Environmental Health Tracking and Biomonitoring Advisory Panel Meeting June 9, 2026

1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Via Microsoft Teams

Minnesota Department of Health
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Contents

Agenda Overview

Date: 06/09/2026

Welcome & Agenda

1:00 p.m.

Chair Ruby Nguyen will welcome attendees to the meeting. Panel members are invited to introduce themselves. Ruby will provide an overview of the agenda.

MN Firefighter PFAS Biomonitoring Project Update

1:10 p.m.

MDH Environmental Epidemiologist Kathy Raleigh will give an update on this new biomonitoring project to better understand Minnesota firefighter exposure to PFAS.

1:25 pm Questions and Discussion

Questions for Panel members:

- What additional sections or specific questions would you recommend adding (or subtracting) to the exposure survey?
- Are we missing anything related to the survey or recruitment?

Initial Findings from an Investigation of Blood Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Concentrations Among Michigan Firefighters

1:40 p.m.

Priyashi Manani, Lead Epidemiologist with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, will summarize findings from the project. Panel members are invited to ask questions.

Healthy Kids Minnesota Update

2:15 p.m.

MDH Biomonitoring Program Manager Fathi Ahmed will share updates on Healthy Kids Minnesota 2025 and 2026. Panel members are invited to ask questions.

Biomonitoring Program Vision

2:35 p.m.

MDH Biomonitoring Program Director Jessica Nelson will discuss planning underway for the future of the MN Biomonitoring program.

2:50 pm Questions and Discussion

Questions for Panel members:

- What is your feedback on this vision for the program?
- Do you have ideas for other funding opportunities to support state biomonitoring?

Wildfire Smoke Forecasting for Summer 2026

3:05 p.m.

Matt Taraldsen, Meteorologist with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, will share the summer 2026 forecast for wildfire smoke and air quality. Panel members are invited to ask questions.

Public Comments, Audience Questions, New Business

3:25 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn

3:30 p.m.

MN Firefighter PFAS Biomonitoring Project

Pilot Project Overview

The MN Firefighter PFAS Biomonitoring project is underway and is planned to run for three years, wrapping up in June 2028. Based on available resources, we aim to collect serum-PFAS concentrations of 24 analytes in 200-300 firefighters across the state. The project will focus on firefighters with higher risk of recent exposures. Project aims include:

1) Establish baseline PFAS exposure data by measuring a sample population covering a range of occupational characteristics, including geographic region, job classification, and type of fire station (i.e., volunteer, paid-on-call, and career stations);
2) Identify groups of firefighters who may have higher PFAS exposures; and
3) Build a statewide resource to inform exposure reduction and intervention strategies.

We aim to hold a series of blood-draw events for firefighters from approximately ten fire stations between July-October 2026. We have begun reaching out to selected fire stations – five in the Twin Cities Metro and five in Greater Minnesota – with 50% so far agreeing to partner in recruitment. A second wave of outreach to additional stations meeting selection criteria is underway. In addition to the blood draw, there will be an exposure survey to be completed at the fire station event along with a $25 gift card participation incentive. The panel presentation will summarize the survey including the following information: job history, firefighting foam and gear use, residential history, drinking water source and dietary habits, health factors and demographic information.

Questions for Advisory Panel

- What additional sections or specific questions would you recommend adding (or subtracting) to the exposure survey?
- Are we missing anything related to the survey or recruitment?

Initial Findings from an Investigation of Blood Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Concentrations Among Michigan Firefighters

Speaker Biosketch

Priyashi Manani is a lead epidemiologist with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, currently serving as project lead for the PFAS in Firefighters of Michigan Surveillance (PFOMS) project. In this role, she spearheads efforts in PFAS exposure assessment and data management, coordinating statewide and community specific biomonitoring activities. With a focused interest in environmental epidemiology, Priyashi is deeply committed to reducing the burden of disease and environmental contaminant exposure—especially PFAS—within Michigan communities. Her foundational training includes a Master's in Public Health from the University of South Florida. Her multifaceted expertise—ranging from field survey design to data integration and community outreach—drives her mission to protect Michiganders' health by mitigating environmental exposures.

