MINNESOTA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION POLICY & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Voices for Public Health

MPHA
Since 1907
MINNESOTA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
www.mpha.net
Meet the Panel

• Vayong Moua, Director of Health Equity Advocacy at Blue Cross Blue Shield
• Annie Halland, MPHA Policy & Advocacy Co-Chair

Esteemed Guest:
• Representative Peggy Flanagan (DFL) District 46A
During this session, we will…

- Review MPHA’s 2017 Legislative Priorities
- Status update on the 2017 Legislative Session
- Discuss opportunities for future public health and health equity advocacy with our panelist
MPHA 2017 Legislative Priorities

• Support efforts to reduce health inequities

• Support public health funding – including increasing local public health grant funds and maintaining Statewide Health Improvement Program funding

• Support gun violence prevention efforts

• Support environmental health efforts to ensure healthy families, clean water, clean air, and a healthy climate
2017 Legislative Session Status

- Health Equity
  - Governor’s Health Equity Opportunity Frame
  - Local preemption bill – #LocalControl

- Gun Violence Prevention
  - Permitless Carry – did not get a vote
  - “Stand Your Ground” passed out of House cmte
2017 Legislative Session Status – cont’d

• SHIP funding
  • Some diversion from prevention in House bill, but funding largely intact

• Local Public Health Act funding

• Environmental Health and Climate Change
  • House passed environmental omnibus bill with damaging rollbacks; Senate likely to follow suit
Policy & Advocacy Committee activities

- **Committee:**
  - Sent action alerts
  - Partnered with Minnesotans for Healthy Kids Coalition to organize Day on the Hill event
  - Partnered with Protect MN on Health Professionals Lobby Day
  - Partnered with Protect MN and Everytown for Gun Safety on GV prevention conversation
  - Signed on to numerous letters of support
  - Developed three resolutions

- **Members:**
  - Called/sent messages to legislators and Governor
  - Attended Lobby Days
Questions for the panel

• How can we frame public health and health equity to emphasize the common good vs. social engineering?

• What can we do as PH and HE advocates do to increase our credibility with elected officials and public?

• How can we promote PH and HE short and long term goals as a political priority?
Questions from audience (time permitting)
Contact Us

- Policy Committee: Annie Halland and Laura Klein: policy@mpha.net

Policy & Advocacy Committee meets every first Wednesday of the month, 11:30a – 1:00p at the MN Council of Health Plans in the Court Int’l Bldg, 2550 University Ave, Saint Paul

- Health Equity Committee: Melanie Peterson-Hickey and Jaime Martinez: healthequity@mpha.net

Health Equity Committee meets every second Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:30pm.