



May 19-21, 2025

North Dakota Public Health Conference

May 19th, 2025

Plenary Session, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Exhibit Hall A

Title: **Becoming the Healthiest Nation in the State**

Objectives:

1. Gain a clear understanding of the State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and their impact on public health.
2. Learn about the Multi-Partner Health Collaborative, its role in improving health outcomes, and how you can contribute to being the healthiest state in the Nation.
3. Explore ways communities can enhance Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) in alignment with the four key goals of SHIP.

Speakers:

- Dirk Wilke, ND Health and Human Services
- Krissie Mayer, ND Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Grace Njau
- Sandra Tibke, Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota
- Pam Gulletson, Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota
- Missi Branko, USpire ND
- Tricia Bisch-Steinke, Kidder County Local Public Health & Sarena Lawler, Kidder County Public School

Breakout Sessions (Set A) 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

- Title: **When Viruses and Vulnerabilities Collide: A Syndemic of HIV, HCV, and Drugs**
Prairie Rose Room 101

Objectives:

1. Define what a 'syndemic' is and how this framework can shape how we respond to epidemics
2. Explain how the current state of the HIV, HCV, and substance use disorder epidemics and how they comprise a syndemic
3. Identify potential methods for health departments and clinicians to address the underlying factors that feed this syndemic to help eliminate them

Speaker: Brandon Mizroch, BrandaCorp Public Health Consulting LLC

- Title: **Collaboration to Increase Access to Doula Support in North Dakota**
Prairie Rose Room 102

Objectives:

1. Describe the importance of increased access to doulas for all families in North Dakota.
2. Identify ways to join efforts to improve doula access in North Dakota.
3. Describe potential pathways to improve access to doulas.

Speakers: Alicia Belay, North Dakota Health and Human Services, Shelly Davis & Elizabeth Pihlaja, Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota, & Candi Smith, NDSCS

- Title: **Rabies in North Dakota: Prevention, Control and Care**
Prairie Rose Room 103

This presentation will cover a brief history of rabies, the variants seen in the United States and specifically in ND, how rabies can be prevented, symptoms of the disease, treatment options, how surveillance takes place in ND and veterinary recommendations. The audience will have the opportunity to view the rabies exposure algorithm and go through several scenarios to determine how a person or animal that is exposed to rabies should be assessed for risk and determine whether PEP or booster shots are necessary.

Objectives:

- 1) Detail the history of epidemiology of rabies in the U.S.
- 2) Identify rabies variants seen in the U.S. along with how rabies can be prevented, symptoms of the disease and treatment options.
- 3) Describe surveillance and veterinary recommendations when a potential rabies exposure occurs.

Speaker: *Amanda Bakken, ND Department of Health and Human Services and Margo Kunz, North Dakota Dept of Agriculture, Animal Health Division*

- *Amanda Bakken, MS, MPH, serves as the Vectorborne and Rabies Epidemiologist in the Division of Disease Control and Forensic Pathology.*
- *Margo Kunz, DVM, is the North Dakota Assistant State Veterinarian with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture.*

- Title: **An Introduction to The Science of the Positive and Positive Community Norms**
Prairie Rose Room 104

This session will provide an introduction to the Science of the Positive framework for prevention. The Science of the Positive is an inclusive, non-shaming approach that reverses prevention's traditionally problem-centered frame and focuses on identifying and growing protective factors. When we start to look at our community members through this positive, hopeful lens, it has a profound impact on the questions we ask them, the way we communicate with them about important issues, and the ways in which we address their health and safety. Interactive, small-group activities will help shift participants' focus from what they are trying to prevent to what they are trying to grow

in their communities and with their clients. Led by a senior member of The Montana Institute's training team, this interactive event will bring new information, perspective, and energy to your team's work.

Objectives:

1. Describe who we are and the impact our prevention efforts have on the people we serve in our communities.
2. Understand how the Science of the Positive and Positive Community Norms framework can be a guide for increasing health.
3. Identify strategies for how these frameworks can be put into practice in your work.
4. Describe how the Science of the Positive can transform community health.

Speaker: *Jason Anderson, The Montana Institute*

- Title: **Innovative Strategies to Advance Public Health**
Prairie Rose Room 105

This interactive workshop is designed to equip public health professionals with practical tools and strategies to assure the conditions for optimal health for all people. Building on the foundational concepts covered in the North Dakota Health Equity Training Initiative, participants will explore actionable approaches to integrate public health ethics principles into programs, policies, and community partnerships. Attendees will leave with enhanced skills and resources to drive meaningful change in public health practice.