Background

The PFOMS project is a statewide initiative conducted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) with the primary goal of determining blood concentrations of PFAS in Michigan firefighters. The findings of the PFOMS project will help inform decisions about how to minimize firefighters' exposure to PFAS.

The PFOMS project was launched in Spring 2021 and completed data collection in Fall 2023. The project involved 1,023 firefighters from 64 fire departments across the state. Findings were released in May 2026.

More information on PFOMS can be found at the MDHHS web site PFOMS: PFAS in Firefighters of Michigan Surveillance (https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/safety-injury-prev/environmental-health/topics/dehbio/pfoms).

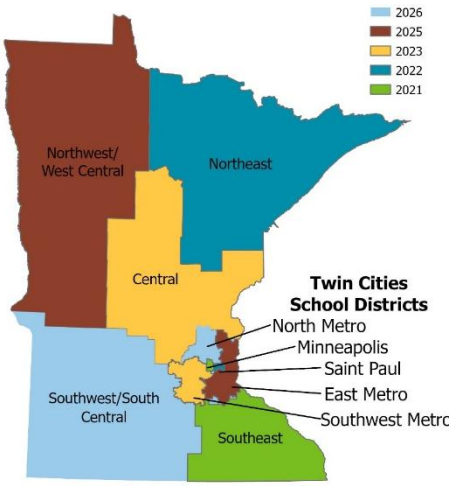
Healthy Kids Minnesota Updates

Background

Healthy Kids Minnesota partners with Early Childhood Screening (ECS) programs at local public health agencies, school districts, and tribal nations to recruit preschool-age children for environmental chemical exposure screening. With families' consent, urine samples from participants are tested for six types of chemicals (80+ analytes total) by the MDH Public Health Laboratory.

The program rotates in five regions in the state, focusing on one non-Metro and one Metro region per year (see map). Recruitment for the first four program cycles is complete and all individual results have been reported to families for **Healthy Kids Minnesota 2021-2023**. Data analysis is underway.

Healthy Kids Minnesota Program regions



Healthy Kids Minnesota 2025 is complete, with urine samples from 458 children collected at six partner sites in Northwest/West Central Minnesota and the East/Southeast Metro. The PHL has completed laboratory analysis for most chemical types of the ~90 chemicals being measured in this cycle. The first batch of results have been returned to families, with the final results mailing planned for August 2026.

Healthy Kids Minnesota 2026 is underway. Recruitment has begun and is going well at partner sites in Southwest/South Central Minnesota and the North Metro.

Healthy Kids Bois Forte, our partnership with the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa that will take a different community-based approach to recruitment of children, is close to launching. Financial contracts are close to being complete and outreach materials are being developed. Outreach and recruitment will take place in summer and fall 2026.

The program is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the state of Minnesota.

Recent Presentations and Publications

- Nathan Carroll. *Healthy Kids Minnesota: Elevated Urinary Arsenic and Consumption of Rice and Seaweed* [presentation]. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Annual Conference, May 31-June 4, 2026.
- Nicole Frederickson. *Incorporating Spatial Traffic and Agricultural Data in Statewide Biomonitoring Program Environmental Exposure Assessment* [presentation]. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Annual Conference, May 31-June 4, 2026.
- West Central Tribune, May 16, 2026. Parents of Willmar School District preschoolers can learn about chemical exposure. Available at: https://www.wctrib.com/news/local/parents-of-willmar-school-district-preschoolers-can-learn-about-chemical-exposure.

