



State Community Health Services Advisory Committee Work Plan at a Glance, 2018

Issues of Interest

SCHSAC will explore emerging and statewide public health issues through presentations, small group discussions, videoconferences, and other means. The SCHSAC Executive Committee has identified issues of interest, including mental health, healthy aging, vulnerable adults, human trafficking, the opioid epidemic, fetal alcohol syndrome, “diseases of despair,” immunizations, infectious diseases, and health in all policies, including health and justice.

New Work

Incarceration, Health, and Families Workgroup: Incarceration affects families and whole communities, and directly impacts health equity. Having an incarcerated parent is an adverse childhood experience for many Minnesota children. This workgroup will build on the efforts of others across the state including the Association of Minnesota Counties and the Strengthening Families coalition staffed by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. The SCHSAC workgroup will focus on the role of local governments, including local jails and local public health. The MDH Community and Family Health Division will staff the workgroup. A charge will be brought to the SCHSAC Executive Committee in early 2018.

Ongoing Work

Strengthening Public Health in Minnesota Workgroup: SCHSAC initiated this workgroup in 2017 and the workgroup held its final meeting on January 5, 2018. SCHSAC and the Commissioner of Health convened a group of local government officials and other key stakeholders to bring another perspective in addressing concerns about Minnesota’s local public health infrastructure. The workgroup will present its recommendations to SCHSAC in February 2018. Once the recommendations are received, the SCHSAC Executive Committee will provide leadership and ensure future efforts to strengthen public health in Minnesota is consistent with the direction set by the workgroup.

Continuous Improvement Work

These ongoing workgroups focus on improvement and partnership. They are spaces where MDH, local public health, and local elected officials can tackle difficult policy and practice issues together.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Oversight Group: This SCHSAC workgroup will continue its work in 2018. Activities include advising on Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant duties for local public health, developing capacity assessment and related measurement outcomes, and strategic planning for public health emergency preparedness.

Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board: This workgroup will develop an Environmental Public Health Framework for Minnesota; develop and monitor statewide annual performance measures for the environmental health area of public health responsibility; and oversee the development and implementation of the new Food, Pools, and Lodging Services program evaluation process.

Infectious Disease Continuous Improvement Board: This new workgroup, charged by SCHSAC in 2017, held its first meeting in January 2018. The IDCIB will work to ensure an effective and efficient state-local partnership in the infectious disease area of public health responsibility. The group will serve as a forum for regular communication, identification of issues, and joint problem-solving. The group will also ensure the DP&C Common Activities Framework remains a relevant, useful document.

Performance Improvement Steering Committee: This committee will continue to monitor performance of the local public health system and identify opportunities for system-wide improvement.

Standing Committees

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee will conduct any interim business of SCHSAC, develop recommendations for decisions by SCHSAC, and work on activities to strengthen the state-local partnership.

Community Health Conference Planning Workgroup: The workgroup is responsible for selecting a theme, topic, format, general session speakers, and concurrent session presenters for the 2018 Community Health Conference, and will assist MDH staff in hosting the conference.

Nominating and Awards Workgroup: The workgroup will supervise the nomination and election process for SCHSAC chair-elect, and will solicit and select candidates for the annual Community Health Awards.

Committees with SCHSAC Representation

SCHSAC is represented on a number of important public health advisory committees.

Healthy Minnesota Partnership: The Healthy Minnesota Partnership brings community partners and the Minnesota Department of Health together to improve the health and quality of life for individuals, families, and communities in Minnesota. SCHSAC representative: Barbara Burandt, Sherburne CHB.

State Preventive Health Advisory Committee: The State Preventive Health Advisory Committee is a federally mandated committee associated with the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, chaired by the commissioner of health. SCHSAC representative: Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner.

Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force: The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Advisory Task Force was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1982. The task force advises the commissioner of health on the health care services/needs of maternal and child health populations in Minnesota, on the use of funds for maternal and child health and children with special health needs administered through MDH, and the priorities and goals for maternal and child health activities. SCHSAC representative: Susan Morris, Isanti County Commissioner.

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