



State Community Health Services Advisory Committee take-home notes

Friday, December 16, 2022 * 10:00am-2:30pm * Wilder Center, St. Paul
& WEBEX

Upcoming Meetings

Full SCHSAC Membership

Friday, February 24, 2023 10:00am-2:30pm

Hybrid: Virtual and in-person likely at the Wilder Center in St. Paul

Please note: The 2023 meeting schedule is being finalized. Meetings are scheduled for June 22 and December 6, 2023; a meeting invite has been sent from health.schsac@state.mn.us. The October 2023 SCHSAC meeting date has not yet been scheduled.

Executive Committee

Thursday, January 12, 2023 (9:30-11:00am via WEBEX)

Thursday, March 23, 2023 (9:00am-3:00pm IN PERSON, Location TBA)

For the most current meeting dates for full membership and the Executive Committee, visit:

[Meetings and materials for SCHSAC members](#)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/schsac/members/meetings.html>

Action Items

- **Action item:** Share the information from this meeting back to your CHB, County or City Commission and Local Public Health leaders
- **Action item:** Complete and return the Legislative Relationships form that was sent separately
- **Action item:** Watch for emails about the Mentorship Program and sign up to participate

Community Health Boards Represented

Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching, Anoka, Beltrami, Benton, Bloomington, Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis, Carver, Cass, Countryside, Dakota, Des Moines Valley, Dodge-Steele, Faribault-Martin, Fillmore-Houston, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Horizon, Kanabec, Kandiyohi-Renville, Le Sueur-Waseca, Meeker-McLeod-Sibley, Mille Lacs, Morrison-Todd-Wadena, Nobles, North Country, Olmsted, Partnership4Health, Pine, Polk-Norman-Mahnomen, Quin, Rice, Richfield, St.Paul-Ramsey, Scott, Stearns, SWHHS, Wabasha, Washington, Watonwan, Winona, Wright

Chair's Remarks (Sheila Kiscaden, Chair)

- This was Chair Kiscaden's last meeting as Chair of SCHSAC.
- She shared some reflections on her term as chair of SCHSAC
 - We have direct communication with MDH to ensure vitality and health of our communities
 - SCHSAC is a unique partnership and is an opportunity to learn and grow from one another
 - Working hard as an executive committee to make SCHSAC a dynamic and engaging experience for members
 - Encouraged members to be active in informing public policy at the state and local level
 - Intends on continuing to be very active and engaged with SCHSAC.

Commissioner's Remarks (Jan Malcolm, MDH Commissioner)

- Shared that this time is very bittersweet for her as she approaches retirement on January 3, 2023.
- COVID has been the hardest work many of us will ever do but is also a privilege to serve during this critical time.
 - Couldn't have done it without local public health and our elected leaders
 - Hopes that we learned lessons from the pandemic
 - Quoted former CDC director Dr. Freeman "The history of PH is a repeated cycle of panic and neglect"
 - We've seen pressures on the healthcare system and the public health workforce that will have long lasting impacts
 - We need to have conversations about what the future public health system looks like.
- Thanked SCHSAC for their increase in engagement and for their leadership on public health. Shared that she intends to stay involved as a citizen advocate for public health.

Legislative Session Outlook (Lisa Thimjon, MDH Legislative Policy Director)

- Slides were shared with members via email.
- The Legislature will be considering the budget. The MDH Budget proposal will focus on building capacity and staying ahead of the demands on public health functions.
- Shared goals for the 2023 Session:
 - All Minnesotans have the same basic public health protections and the whole system is better prepared to respond to public health crises
 - Focus efforts on communities most impacted by poor health outcomes and high costs.
 - Sharpen our focus on specific issues that have been worsening before and during the pandemic or are newly emerging
 - Provide a healthy start to newborns, adolescents, and their families to reduce health risks, build health resiliency, and improve their chances for success in life
 - Improve access to and affordability and quality of our health care system for all Minnesotans
 - Ensure MDH can meet statutory and program requirements as costs and demands increase
 - Protect and secure the state's drinking water. More information about water initiatives is available here:
 - [MDH Clean Water Fund Initiatives](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/cwf/index.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/cwf/index.html>)
 - [Contaminants of Emerging Concern Initiative](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/risk/guidance/dwec/index.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/risk/guidance/dwec/index.html>)
- Vice Chair Tarryl Clark shared that one of the strengths of SCHSAC is that we have relationships with people across the state. As part of an effort to better understand existing and developing relationships between SCHSAC members and legislators, Vice Chair Clark asked everyone to fill out a short survey rating their relationship with legislators. The survey will be sent out directly via email.