Objectives:

1. Identify common barriers to achieving optimal health for all people and strategies to overcome those barriers.
2. Describe key tools and frameworks to facilitate applying public health ethics principles in programs, policies, and initiatives.
3. Develop actionable next steps to integrate identified strategies into daily public health practice and community engagement efforts.

Speaker: *Dawn Hunter, The Dawn Lab*

- Title: **Water Quality and Public Health: Challenges and Solutions for North Dakota**
Exhibit Hall A II

This presentation will provide an in-depth look at the current state of water quality in the state and its direct impact on public health. Participants can expect to learn about key contaminants affecting North Dakota's water sources and the health risks they pose to local communities. The session will also cover practical strategies and solutions for improving water quality, ensuring safe drinking water, and protecting public health. Attendees will walk away with a better understanding of how water quality impacts health and actionable steps to address these challenges.

Objectives:

1. Describe an assessment of the quality of water sources in North Dakota and identify key contaminants affecting health.
2. Detail the link between water quality and public health, focusing on the effects of contaminated water on communities.
3. Identify effective measures and policies to improve water quality and safeguard public health in North Dakota.

Speaker: *Amber D. Lyon-Colbert, PHD, UND, Dept. of Population Health*

Breakout Sessions (Set B) 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

- Title: **Enhancing Reproductive Well-being Across Diverse North Dakota Communities**
Prairie Rose Room 101

In this session, two presenters share their work in improving sexual health within their communities. One speaker discusses how their organization provided health education to immigrant youth in a metro area, focusing on engaging both youth and parents through dynamic activities and diverse community engagement strategies. Interactive tools and educational activities were used to foster open conversations around sexual health. The other speaker highlights STI testing in a Tribal community, emphasizing the importance of trust-building and ongoing community involvement for effective prevention education.

Objectives:

1. Describe two strategies for providing sexual health information to diverse communities.
2. Explain ways to engage immigrant youth in sexual health information sessions.
3. Identify ways to build trust in the community to improve sexual health.

Speakers: *Cleophas Mukeba, Bazara La Afrika & Angel Dubois & Destiny Blue, Quentin Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility*

- Title: **Community Health Workers: Becoming a Workforce in North Dakota to Reduce Health Disparities and Increase Access to Health Care**
Prairie Rose Room 102

With a long history of successfully and effectively addressing health disparities, Community Health Workers (CHWs) can fill gaps in services, increase access and reach underserved populations, and reduce the cost of health care. This session will highlight the status of systems changes in North Dakota to support the integration and sustainability of CHWs.

Objectives:

1. Define CHWs and identify their roles/scope of work;

2. Describe how CHWs improve access and reduce the cost of health care;
3. Detail the current status of North Dakota policy and system changes to support the integration and sustainability of CHWs.

Speaker: *Rebecca Quinn, University of North Dakota, Gretchen Dobervich, ND House of Representatives, & Wendy Schmidt, ND Medicaid/ND Department of Health and Human Services*

- Title: **Vaccines Under the Microscope: How Can We Know They Are Safe?**

Prairie Rose Room 103

Vaccines have been rightly considered one of the greatest success stories in public health over the last century. But they have become victims of their own success. Once diseases such as polio, measles, diphtheria, Hemophilus meningitis, etc. were dreaded, but they have faded from our collective consciousness. Now, many people are more concerned about the real or perceived harms from vaccines than the diseases they are meant to prevent. Safety concerns are the primary source cited by most people for their vaccine hesitance. This lecture will review the many layered approach the U.S. takes in its safety and regulatory processes to assure our vaccines are both necessary, and safe. A deeper understanding of these processes should give providers and patients greater confidence in administering and receiving the ACIP recommended vaccines.

Objectives:

1. Describe how safety is prioritized in the vaccine development and approval process.
2. Identify the differences between vaccine safety surveillance systems in the U.S. and how they work together manage potential safety signals.
3. List historical examples of how vaccine surveillance systems have successfully identified safety concerns and the corresponding actions taken.

