

Public Health Advisory Committee Agenda

Regular Meeting

May 26, 2026 - 05:00 PM

Room 100AB, Public Service Building
505 4th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Members : Alicia Jackson (Chair), Lucy Faerber (Vice-Chair), Rahma Ahmed, Michael Aylward, Kayla Chapman, Miracle Etuakwu, Melanie Firestone, Paul Haller, Whitney Kinsey, Bhupinder Manhani, Ross McKenzie, Samantha Meyer, Sonja Mydels, Stephanie Randolph, André Robinson, Austin Rondou, Anna Schmalzbauer, Amber Spaniol, Tavia Tindall, and Erin Whitcomb-Crafton (Quorum - 11)

Staff : Margaret Schuster

Call To Order

1. Roll Call.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Acceptance of minutes

[Apr 28, 2026 Public Health Advisory Committee](#)

Discussion

4. Preview of Department Strategic Plan - **Margaret Schuster, Sr. Public Health Specialist
Minneapolis Health Department**

[MHD Strategic Priorities One Pager](#)

New Business

5. Member Engagement - Getting to know you - **Alicia Jackson, PHAC Chair**

Unfinished Business

6. Member Survey Results - Margaret Schuster, Sr. Public Health Specialist

[Member FS](#)

Public Health Advisory Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting

April 28, 2026 - 5:00 pm

Room 100AB, Public Service Building
505 4th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Members Present: Alicia Jackson (Chair), Kayla Chapman, Miracle Etuakwu, Melanie Firestone, Paul Haller, Whitney Kinsey, Bhupinder Manhani, Ross McKenzie, Sonja Mydels, André Robinson, Austin Rondou, Anna Schmalzbauer, Amber Spaniol, and Erin Whitcomb-Crafton (Quorum: 11)

Members Absent: Lucy Faerber (Vice-Chair), Rahma Ahmed, Michael Aylward, Samantha Meyer, Stephanie Randolph, Tavia Tindall, and Christy Yoon

Staff: Margaret Schuster

Call To Order

1. Roll Call.

Quorum Present

2. Adoption of the agenda.

Motioned by Bhupinder Manhani and seconded by Kayla Chapman

Action Taken: Adopted

3. Acceptance of minutes
[Mar 24, 2026 Public Health Advisory Committee](#)

Motioned by Bhupinder Manhani and seconded by Kayla Chapman

Action Taken: Accepted

Reports

4. 2026 Legislative update - **Patty Bowler, Director of Policy and Healthy Communities, Minneapolis Health Department**
 - a. Q&A
 - b. Discussion on Legislative or Council priorities: What did you find interesting + what, if anything, should PHAC do next?

Action Taken: Approved

5. Review Feedback and Prioritization Survey results - **Margaret Schuster, Sr. Public Health Specialist, Minneapolis Health Department**

Minneapolis Health Department Strategic Priorities



Mission

The Minneapolis Health Department (MHD) works in partnership with communities to protect and promote equitable health outcomes and eliminate health disparities through education, prevention, regulation, and advocacy.

Vision

Minneapolis Health Department's vision is health justice, where people of all races, genders, religions, sexual orientations, and immigration statuses in Minneapolis have positive and equitable health outcomes.

How did we define Equity and Health Justice?

Equity requires that all individuals and populations are valued equally, historical injustices are acknowledged, recognized and rectified, and resources are provided according to need.

Health justice embraces these requirements and requires repairing and transforming the systems that impact people's ability to achieve their best health so that these systems achieve and sustain equity and justice through proactive and preventative measures.

Strategic Priorities (Goal areas)

Equity

The Minneapolis Health Department strives to be an antiracist organization that centers and promotes equity in all activities.

Flexible and Sustainable Funding

The Minneapolis Health Department will have the resources necessary to be a leader in advancing equitable health outcomes.

Foundational Infrastructure

The Minneapolis Health Department will have core infrastructure that includes communication expertise and tools, engagement, data and technology that assures we can serve community and support staff as they advance public health in Minneapolis.

Strong Leadership and Workforce

The Minneapolis Health Department will have a diverse, adaptable workforce. The department will strengthen its workforce by cultivating public health leadership and supporting career growth.

