



2025 MPHA “Public Health Matters” Policy Forum Series

Connecting the dots... a call to action!

Friday, January 24, 2025, 7:30 am – 9:30 am CDT
New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St NW, New Brighton, MN 55112

The theme for this year’s breakfast forum series is all about working outside the box to tackle some of our most difficult and persistent issues that directly impact public health. This requires public health professionals to work with non-traditional partners to ensure basic needs of people are met and sound policies exist to achieve optimum health for all Minnesotans.

The forums will be in-person at New Brighton Community Center. A virtual registration is also available. Check-in and a light breakfast begin at 7:30am. Forums begin promptly at 8:00 am and conclude at 9:30am.

January 24, 2025...food insecurity

In Minnesota, 537,890 people are facing hunger and 1 out of 7 of those people are children. Food shelf visits in MN continue to grow. Last year Minnesotans made over 7.5 million food shelf visits, up 1.8 million from 2022). What are the gaps and inequities for food insecurity? What causes those gaps? What are best practices and policies for addressing food insecurity? How can we contribute most to solving food insecurity?

Agenda

[Schedule](#)

[Ancestral Land Statement](#)

[Presenter Bios](#)

[Moderator: Kristin Moore, PhD, MPH, MPHA President](#)

[Panelist: Emily Honer](#)

[Panelist: William McNally](#)

[Panelist: Rob Williams](#)

[Thank you!](#)

[Policy Forum Committee](#)

[MPHA “Friends of the Forum”](#)

[Save the Date](#)

Schedule

- 7:30 am, Check in and Breakfast
- 8:00 am, Welcome
[Kristin Moore, President](#)
- 8:05 am, Moderator Remarks and Introduction of Panelists
[Kristin Moore](#)
- 8:15 am, Opening Commentary
- 8:30 am, Panelist Discussion
[Emily Honer, William McNally, Rob Williams](#)
- 8:45 am, Table Discussion
- 9:00 am, Discussion Table Questions
- 9:20 am, Summary Remarks
[Kristin Moore](#)
- 9:25 am, Closing Remarks
[Kristin Moore](#)

Ancestral Land Statement

We ask that you take a moment to honor and acknowledge that we are on the ancestral homelands of the Dakota and Anishinaabe. Indigenous people have a long-standing history and connection to the land since time immemorial, and are the original stewards of lands and waters. Many American Indians were forcibly exiled from their lands because of aggressive and persistent settler colonialism and U.S. Governmental policies, but they persevered. We make this acknowledgement to honor the Dakota and Anishinaabe people, ancestors and descendants, as well as the land itself.

Presenter Bios

Moderator: Kristin Moore, PhD, MPH, MPHA President

Panelist: Emily Honer

Emily Honer is the Director of [Nutrition Program Services](#) for the Minnesota Department of Education. The division administers the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child

Nutrition Programs as well as the state of Minnesota Free School Meals Program and Minnesota Kindergarten Milk Program. These programs promote the health and well-being of children and help fight hunger and obesity.

Emily served as the Supervisor of Business Operations and Support Services as well as the Assistant Director within the division. Prior to her time at MDE, Emily has managed financial and program compliance with county health and nutrition programs, tribal health and wellness operations, and senior living business operations in the private sector. She has a bachelor's degree in service management with a minor in human development and family studies, and a master's in business administration with a focus on healthcare administration.



Panelist: William McNally

William McNally's passion for community, hunger issues, and his background in logistics led him to found [Harvest Pack](#). His mission is to ensure fair distribution of food globally and locally, driven by facts and his hands-on experiences. William has lived and worked in Mexico, traveled to Belize to support education and livelihoods, and visited rural Philippines, Native reservations, and food shelves in the U.S., learning firsthand about food assistance. He holds a Bachelor's in Business Management from Northwest Christian University, a pilot's license, and serves on his local Rotary Board. In his free time, he enjoys biking, tennis, and coaching his kids in baseball.



Panelist: Rob Williams

When Rob learned in 2010 that kids were taking extra food at school on Fridays so that they could eat over the weekend, fighting child hunger became Rob's mission. As the founder of [Every Meal](#), Rob has led the organization since it first began operating in 2010. He has overseen the growth of Every Meal, leading the organization's expansion from a one-school program in 2013 into a widespread network of food programs throughout Minnesota.



Rob is passionate about leveraging logistics and operational excellence to solve community challenges. He believes that child hunger isn't a supply problem, but rather a distribution problem. In other words, enough food exists in our community, but that food is not always in the right place at the right time. Every Meal seeks to fight child hunger through a strong logistics network that gets food into the homes of kids who need it.

Prior to Every Meal, Rob worked with multiple Minnesota-based Fortune-500 companies to improve their global supply chain. Rob and his wife, Claire (a Memphis gal who has fallen in love with Minnesota), have been married since January 2008. They live with their son Amos and daughter Mabel in Arden Hills.

Thank you!

Policy Forum Committee

Dr. Angeline Carlson, Chair; Lindsey Fabian; Lia Burg; Kathleen Norlien

MPHA “Friends of the Forum”

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Pamela Van Zyl York

Sarah Vanausdall

As of January 23, 2025

A “Friends of the Forum” \$50 sponsorship ensures the continuation of this yearly series. Sponsorship includes your participation in all four of the forums. Register at mpha.net/Events, or, make a donation indicating “Friend of the Forum”. Thank you for your support!

Thank you to all of our MPHA members! **If you are not a current member, please consider [joining us at mpha.net](https://mpha.net).**

Is your organization interested in supporting MPHA? Learn about the [opportunities](https://mpha.net) at mpha.net!

Save the Date

- Policy Forum March 21, 2025...**mental health**
- Policy Forum May 2, 2025...**housing**

- **MPHA Annual Conference**
May 16-17, 2025 at Greysolon, Duluth, MN
Registration opens in February!

Check out upcoming MPHA Committee meetings, event details, and more at mpha.net!