- Mankato Free Press, May 16, 2026. Chemical exposure testing offered. Available at: https://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/informer-festival-of-nations-slated-may-30/article_d8450b3a-0768-4dc6-9cd9-9242ee349d1c.html.
- Kathy Raleigh and Jessica Nelson. *Environmental Epidemiology in the Public Sector: MN Tracking and Biomonitoring Programs*. Class lecture to UMN Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Course, April 16, 2026.
- Nicole Frederickson, Clara Lucero, Fathi Ahmed, Jessica Nelson, Sheila Amenumey. *Participant Insights: What Minnesota Families Taught Us About Individual Results Return in a Statewide Biomonitoring Program* [poster presentation]. Minnesota Public Health Association Annual Meeting, April 13, 2026.
- Jessica Nelson. *Skin lightening, mercury, and public health response in Minnesota* [presentation]. In Our Skin: Colorism from Lived Experience to Public Health Action Part 3: Local Health Department Interventions, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene webinar series, March 25, 2026.
- Carin Huset. *Laboratory Workflow Improvements in Minnesota* [presentation]. CDC Biomonitoring Grantee Meeting, March 16-19, 2026.
- Jessica Nelson. *Improving Biomonitoring Results Return: Feedback from Minnesota Families* [presentation]. CDC Biomonitoring Grantee Meeting, March 16-19, 2026.
- Jessica Nelson, Jason Peterson. *Healthy Kids Minnesota: Lab and Epi Response to Follow-up Cases of Urinary Inorganic Arsenic, Manganese, and Mercury (plus a little bit about some other chemicals)* [presentation]. CDC Biomonitoring Grantee Meeting, March 16-19, 2026.
- Sheila Amenumey. *Healthy Kids Minnesota Recruitment, Partner Engagement, and Results Return: The Key Role that REDCap Plays* [presentation]. CDC Biomonitoring Grantee Meeting, March 16-19, 2026.
- Sun Post Brooklyn Center, March 9, 2026. Osseo Schools families can get preschoolers tested for harmful chemicals during screening. Available at: https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_post/community/brooklyncenter/osseo-schools-families-can-get-preschoolers-tested-for-harmful-chemicals-during-screening/article_f4b713c1-7540-4b5b-a271-1df01e6acb33.html.
- Jessica Nelson. *Biomonitoring, Risk Assessment, and Work in Minnesota*. Class lecture to UMN Risk Assessment Course, March 5, 2026.

Biomonitoring Program Vision

Background

The MN Biomonitoring Program, a combined effort of the MDH Public Health Laboratory (PHL) and Environmental Health (EH) Divisions, has built a strong, effective state biomonitoring program over the last 19 years. The program has grown and matured since the originating state statute in 2007, providing actionable information for reducing harmful exposures across Minnesota communities.

Building on our Strategic Plan and lessons of the past decade, staff have developed a vision for an ongoing, robust biomonitoring program that capitalizes on MDH's impressive laboratory and epidemiology capacity and continues to offer high-quality and innovative environmental health services. The program consists of three main areas of work: 1) the continuation of Healthy Kids Minnesota, 2) enhanced screening and education partnerships for toxic personal care products, including skin-lightening products, and 3) the resumption of community-based PFAS biomonitoring in highly-contaminated areas.

This vision also includes dedicated funding for maintaining laboratory capacity, which is not currently included in state funding. While the program has funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that supports laboratory analysis for Healthy Kids Minnesota, this funding ends in 2027. The program continues to work toward ongoing, sustainable funding.

The MN Biomonitoring Strategic Plan can be found at Biomonitoring Strategic Plan: Protecting Future Generations (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/biomonitoring/about/biostrategicplan.html)

Questions for Advisory Panel

- What is your feedback on this vision for the program?
- Do you have ideas for other funding opportunities to support state biomonitoring?

Wildfire Smoke Forecasting for Summer 2026

Speaker Biosketch

Matt Taraldsen is supervisory meteorologist with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. He oversees the Risk Evaluation and Air Modeling Unit – the unit responsible for air quality index (AQI) forecasts and air quality alerts across the state of Minnesota. Prior to joining MPCA he has worked in state government with Minnesota Information Technology Services (MNIT), the private sector at Esri, and the federal government as a forecaster and instructor in the National Weather Service. He has a Bachelors Degree in Meteorology from St. Cloud State University and a Masters of Geographic Information Science – emphasis in Land and Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Minnesota.

MPCA AQI forecast and air quality alerts can be found on the MPCA website at Air Quality Forecast (https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/air-quality-forecast).

Section Overview: Other Information

This section contains documents that may be of interest to panel members.