Strategic Partnerships

With authenticity and humility, the Minneapolis Health Department will establish and nurture internal and external partnerships, collaboratives, and relationships.

Public Health Advisory Committee

April 28 and May 26, 2026

Margaret Schuster, Sr. Public Health Specialist, Minneapolis Health Department

Member Feedback Survey Results and Discussion

PHAC Prioritizing Activity – Why do this?

1. Committee members select three Health Department areas that align with their interests, experiences, concerns, and curiosity
2. Provides focus for committee discussions and actions
3. Aids in developing a committee work plan through June 30, 2027
4. Helps the committee “sift through” information that comes from several different sources:
 - Health Department staff and leadership
 - City Council and their aides
 - Community member concerns
 - Individual vested interests



Top three
areas
selected...

A Resilient Urban Public Health
Infrastructure

Health Equity

A Healthy Start to Life and Learning,
Thriving Youth & Young Adults

PHAC Prioritizing Activity – Why do this?

The Committee previously discussed criteria for choosing issues that PHAC will address. They landed on the following.



Ideas, requests, concerns that are brought forward need to:

Be actionable

Be concrete

Reflect a
genuine need

Be data-
driven

Have
appropriate
scope for
PHAC
involvement

Activity - Themed discussion on survey results

1. You were given an A, B, or C at your seat
2. A's gather together; B's group together; and C's in another group
3. Each group will have 6 minutes to brainstorm: What do you want to know about this goal area? Develop 1-3 specific questions and write them down.
4. **First round:** A's discuss *A Resilient Urban Public Health Infrastructure*; B's discuss *Health Equity*; C's discuss *A Healthy Start/Thriving Youth*
5. **Second round:** within your group, switch topics and repeat #3 for another 6 minutes.
6. **Third round:** switch to your last topic area and repeat #3 for 6 minutes.
7. Reconvene to share your questions and determine 2-3 actionable steps.

Reconvened to determine 2-3 actionable steps

1. Follow up on legislative updates with staff from the Health department and Intergovernmental Relations department (Patty in April; Inderia will come in June)
2. Learn more about the Health Department, its program and priorities
 - Department overview & org. chart
 - Ask staff from selected priorities to present & engage with committee – what’s working well, not well, funding cuts, data for each priority area, etc.
 1. Health Equity a good place to start
 2. Maternal-Child-Adolescent Health, School Based Clinics, Mobile Medical Unit
 3. Evaluation-Research-Epidemiology (follow up on Community Health Assessment)
 - Department Strategic Plan
3. Connect with Mayor’s office and City Council Committee
 - PHAC overview at July Council Committee meeting

Member Feedback Survey – Questions

1. How can PHAC better advise and partner with the city health department?
2. What 1-3 public health topic in Minneapolis are you most interested in?
3. If the committee formed topical sub-committees in the future, would you be interested in participating?
4. In reflecting on your time with the PHAC, what feedback would you like to share?
5. Are there other questions/concerns you have or would like us to address?

Member Feedback Survey – Question 1

1. How can PHAC better advise and partner with the city health department?

Member Feedback Survey – Question 2

2. What 1-3 public health topic in Minneapolis are you most interested in?

Member Feedback Survey – Question 3

3. If the committee formed topical sub-committees in the future, would you be interested in participating?

Member Feedback Survey – Question 4

4. In reflecting on your time with the PHAC, what feedback would you like to share?

Member Feedback Survey – Question 5

5. Are there other questions/concerns you have or would like us to address?

Organizational Values

Equity, Antiracism, and Diversity

- We are inclusive, trauma-informed, and anti-racist.
- We move, speak, and act in ways that repair racist policies and practices.
- We believe every person must have access and equal opportunity to prosper, free from harmful environments, social conditions, systems, and policies that make it difficult to thrive and reach their full potential.
- We celebrate difference, and build on our urban community's cultural diversity, wisdom, strengths, and resilience.

