rooted Strategies to Improve Navigation and Trust in Community Health Systems

Many community members disengage from health services, not due to lack of need, but because of systems that retraumatize, confuse, or shut them out. This session explores how community-rooted strategies can reduce barriers and rebuild trust by shifting the burden from clients to the system meant to serve them. Through real-world insight and a trauma-informed lens, we'll dig into what's not working and plant new practices that truly nourish community care.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships; Community Health

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Teresa Springer, MA, Wellness Services, Inc.

SESSION 202

Loneliness and Isolation: A Public Health Response

In 2023 the United States Surgeon General declared an epidemic of loneliness and isolation. In 2024, the World Health Organization created the Commission on Social Connection. Loneliness and isolation negatively impact individual physical and mental health. Academic and work performance are adversely impacted when there is a lack of belonging. Neighborhoods and communities also experience negative consequences when there is disconnection. There are both individual and systemic ways to address this epidemic.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships; Community Health

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Molly Perez, LMSW, Kent County Health Department

SESSION 203

The Changing Landscape of Hepatitis C Diagnosis and Treatment: Lessons from a Needs Assessment in Washtenaw County

A mixed-methods needs-assessment of Hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment in Washtenaw County. Using case investigation and an innovative graphical 'case-type' analysis method, challenges to successful treatment were identified. These barriers were further explored by qualitative analysis of interviews with patients and practitioners to elucidate possible solutions, best practices, and systemic improvements.

Competency: Behavioral Health; Community Engagement/Partnerships

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Laoma Y.L. Beck, MD, MPH, Henry Ford Health-Global Health Initiative

Juan Luis Marquez, MD, MPH, Washtenaw County Health Department

SESSION 204

What is Legionella and How Can a Local Health Department Prevent an Outbreak?

Hundreds of Legionnaires Disease (LD) cases are reported in Michigan each year. Local health departments can prevent these cases and potential outbreaks through surveillance and environmental investigations. This presentation will describe the environmental attributes of Legionella and propose environmental controls. It will also demonstrate how the MDHHS Legionella Project can be deployed by LHDs, in addition to showing spatial-temporal surveillance tools. Case examples will be provided.

Competency: Infectious Disease; Environmental Health

Michael Swain, MPH, PhD, Oakland County Health Division

Tony Drautz, DHA, MS, RS/REHS, Oakland County Health Division

SESSION 205

From Listening to Action: Community Insights Guiding Health Department Strategic Initiatives

Join the Genesee County Health Department as we share lessons learned in designing and hosting community listening sessions to inform strategic planning. Presenters will discuss their partnership with the University of Michigan-Flint to identify data needs and analyze community input. They will highlight how an equity lens guided each step—from planning to implementation—and how challenges were navigated. This session is ideal for those interested in authentic community engagement, data-informed planning, and cross-sector partnerships.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships

Brad Snyder, MPH, Genesee County Health Department

Mikayla Benbow, MPH, Genesee County Health Department

Reza Amini, PhD, MD, MPH, University of Michigan-Flint

ESCAPE ROOM 200

Not Just Fun and Games: Using an Escape Room to Increase Knowledge of Disease Investigations and Sexually Transmitted Infections

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SESSION 301

Power in Partnership: Innovative Approaches to Empowering Community-Based Solutions

This panel will explore outside-the-box strategies for building lasting partnerships that empower community-based organizations to lead in addressing local needs. Speakers will share practical tools, innovative models, and real-world examples that prioritize trust, shared power, and long-term impact equipping attendees to foster collaborations that drive meaningful community-led change.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships; Community Health

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Lionel Alexander, III, Public Health–Muskegon County

Santiago Carmean, Public Health–Muskegon County

Trentnie Boyles, Public Health–Muskegon County

SESSION 302

Waiver Woes No More: Streamlining Immunization Waivers with a Digital Touch

Staff from Livingston and Jackson County Health Departments will provide an overview of an innovative hybrid waiver process. They will provide an overview of the creation, process itself, and data showing improved efficiency including reduced costs and staff time, as well as improved parent and staff well-being. Details will show how this innovative approach can transform a once frustrating process into a smooth, cost-effective and safer experience for everyone.

Competency: Public Health Education/Promotion; Public Health Nursing

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Lindsay Kalberer, MSN, RN, Livingston County Health Department

Nicole Baran, Livingston County Health Department

Denise Schonhard, Jackson County Health Department

Allison Kowalski, Jackson County Health Department

SESSION 303

Democratizing Public Health Data: Lessons from Oakland County

Explore how a local health department is building data infrastructure to make data more accessible and understandable for staff and community members. Attendees will learn about the development of a data request system and public-facing dashboards. The presentation highlights examples of shared data informing coalition work, guiding outreach strategies, and shaping policy development. Gain practical insights into building systems that democratize data, strengthen community partnerships and foster trust in local public health efforts.