- Upcoming Advisory Panel meeting dates
- Environmental Health Tracking and Biomonitoring Advisory Panel Statute
- Advisory Panel roster
- Biographical sketches of Advisory Panel members
- Biographical sketches of staff

Upcoming Advisory Panel Meeting Dates

Advisory Panel meetings in 2026:

- October 13, 2026
- February 9, 2027
- June 8, 2027

Unless otherwise announced, these meetings will take place from 1 – 3:30 pm.

via Microsoft Teams

144.998 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TRACKING AND BIOMONITORING ADVISORY PANEL STATUTE

Subdivision 1. **Creation.** The commissioner shall establish the Environmental Health Tracking and Biomonitoring Advisory Panel. The commissioner shall appoint, from the panel's membership, a chair. The panel shall meet as often as it deems necessary but, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis. Members of the panel shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses incurred through performance of their duties. Members appointed by the commissioner are appointed for a three-year term and may be reappointed. Legislative appointees serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Subd. 2. **Members.** (a) The commissioner shall appoint eight members, none of whom may be lobbyists registered under chapter 10A, who have backgrounds or training in designing, implementing, and interpreting health tracking and biomonitoring studies or in related fields of science, including epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, laboratory sciences, occupational health, industrial hygiene, toxicology, and public health, including:

(1) At least two scientists representative of each of the following:

(i) Nongovernmental organizations with a focus on environmental health, environmental justice, children's health, or on specific chronic diseases; and

(ii) Statewide business organizations; and

(2) At least one scientist who is a representative of the University of Minnesota.

(b) Two citizen panel members meeting the specific qualifications in paragraph (a) shall be appointed, one by the speaker of the house and one by the senate majority leader.

(c) In addition, one representative each shall be appointed by the commissioners of the Pollution Control Agency and the Department of Agriculture, and by the commissioner of health to represent the department's Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Division.

Subd. 3. **Duties.** The advisory panel shall make recommendations to the commissioner and the legislature on:

(1) Priorities for health tracking;

(2) Priorities for biomonitoring that are based on sound science and practice, and that will advance the state of public health in Minnesota;

(3) Specific chronic diseases to study under the environmental health tracking system;

(4) Specific environmental hazard exposures to study under the environmental health tracking system, with the agreement of at least nine of the advisory panel members;

(5) Specific communities and geographic areas on which to focus environmental health tracking and biomonitoring efforts;

(6) Specific chemicals to study under the biomonitoring program, with the agreement of at least nine of the advisory panel members; in making these recommendations, the panel may consider the following criteria:

(i) The degree of potential exposure to the public or specific subgroups, including, but not limited to, occupational;

(ii) The likelihood of a chemical being a carcinogen or toxicant based on peer-reviewed health data, the chemical structure, or the toxicology of chemically related compounds;

(iii) The limits of laboratory detection for the chemical, including the ability to detect the chemical at low enough levels that could be expected in the general population;

(iv) Exposure or potential exposure to the public or specific subgroups;

(v) The known or suspected health effects resulting from the same level of exposure based on peer-reviewed scientific studies;

(vi) The need to assess the efficacy of public health actions to reduce exposure to a chemical;

(vii) The availability of a biomonitoring analytical method with adequate accuracy, precision, sensitivity, specificity, and speed;

(viii) The availability of adequate biospecimen samples; or

(ix) Other criteria that the panel may agree to; and

(7) Other aspects of the design, implementation, and evaluation of the environmental health tracking and biomonitoring system, including, but not limited to:

(i) Identifying possible community partners and sources of additional public or private funding;

(ii) Developing outreach and educational methods and materials; and

(iii) Disseminating environmental health tracking and biomonitoring findings to the public.

Subd. 4. **Liability.** No member of the panel shall be held civilly or criminally liable for an act or omission by that person if the act or omission was in good faith and within the scope of the member's responsibilities under section 144.995 to 144.998.

Environmental Health Tracking & Biomonitoring Advisory Panel Roster (as of June 2026)

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VACANT SEATS

Statewide business organization representative

Biographical Sketches of Advisory Panel Members

Bruce Alexander is a Mayo Professor in Public Health and Head of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. He earned a BS and MS in Environmental Health from Colorado State University and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Washington. His career has included working as an epidemiologist in a refugee relief operation and as an occupational and environmental epidemiologist working on a wide range of collaborative interdisciplinary research on the health effects of occupational and environmental exposures in relation to respiratory diseases, injury, cancer, and infectious diseases. His active interests include the development of multidisciplinary approaches to address complex public health problems and building public health practice capacity, One Health, the health of agricultural populations, and global health.