Holistic Health & Wellbeing

- We value whole-person wellbeing, which includes physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing.
- We value the health and wellbeing of our staff, whose energy, passion, and expertise are essential for organizational success.
- We focus our resources where and how people need them so that all people can reach their full potential.
- We operate out of an understanding that health is not determined by individual factors alone but is strongly influenced by social and environmental conditions.

Creativity & Innovation

- We are proactive, responsive, and flexible.
- We deliver innovative, community-based solutions to public health problems.

Collaboration

- We convene multisector partners to facilitate collaboration and collective action.
- We work to make collaboration easy, inclusive, and transparent.

Community

- We are authentic and unapologetic about our love and care of community—both the community of dedicated staff within the Minneapolis Health Department and the communities we work with and serve.
- We respond to our communities' needs with compassion, care, and expertise.
- We advocate for and share power with community; we include community in decision-making and help ensure community has access to public health programs and resources.

Science

- We ground our work in science and the application of existing evidence to inform strategy and decision-making.
- We use research, promising and innovative strategies, and practice-based evidence to guide our work, and work to build public health knowledge together with the communities we serve.

Accountability

- We acknowledge and value the trust the public has placed in us and strive to manage public resources effectively and efficiently.
- We value ongoing community feedback and open communication.
- We operate with transparency, timeliness, and continuous quality improvement.

Next Steps

- **Engagement:**
 - The strategic planning committee recommends sharing a strategic plan (SP) update with the Public Health Advisory Committee and other external sources as appropriate.
 - A small group will be gathered to discuss and identify appropriate external sources.
 - Update health department staff at the September 16 All Staff meeting.
 - For staff unable to attend, share plan and engagement questions via MS Forms survey
 - To meet accreditation standards, PHAB requires some level of engagement with local elected officials. This could be a lunch and learn, a presentation to PHS, or other activities as desired/appropriate.
 - A small group will be gathered to discuss which actions to take and when.
- **Action teams:** Action teams move the work of the goal areas forward. All staff are eligible to take part in an action team. Each action team should have a mix of frontline staff, program staff, supervisory staff, and department leadership.
 - Where alignment exists between the priority and existing cross-agency work, MHD should delegate priorities to an existing workgroup/team (e.g., equity workgroup, workforce development, communications, etc.) and create new action teams where needed.
 - The action teams will develop more specific objectives and activities, with timelines and milestones.
 - Action teams will document their meetings and actions according to PHAB standards.
 - Strategic plan steering committee members should be recruited to help anchor each group.
- **Alignment:** Additional discussion and analysis to connect and align these priorities with other existing plans and priorities, e.g., SHIP & CHIP, CHA, Workforce Development Plan
- **Documentation:**
 - Review PHAB strategic planning documentation requirements with each action team to ensure MHD meets reaccreditation standards.
 - Create supporting strategic communications and a communications plan.
 - Write up a strategic plan document which meets PHAB Standards & Measures.
 - Create an annual report on SP activities to share with staff, external partners, and elected leaders.

- a. Themed Discussion on survey results + Committee Engagement
- b. Reconvene committee to summarize & determine next steps

[Member Feedback and Prioritizing Activity RESULTS](#)

Action Taken: Continued meeting of May 26, 2026

New Business

6. Member Engagement -Getting to know you - **Alicia Jackson, PHAC Chair**

Action Taken: Postponed to May 26, 2026

Announcements

7. Announcements/Updates/Open Discussion
 - a. Topics coming before City Council: HERC and Bath house - what is, or will be, the role of PHAC in engaging these topics?
 - b. Other topics?

Action Taken: Received and filed

Adjournment

Announcements

7. Committee Updates/Open Discussion - **Bhu Manhani, Ward 11 representative and Associate Vice Chair**
 - a. Leadership changes and opportunities
 - b. Committee calendar
8. Upcoming City Council concerns/issues and /or What's in the Public Health News - What are people hearing/seeing?

(Adult Bathhouses, etc.)

Adjournment

Next Public Health Advisory Committee meeting: Jun 23, 2026

Legal notice

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- Your attendance
- Your name and other details about yourself that you choose to provide
- Your comments at the meeting, whether formal or otherwise
- Any written submissions you provide which are included in the meeting record

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