Competency: Public Health Education/Promotion; Violence & Injury Prevention

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Lauren Fink, MPH, Oakland County Health Division

Hanna Cassise, MPH, CHES, Oakland County Health Division

Claudia Terrell, MPH, REHS, Oakland County Health Division

SESSION 304

Misinformation and Disinformation: How Politics Have Played a Role and the Threat to Public Health

Misinformation and disinformation threaten public health by influencing vaccine hesitancy and trust in healthcare. This presentation explores strategies to identify, address, and mitigate false health information. Through communication and relationships with patients, attendees will gain tools to counter misinformation, enhance media literacy, and promote public trust in health information.

Competency: Community Health; Public Health Nursing; Infectious Disease

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Aimmee Mullendore, RN, Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

SESSION 305

Empowering Change: Innovative Strategies for a Resilient Public Health Workforce

Join us for an insightful presentation on developing a resilient and agile public health workforce. Discover innovative workforce training, capacity building, and leadership development strategies that prioritize inclusivity and adaptability. Learn to leverage technology and ethical AI for virtual learning, strengthen interdisciplinary partnerships, and create sustainable pipelines for diverse talent recruitment and retention. Attendees will be equipped with practical tools and actionable solutions to drive meaningful change in public health systems.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships; Public Health Education/Promotion; Public Health Workforce

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Hope Rollins, MBA, Michigan Public Health Institute

Nicole Wood, MS, Michigan Public Health Institute

Judy Spanogle, BBA, Michigan Public Health Institute

ESCAPE ROOM 300

Not Just Fun and Games: Using an Escape Room to Increase Knowledge of Disease Investigations and Sexually Transmitted Infections

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4:00pm–5:00pm

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Prioritizing Mental Health in the Workplace: Key Strategies for a Stronger, Healthier Workforce

As workplace mental health becomes a top priority, it's essential for employers to take action. Join Michigan's Deputy Director of Labor, Sean Egan, to explore the growing importance of mental health in the workplace and how it impacts both employees and business success. Learn about effective strategies to reduce stress, prevent burnout, and foster a culture of well-being. This session will provide actionable insights on how to create a supportive work environment that promotes resilience, productivity, and long-term success.

Competency: Behavioral Health; Public Health Workforce

Sean Egan, JD, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

Schedule at a Glance

WEDNESDAY

October 29, 2025

7:00–7:45am
Exercise Activity

7:45–8:45am
Breakfast, Registration, and Networking

8:45–9:45am
Keynote Address

10:00–11:00am
Breakout Sessions

11:00–11:30am
Networking Break and Poster Presentations/Exhibitors

11:30–12:30pm
Lunch

12:45–1:45pm
Breakout Sessions

1:45–2:00pm
Networking Break

2:00–3:00pm
Keynote Address

3:00–3:15pm
Adjourn

Session Details

EXERCISE ACTIVITY

Back by popular demand! Cari Draft is one of the lakeshore's most active and community-involved personal fitness trainers. While she is founder and owner of EcoTrek Fitness (unique outdoor group workouts with several series all over Michigan) she also trains numerous fitness clients, ranging from marathon runners to men and women of all ages interested in losing weight or just feeling more fit.

Cari Draft, EcoTrek Fitness

8:45–9:45am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Brainstorming the Future: Using Generative AI in Your Daily Public Health Work

Dive into the world of generative AI with an engaging keynote that demystifies Large Language Models (LLMs) and their practical applications. This keynote will offer a blend of theory and hands-on activities, including brainstorming AI-driven intervention strategies for public health work. It promises to enhance your understanding of AI's potential in public health practice, while also highlighting the critical issues of misinformation and bias inherent in these technologies.

Competency: Public Health Workforce

Brian Klaas, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Teaching and Learning

10:00–11:00am

SESSION 401

Values to Vision: The Power of Intentional Culture in Public Health

Attendees will gain foundational knowledge of how intentional leadership, interpersonal insight, and vision alignment can influence organizational culture. Through reflection prompts and real-world examples, participants will leave with greater awareness of their role in shaping team dynamics and practical insights to begin assessing and strengthening culture within their own organizations.