Jay Desai is the Manager of the Chronic Disease and Environmental Epidemiology Section within the Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease at MDH. The Section includes the Environmental Epidemiology, the Minnesota Cancer Reporting System, and the Sickle Cell Data Collection program. It also includes the Long-Term Surveillance of Chronic Disease and Disabilities Annex, a program designed for response and recovery in emergency situations such as the COVID-19 epidemic. Jay received his Epidemiology doctorate from the University of Minnesota, is a chronic disease epidemiologist, and has worked in academic research and public health practice at the University of Minnesota, HealthPartners Institute, and the Minnesota Department of Health since 1993. He has a strong interest in diabetes, diabetes prevention, obesity, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, gout, cancer prevention, sickle cell disease, their underlying behavioral risk factors, and social determinants of health. He is also interested in implementation science and health equity. At MDH Jay spent 16 years as the epidemiologist for the Minnesota Diabetes Program. At HPI he worked on primary care clinical decision support; using EMR's for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and obesity surveillance; diabetes prevention in low income individuals, and HPV vaccination in underserved communities. Jay is also a standing member of the NIH Healthcare and Health Disparities study section.

Helen Goeden is a retired toxicologist who worked for the State of Minnesota for over 30 years. During her tenure at the MN Department of Health and MN Pollution Control Agency her work focused on leading the development, improvement and integration of risk assessment methods and policies protective of sensitive or more highly exposed populations; the toxicological assessment of a wide range of environmental contaminants, including emerging contaminants such as PFAS; and developmental of state-wide health-based criteria for contaminants in drinking water, soil and air. Prior to working for the State of Minnesota she worked for the University of California at Berkeley where she co-authored human health assessment and criteria documents for the State of California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA). Dr. Goeden received her PhD from the University of Cincinnati.

Derek King is the Cumulative Impacts Coordinator for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. He earned his BS in Biopsychology from Augsburg University and his MS in Environmental Health, with a concentration in Regulatory Toxicology and Risk Assessment, from the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health. His career has included holding dual registrations as a nursing assistant in Minnesota and Florida, a student worker in infectious diseases with the Minnesota Department of Health, a front-line COVID-19 vaccination and testing lead with Hennepin County Public Health, and an air toxics scientist with the Minnesota Pollution Control

Agency. Currently, he serves as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's first Cumulative Impacts Coordinator. His research has covered remediation of hydrogen sulfide contamination, zinc binding with fibrinogen and its αC region, racial and sex differences in unintentional opioid overdose deaths, PFAS contamination within Minnesota, cumulative impacts, and the incorporation of lived experiences within regulatory processes.

Sarah Kleinschmidt is an epidemiologist with more than 20 years of experience in population-based epidemiologic research and infectious disease clinical trials. She joined the 3M Company in 2016 and serves as an epidemiologist within the Corporate Occupational Medicine Department where she evaluates the health experience of employee groups. Prior to joining 3M, Dr. Kleinschmidt was an occupational epidemiologist for DuPont in Wilmington, DE and taught epidemiology at the University of Delaware as an Adjunct Instructor. She has also held research positions at the University of Iowa, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in biology from the University of Illinois at Springfield, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Iowa with specialized training in both infectious disease and occupational epidemiology.

Jenni Lansing is the Sr. Environmental Research Analyst for the Minneapolis Health Department – Environmental Programs. She has been with the City for 10 years and during that time her work has included community air monitoring, pollution reduction projects with businesses, and drinking water protection at transient noncommunity water systems. Ms. Lansing has a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and a M.S. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Colorado.

Rajinder Mann is a pesticide program manager for the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. He has been with the department for more than 10 years. His work includes overseeing pesticide and fertilizer-related technical programs that include registering pesticides and fertilizers, conducting special registration reviews of pesticides, developing and promoting agricultural chemicals best management practices (BMPs), and analyzing water quality monitoring data for pesticides. Raj has a PhD in entomology with specialized training in pesticides. Raj has also worked on insect vectors during his tenure at the University of Florida.