Update from MDH on Infectious Diseases (Daniel Huff, MDH Assistant Commissioner)

- Slides were shared with members via email.
- Currently a Tridemic: COVID, RSV, influenza
 - Surge of Omicron at the beginning of the year and have started to see increases in COVID in the last few weeks which are concerning

- Continuing to use wastewater indicators to track COVID working with the UMN Medical School and the Metropolitan Council to analyze water from plants all over Minnesota. Variants are still showing up. Preventing the spread is key.
- Hospitalizations for COVID are starting to creep up again. The challenge is that we actually have fewer beds available now because so many health care staff have left and there isn't staff available. This is putting a continued strain on the system.
- Other respiratory illnesses:
 - RSV peak is hopefully going down
 - Influenza: Has been really severe. Coming down but still a lot of people in the hospital.
 - Flu vs. COVID: 10 times the number of people dying from COVID in the last few months than from the flu
- Question: Are COVID patients staying in the hospital as long?
 - Response: It's changed overtime as the age demographics have changed. There was a younger population being hospitalized but now we're seeing more older people and are more critically ill. Another big problem with hospital capacity constraints – we have more people going in into the hospital and fewer people leaving because there is no place for them to go due to shortages in available long term care capacity, so they are forced to stay in the hospital longer.
- Vaccination
 - Not seeing the vaccination rates that we want to see
 - Communications director just reported to MDH a survey that assessed what prevented people from getting the bivalent booster. #1 reason – people didn't know there was a bivalent booster.
- 234 MPOX cases in MN
 - Late summer/fall we saw it hit MN. The outbreak appears to be if not over at least controlled.
 - Part of that is vaccination, had 12,000 doses administered
- 2022 Measles Cases
 - 22 confirmed cases most of which have been traced to individuals returning from international travel.
 - We have lower pediatric vaccination rates through the pandemic which leads to the potential for significant outbreaks now.
- HIV and Syphilis
 - 3 HIV outbreaks – two in Hennepin/Ramsey and one in Duluth
 - Syphilis
 - Significant increase in female cases: 2011 – 13 cases. 2021 – 253 cases.

- Congenital syphilis: 2012 – 1 case, 2022 – 16 cases. It is tragic for children. We shouldn't be having any congenital syphilis. We need a statewide plan.

SCHSAC Business Agenda

Joint Leadership Team Update (Sheila Kiscaden & Tarryl Clark, SCHSAC Vice Chair)

- So much of our policy goes back to 1976, we go from panic to neglect. Coming out of the panic phase is a good time to reflect and change. The system transformation Joint Leadership team has representatives from LPHA, SCHSAC, and MDH as equal partners in co-creation of the future of public health.
- Started a year ago, facilitated by outside facilitators now, meeting twice a month and is overseeing a number of projects designed to help gather information we need for transformation.
- Innovation grants, cost and capacity analysis, communications and systems assessment are some of the current areas of work. Workgroups are being identified and will be seeking diverse members from the community and lived experiences.
- SCHSAC is asked to think about what communities they are a part of. It will require a much broader conversation to redesign public health. Watch for opportunities to serve and think of others from your community who would bring different perspectives and experiences to the table.

2023-24 Workplan Update (Tarryl Clark & Michelle Gin MDH)

- As SCHSAC is moving more and more to a two-year cycle, we are moving to a two-year workplan. There will be a mid-point evaluation during that time, but the longer term is more realistic for the work that we need to accomplish.
- There hasn't been a work plan since 2019. We will be working on a draft work plan over the next few months.
- We anticipate continuing the long term SCHSAC Work Groups (EHCIB, IDCIB, PHEP), and we expect to be adding several new work groups, including one to address member development.

SCHSAC Retreat (Tarryl Clark & Deanna White MDH)

- Evaluations were very positive and clear that there is a strong desire to have a SCHSAC Retreat in 2023.
- Small groups were created and asked to identify two goals for the next Retreat. Common themes/topics include:
 - Workforce Issues
 - Public Health System Transformation (understanding, communicating, implementation)

- Rebuilding Public Trust
- Connecting with County Commissioners
- Building stronger relationships between state and local public health
- Communicating about public health
- Understanding and evaluating funding sources
- Celebrating successes to build motivation
- Networking, networking, networking
- Hot topic discussions: THC Edibles, Opioid work, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

All ideas will be shared with the Executive Committee as plans move forward on the Retreat.