Competency: Public Health Workforce

Lisa Peacock, MPH, MSN, WHNP-BC, Lisa Peacock Professional Services, LLC

Jane K. Sundmacher, M.Ed., Planning Innovation, LLC

SESSION 402

HPAI Monitoring and Cases in Humans and Cats: The Local Health Department Perspective

As of March 2025, Michigan's HPAI A(H5N1) outbreak has affected 31 dairy herds, with 16 in the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) jurisdiction. In addition, two human cases and two domestic cat deaths occurred in MMDHD during May 2024. During this presentation, MMDHD will discuss their experiences with the public health aspects of HPAI.

Competency: Community Health; Emergency Preparedness; Infectious Disease

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Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Mid-Michigan District Health Department

Becky Stoddard, RN, Mid-Michigan District Health Department

Lisa Mikesell, RN, Mid-Michigan District Health Department

SESSION 403

From She's Well to Mahogany Blue: Adapting a CDC Campaign

By tailoring messages to reflect the lived experiences of Black women, the campaign has advanced PrEP awareness and access in Wayne County. Ongoing evaluation will guide the refinement and expansion of this initiative, ensuring that PrEP remains a relevant and accessible tool for Black women in Michigan. This session will detail the development of the campaign from inception, community introduction and ultimate launch.

Competency: Infectious Disease; Public Health Education/Promotion; Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations

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Kyra Sanders, MSW, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Tyffanie Walton, BA, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

SESSION 404

Bridging the Gap: Empowering Community Health Representatives to Detect Dementia Early with the Mini-Cog

This presentation focuses on the role of Community Health Representatives (CHRs) in early dementia detection using the Mini-Cog screening tool. Designed to be simple and effective, the Mini-Cog allows CHRs to identify potential signs of dementia within their communities, fostering early intervention and improving overall health outcomes. Attendees will learn how to implement this tool in community settings, receive training tips, and explore strategies for addressing cultural sensitivity, overcoming screening barriers, and collaborating with healthcare providers for better care.

Competency: Community Health; Public Health Education/Promotion; Aging

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Jesse Roder, CCEMT-P, BSPH, CCHW, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

Lisa Walker, MPH, CCHW, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

SESSION 405

Supporting Meaningful Family Engagement within Children's Special Health Care Services to Impact Programs and Policy

Michigan's CSHCS program has a long history of family engagement within its programs and committees. As a result, improvements have been made to address gaps in care, tools were developed to support families, and services were created to be more family centered. This presentation will explore how attendees can take strategic steps to meaningfully engage with youth and family partners (YFPs) to influence program development, implementation, and policies.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships; Public Health Workforce

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Marcia Franks, BS, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Jane Pilditch, MPA, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Beverly Crider, Patient & Family Partnerships, Inc.

Terra Depew, BS, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

ESCAPE ROOM 400

Not Just Fun and Games: Using an Escape Room to Increase Knowledge of Disease Investigations and Sexually Transmitted Infections

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12:45pm–1:45pm

SESSION 501

The MDHHS Cancer Investigation Program, Local Health Departments, and the Public – Strengthening Communications in Michigan Cancer Cluster Investigations

MDHHS and local health departments (LHDs) receive reports of perceived clusters and other unusual patterns of cancer suspected of being related to environmental sources. The MDHHS Cancer Investigation Program staff will share available resources for LHDs responding to cancer concerns and review the MDHHS Cancer Investigation Program protocol, with a focus on how MDHHS communicates with LHDs during cancer investigations.

Competency: Chronic Disease; Community Engagement/Partnerships; Environmental Health

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Katherine Patterson, MS, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Kristyn Vang, MPH, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

SESSION 502

Improving Vaccine Rates Through Cross-Sector Collaboration

Mott Children's Health Center (MCHC) and the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) partnered to boost HPV vaccination rates, focusing on children visiting MCHC dental clinics, MCHC integrated behavioral, primary, specialty, and dental care, creating an ideal setting for this initiative. GCHD provided educational sessions for dental staff on HPV risks, vaccine benefits, and addressing hesitancy. A workflow modeled after a successful Indiana program enables same-day vaccinations during dental visits. This collaboration improves vaccine access, reduces hesitancy, and supports cancer prevention in underserved populations. Vaccination efforts are now underway.