Zeke McKinney is a board-certified Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) physician who works at the HealthPartners Clinic in St. Louis Park, MN. He is additionally board-certified in Public Health & General Preventive Medicine, Clinical Informatics, and Lifestyle Medicine. He completed all of his medical training here in Minnesota. His professional interests are in preventing work-related illness/injury, improving data-driven decision-making in clinical contexts, environmental toxicology, health equity, environmental justice, public safety medicine, managing complex impairment/disability, and increasing the health literacy of patients and communities. He practices clinical occupational and environmental medicine in the Twin Cities, and he is one of few clinicians in Minnesota who evaluates work and community-related environmental toxicologic exposures. He is the Minnesota physician contact for the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU), a national resource for environmental medical information in partnership with ATSDR and CDC.

Jill Heins Nesvold serves as the National Director of Lung Health for the American Lung Association. Her responsibilities include program oversight and evaluation related to asthma, chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD), influenza, and quality improvement. She holds a master's degree in health management and a short-course master's degree in business administration. She has published extensively in a variety of public health areas.

Ruby Nguyen is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health Division of Epidemiology & Community Health. She received her PhD in Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University. Ruby's research focuses on maternal, child and family health; the etiology of reduced fertility; pregnancy-related morbidity, and infertility and later disease. Currently, Ruby is conducting a longitudinal study examining the role of endocrine disrupting chemicals in child development. From 2016-2017, Ruby was Co-Principal Investigator of a statewide prevalence study investigating violence against Asian women and children.

Eileen Weber is a nurse attorney and Clinical Associate Professor Ad Honorem at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing (active retiree status). She founded the Upper Midwest Healthcare Legal Partnership Learning Collaborative. She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in Health Innovation and Leadership in 2014 from the University of Minnesota. She earned her RN diploma from Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, her BSN summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota, and her JD in the founding class of the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis. Her clinical experience and past certifications have largely been in urban critical care and emergency nursing. She has served as vice-president of the Minnesota Nurses Association, earning awards for political action and outstanding service. She represented nursing on the Minnesota Health Care Commission, was a regular editorial writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and an occasional op-ed contributor for the Star Tribune. She founded Friends of Grey Cloud and worked with environmental leaders at the local, regional, state and national levels to protect Lower Grey Cloud Island from harmful development and to conserve the Grey Cloud Sand Dune Prairie. She has extensive experience in legislative lobbying, community activism, and political campaign management. Her scholarly work is focused on the intersection of law, public policy, and interprofessional healthcare practice and education.

Lisa Yost is a Principal Consultant at RAMBOLL ENVIRON, an international consulting firm. She is in their Health Sciences Group, and is based in St. Paul, Minnesota. She completed her training at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health and is a board-certified toxicologist with expertise in evaluating human health risks associated with substances in soil, water, and the food chain. She has conducted or supervised risk assessments under CERCLA, RCRA, or state-led regulatory contexts involving a wide range of chemicals and exposure situations. Her areas of specialization include exposure and risk assessment, risk communication, and the toxicology of such chemicals as PCDDs and PCDFs, PCBs, pentachlorphenol (PCP), trichloroethylene (TCE), mercury, and arsenic. Lisa is a recognized expert in risk assessment and has collaborated in original research on exposure issues, including background dietary intake of inorganic arsenic. She is currently assisting in a number of projects including a complex multi-pathway risk assessment for PDDD/Fs that will integrate extensive biomonitoring data collected by the

University of Michigan. She is also an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health.

Biographical Sketches of Staff

Fathi Ahmed is the Program Manager with MN Biomonitoring. She received a bachelor's degree in Public Health with concentrations in Community Health and Public Policy from St. Catherine University. Fathi worked in the Biomonitoring program in 2016-2017 as a Student Worker on the MN FEET study. Since then, she has done work in different public health, community engagement, and research positions. These include work with The Beautywell Project, SoLaHmo, the University of Minnesota, and the International Institute of Minnesota. Fathi re-joined the Biomonitoring team as the new Program Manager in January 2023.