Member Development Update (De Malterer (Le Sueur-Waseca), Deanna White, Ruby Roettger MDH)

- The Online Member Portal is being designed. Members were asked to share information about what devices they use to access information as well as their familiarity with Sharepoint and Basecamp to help the staff move forward in designing a portal that will be the most useful and accessible for members.
- Mentor Program
 - We will be launching the mentor program in March after new SCHSAC members are identified and have an opportunity to sign up.
 - Watch your email for information about how to register to serve as a mentor.
 - Mentors and Mentees will be encouraged to meet monthly. MDH will provide suggested monthly topics and materials where appropriate and will conduct evaluation activities throughout the year to continue to improve the program.
- New member orientation: We are planning to host two sessions during February, one during the day and one in the evening to provide flexibility. Although the presentation is geared to new SCHSAC members, all members are invited to attend.
- We are also planning a Tech Training for March or April for all SCHSAC members and alternates. The goal is to make people more familiar and comfortable with some of the new platforms and programs that we use as part of our virtual and hybrid meetings.
- Member Preference Activity – Members were asked a series of questions using Mentimeter. These questions were designed to give staff information about meal preferences and suggestions for items to include in the Orientation and Mentorship Program.

Proposed Operating Procedure amendments (Sheila Kiscaden & Deanna White, MDH)

- Change term for Executive Committee to two years, cleanup and clarification of election procedures and eligibility
 - Moved by De Malterer (Le Sueur-Waseca), Second by Steve Heinen (Benton)
 - Motion carried 42-0

Elections (Sheila Kiscaden)

Election of the Chair: Tarryl Clark was nominated for the office of Chair by Mandy Meisner (Anoka). It was moved by Mandy Meisner and seconded by Steve Gardner (Kandiyohi-Renville) that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Tarryl Clark for Chair. Motion carried.

Chair-elect Clark accepted and spoke about her vision for SCHSAC.

Election of the Vice Chair: Four individuals were nominated for Vice Chair in advance of the meeting, there were no nominations from the floor. Each candidate was given 5 minutes to speak. The candidates were:

- Jenna Carter, Bloomington CHB
- Steve Gardner, Kandiyohi-Renville CHB
- Steve Heinen, Benton County CHB
- De Malterer, LeSueur-Waseca CHB

Ballots were cast, collected and counted. De Malterer was elected Vice Chair and accepted.

Wrap up and announcements (Sheila Kiscaden and Tarryl Clark)

- Next Executive Committee meeting on 12 January – last meeting of current Executive Council
- Next SCHSAC meeting in February will include the election of new Executive Committee members
- March Executive Committee meeting is on 23 March from 9 am – 2 pm and will be in person. *If you are considering running for Executive Committee, please hold the day on your calendar.*

Recognition (Sheila Kiscaden)

There are a number of SCHSAC members and CHS Directors who will not be returning to SCHSAC next year. Those individuals were asked to rise so that they could be recognized and thanked for their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Malcolm was recognized for her hard work and dedication to public health. She will be retiring at the end of the year. Chair Kiscaden presented her with several gifts including a floral basket and a stained-glass window with an engraving of the Tree of Life.

Chair Kiscaden shared that she felt we were so lucky to have a commissioner who was so even-keeled and calm in a time of crisis, while also putting aside future hopes for the public health system to respond to the immediate crisis.

The Commissioner spoke briefly about her love for the work of public health and her appreciation for SCHSAC. She received a standing ovation.

Vice Chair Clark recognized Chair Kiscaden for her accomplishments as Chair since this was her last meeting as Chair. Vice Chair Clark shared that she had first viewed Chair Kiscaden with a mixture of “awe and intimidation” but she became a partner, mentor, friend, and soon-to-be grandmother. Chair Kiscaden was presented with a plaque. After sharing some thoughts about her term as SCHSAC Chair, she received a standing ovation.

Those in the room transitioned to the informal reception. Former SCHSAC Chair Harlan Madsen shared his reflections on working with Commissioner Malcolm and presented her with several gifts and good wishes as she transitions to retirement.

Three Simple Rules of the State-Local Public Health Partnership

- I. Seek First to Understand*
- II. Make Expectations Explicit*
- III. Think About the Part and the Whole*

Minnesota Department of Health
State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC)
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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3880.