Competency: Cross-Sector Collaboration; Infectious Disease

Leah Johnson, MPH, CHES, Genesee County Health Department

JoAnne Herman, RN, Genesee County Health Department

Todd Wiseley, JD, Mott Children's Health Center

SESSION 503

Community Violence Intervention (CVI) as a Public Health and Public Safety Strategy for Michigan Communities

This facilitated discussion, featuring Michigan-based programs—DLIVE, Advance Peace, and Detroit Health Department/Ceasefire Detroit—will examine how CVI enhances public health and public safety by reducing violence related trauma and improving community well-being. The expert panelists will explore interdisciplinary collaboration, policy integration, and best practices for sustaining CVI efforts. Attendees will gain actionable insights and strategies to implement and scale CVI programs in their communities and across Michigan.

Competency: Community Health; Public Health Education/Promotion; Violence & Injury Prevention

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Anita Singh Haynes, MPH, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Yolanda Hill-Ashford, BSW, MSW, Detroit Health Department

Tolulope Sonuyi, MD, MSc, Detroit Life Is Valuable Everyday

Paul Elam, PhD, Michigan Public Health Institute

SESSION 504

PHAST-Tracking Overdose Fatality Review Recommendations: A Collaborative Implementation Approach through the Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) Framework

This presentation explores how Oakland County is utilizing the CDC's Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) framework to implement Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) recommendations through coordinated public health and public safety partnerships. It highlights strategies for translating identified gaps into data-driven actions, strengthening interagency collaboration, and improving community health outcomes. Insights into key successes, challenges, and lessons learned will illustrate practical approaches for implementing sustainable, community-driven strategies that improve health outcomes.

Competency: Behavioral Health; Community Engagement/Partnerships

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Kaitlin Schwarz, MPH, Oakland County Health Division

Pepper Catt, CPRM, CHRS, CHW, Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities

SESSION 505

Community Cultivating Health Cafes – Understanding Vital Community-University Partnerships

This presentation will engage participants in an interactive session that 1) describes the development of a community-healthcare partnership model, Health Cafes; 2) demonstrates how Health Cafes have increased health literacy, positive health behavior, and vital healthcare relationships in a southeastern Michigan community; and 3) provides suggested practical strategies for integrating a community based, health focused, sustainable Health Cafe.

Competency: Community Engagement/Partnerships; Community Health

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Angela M. Johnson, PhD, MA, University of Michigan Health

Andrea Brown, CHW, RCP, Self-Sufficiency Store

ESCAPE ROOM 500

Not Just Fun and Games: Using an Escape Room to Increase Knowledge of Disease Investigations and Sexually Transmitted Infections

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2:00pm–3:00pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

A Community Psychology Framing of Amplifying Higher Education's Role in Optimizing Community Health and Wellness

Community Psychology provides a framework for engaged transformational research to address seemingly intractable social problems and create new community futures. Using this framework, this talk will focus on how universities can leverage cross-disciplinary and place-based resources to address systemic issues with the communities in which they are anchored. It will also highlight the challenges and opportunities of working with higher education institutions to advance community health and well-being.

Dr. Kwesi Brookins, PhD, Michigan State University

Conference Objectives

Conference Takeaways

- Describe the social, cultural, and environmental factors that support community member engagement in health promotion.

- Describe strategies to engage community members in improving health

- Identify challenges and opportunities for public health professionals when implementing health/wellness activities in their community.

- Explore successful models for achieving community engagement in improving health/wellness.

- Define strategies to foster partnerships in communities to shape health policies and initiatives.