Sheila Amenumey is the Biomonitoring Epidemiologist at MDH. Sheila collaborates with biomonitoring staff and key stakeholders leading the various biomonitoring projects including Healthy Kids Minnesota, the statewide project focused on children's environmental health. She completed her MPH in Maternal and Child Health and PhD in Water Resources Science (Water Quality Hydrology Emphasis) at the University of Minnesota. Prior to her work with biomonitoring, Sheila worked with the Maternal and Child Health Section at MDH. Her role as Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist involved leading and collaborating with external partners in conducting program evaluation across multiple federal adolescent health grants, and assisting them in monitoring program outcomes and achievement of health and education goals for the youth they serve. Before coming to MDH, Sheila conducted water quality research at the University of Minnesota to determine the impact of agriculture on water quality.

Jessie Carr supervises the Environmental Epidemiology Unit at MDH and is the Principal Investigator for the Environmental Public Health Tracking program. Jessie received her MPH from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and DrPH from the University of Pittsburgh, where her training and research focused on exposure assessment, GIS and spatial statistics, community-engaged research methods, and environmental health disparities. Prior epidemiology studies have examined social susceptibility to air pollution exposure in chronic disease etiology and adverse birth outcomes.

Nathan Carroll is a Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Applied Epidemiology Fellow, working with the Healthy Kids MN program and the Environmental Epidemiology Unit. Nathan received his MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Minnesota in 2023 and has previously worked with the City of Bloomington, Public Health AmeriCorps, and the MIIC team at MDH. His projects focus on analyzing biomonitoring data, informing strategies to reduce childhood exposure to potentially harmful chemicals, and developing a study to interview and analyze data on adults who have elevated blood lead levels.

Carin Huset has been a research scientist in the Environmental Laboratory section of the MDH Public Health Laboratory since 2007. Carin received her PhD in Chemistry from Oregon State University in 2006 where she studied the fate and transport of perfluorochemicals in aqueous waste systems. In the MDH PHL, Carin provides and coordinates laboratory expertise and information to program partners within MDH and other government entities where studies require measuring biomonitoring specimens or environmental contaminants of emerging concern. In conjunction with these studies, Carin provides biomonitoring and environmental analytical method development in support of multiple analyses.

Tess Konen graduated from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health with a master's degree in Occupational Environmental Epidemiology. She completed her thesis on the effects of heat on hospitalizations in Michigan. She worked with MN Tracking for 2 years as a CSTE Epidemiology Fellow where she was project coordinator for a follow-up study of the Northeast Minneapolis Community Vermiculite Investigation cohort. She currently is an epidemiologist working on birth defects, pesticides, and climate change, and is developing new Disaster Epidemiology tools for MDH-HPCD.

Jessica Nelson is Program Director and an epidemiologist with MN Biomonitoring. She works on design, coordination and analysis of biomonitoring projects, and has been the Principal Investigator for the Healthy Rural and Urban Kids, MN FEET and PFAS studies. Jessica received her PhD and MPH in Environmental Health from Boston University School of Public Health where her research involved the epidemiologic analysis of biomonitoring data on perfluorochemicals. Jessica was the coordinator of the Boston Consensus Conference on Biomonitoring, a project that gathered input and recommendations on the practice and uses of biomonitoring from a group of Boston-area lay people.

Kathy Raleigh is an epidemiologist for MN Tracking. She completed her PhD in Environmental Health at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health and her MPH in Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Arizona. She has worked on a variety of environmental health projects including: pesticide exposure in children, occupational asthma, mercury exposure in women and children, and occupational exposure to PFOA. Prior to coming to MN Tracking, Kathy was working on maternal and child health projects both internationally with USAID and, more recently, at MDH. She will also be working on the coordination and collection of hospital discharge data, including heart disease and asthma surveillance projects for MN Tracking with a focus on health disparities.

Deanna Scher is an epidemiologist in the Environmental Epidemiology Unit. Since joining MDH in 2007, she has led a variety of studies to assess exposures to, and health impacts from environmental contaminants, particularly among at-risk and vulnerable populations. Deanna received her Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, where her research focused on methods to integrate biomonitoring and biological plausibility into pesticide risk assessment and epidemiology studies.

Blair Sevcik is an epidemiologist with MN Tracking, where she works on the collection and statistical analysis of public health surveillance data for MN Tracking. Prior to joining MN Tracking in January 2009, she was a student worker with the MDH Asthma Program. She received her Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in December 2010.