Overarching Conference Outcome

Every learner will identify skills, knowledge, and strategies to enable them to effectively engage community partners in achieving individual and aggregate health/wellness goals.
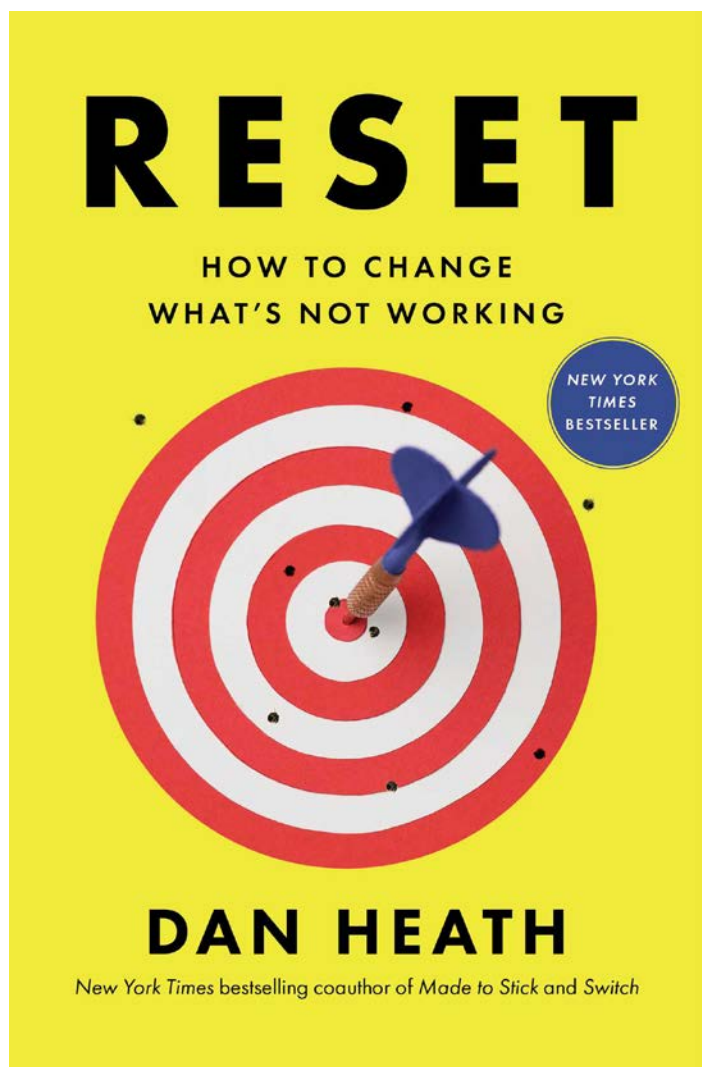
CHES/MCHES [Continuing Education]

SOPHE, including its chapters, is a designated provider of continuing education contact hours (CECH) in health education by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. Application for CHES® (entry-level) / MCHES® (advanced level) Category I continuing education contact hours (CECH) has been made to Great Lakes Chapter SOPHE and is pending approval.

OCME, Social Work, and Nursing Credits [Continuing Education]

The MSU CHM Office of Continuing Medical Education (OCME) approval for this activity is pending.

Book Club

New this year, we will have a 2025 MPPHC Book Club! Read ***Reset: How to Change What's Not Working*** prior to the conference and join us for a book club meeting on Tuesday evening.

Overview

Changing how we work can feel overwhelming. Like trying to budge an enormous boulder. We're stifled by the gravity of the way we've always done things. And we spend so much time fighting fires—and fighting colleagues—that we lack the energy to shift direction.

But with the right strategy, we can move the boulder. In Reset, Heath explores a framework for getting unstuck and making the changes that matter. The secret is to find "leverage points": places where a little bit of effort can yield a disproportionate return. Then, we can thoughtfully rearrange our resources to push on those points.

Heath weaves together fascinating examples, ranging from a freakishly effective fast-food drive-thru to a simple trick from couples therapy to an inspirational campaign that saved a million cats.

Follow this link to purchase the book on Bookshop (URL: https://bit.ly/4kvvHxy).

Book Club Meeting: Tuesday, October 28th, 5:30pm–7:00pm, Hackley Public Library

Registration Information

Conference Registration

Please complete registration form or register online (URL: https://bit.ly/mpphc2025). Registration includes group lunches.

Once the registrations have been processed, confirmation will be emailed to all registrants.

- One Day Registration | **$99**
- Full Conference Registration | **$169**
- Late Fee (After 9/20/25) | **$50** (Add-On)

Conference Location

Delta Hotels by Marriott Muskegon Convention Center
939 3rd Street, Muskegon, Michigan 49440

Conference Cancellations

Cancellations must be received in writing 48 hours prior to arrival, and are subject to a $25 administrative fee. Please email Jodie Shaver at jshaver@malph.org.

Early Registration

The deadline to register without incurring additional fees is September 20, 2025. Registrations occurring after this date will be assessed an additional $50 fee. Registrations received after October 19, 2025 will be assessed an additional $100 fee.

Hotel Accommodations

GROUP NAME

MI Premier Public Health Conference | Code: **MPP** (Reservation must be made by September 27, 2025)

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

You can access our group's dedicated page on the Delta Hotels by Marriott website (URL: https://bit.ly/3I0U1cU) or you can call directly at 1-833-999-0181.

Conference attendees will receive a discounted rate starting at $149 per night.

NOTES:

Delta Hotels by Marriott Muskegon Convention Center is the only hotel associated with our conference. While other hotel resellers may offer rooms for your trip, they are not affiliated with MALPH or the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference. Please be aware Delta Hotels by Marriott Muskegon will NOT solicit you to make a reservation.

The following QR code will direct you to the 2025 MPPHC conference registration page (URL: https://bit.ly/mpphc2025).