Speaker: **Paul Carson, North Dakota State University, Center for Immunization Research and Education**

Prairie Rose Room 104

- Title: **A Brief Overview of Substance Misuse Prevention Core Competencies**

In 2021 the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released its first-ever Prevention Core Competencies for substance misuse prevention professionals. During this session participants will come to understand the knowledge, skills, and abilities that accompany each of the five domains, along with cross-cutting principles that provide a foundation for those competencies. Understanding these will aid public health and prevention professionals alike to better-align their work to create collaboration and cohesion within their local communities.

Objectives:

1. Describe the five domains of SAMHSA's Core Competencies of Prevention.

2. Identify cross-cutting principles that align between substance misuse prevention and public health.
3. Detail strategies that can be used to implement prevention core competencies that foster communities' health and collaboration.

Speaker: *Nicole Hackley, Prevention Support Services*

- Title: **Enhancing Public Health with Systems Thinking**
Prairie Rose Room 105

Public health organizations in North Dakota are increasing capacity in data-driven decision-making to improve system-wide outcomes. In this session, we'll explore how a systems thinking approach to data literacy enhances collaboration, breaks down silos, and optimizes service delivery. Participants will gain a foundational understanding of the Habits of a Systems Thinker and learn practical methods to apply systems thinking to their daily work and strategic planning.

Objectives:

1. Understand Habits of a Systems Thinking and tools that can be utilized to apply systems thinking.
2. Explain data driven decision-making capacity by identifying high-leverage data sources and by improving data literacy for analysis.
3. Describe strategies that can improve coordination among stakeholders in the public health system to reduce redundancies, expand reach, and optimize services.

Speaker: *Sheri Marlin, Waters Center for Systems Thinking*

- Title: **PFAS Sampling and Drinking Water Rule Overview**
Exhibit Hall A II

This presentation will review PFAS sampling efforts conducted by the NDDEQ, including an overview of methods used and available results from various sampling sites, such as drinking water facilities, landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, biosolids, and fish tissue. The presenters will contextualize the results and inform the audience of existing advisories, limits, and any proposed rules for PFAS. The presentation will also include an overview of the final Drinking Water Rule promulgated by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Objectives:

1. Describe and review PFAS sampling efforts conducted by the NDDEQ, including samples from drinking water facilities, landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, biosolids, and fish tissue.
2. Explain the results and methodology of PFAS sampling efforts in North Dakota.
3. Understand the final Drinking Water Rule for PFAS.

Speakers: *Stacey Herreid and Sarah Waldron Feld, North Dakota Dept of Environmental Quality*

May 20th, 2025
Plenary Session, 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Title: **Making the Invisible Visible – Communicating the Value of Public Health in a Changing Landscape**

Exhibit Hall A

Public health has been a critical but often invisible part of communities for decades. In a rapidly changing landscape, effectively communicating its value to different audiences is more important than ever. This session will explore strategies to make it more visible through clear messaging, trusted messengers, and better storytelling, ultimately building trust between public health and the communities we serve.

Objectives:

1. Identify key challenges in communicating the value of public health in the moment different, including the changing information landscape and rapidly evolving falsehoods.
2. Explore strategies for making public health more visible, including how to communicate to different stakeholders, the role of trusted messengers and compelling narratives.
3. Describe principles of effective storytelling to improve the accessibility and impact of insights.

Speakers: *Dr. Katelyn Jetelina, Your Local Epidemiologist*

Breakout Sessions (Set C) 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

- Title: **The NEW STI Prevention Toolkit**

Prairie Rose Room 101

This presentation will provide an up-to-date overview of the latest guidelines in sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatment and prevention, with a focus on practical application in clinical settings. Attendees will explore strategies for integrating the newest biomedical interventions—such as PrEP, Doxy-PEP, and long-acting injectables—into a comprehensive, patient-centered sexual history that is both effective and time-efficient.

Objectives

1. Describe the newest guidelines in STI treatment and prevention.
2. Identify methods to incorporate the newest biomedical interventions into a patient-centered, comprehensive, and efficient sexual history.
3. List recommendations for implementing DoxyPEP into clinical practice

Speaker: *Brandon Mizroch, BrandaCorp Public Health Consulting LLC*

- Title: **Collaborative Strategies to Ending Hunger**
Prairie Rose Room 102

This session will explore the history, strategies, and membership of Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota and the Cass Clay Hunger Coalition, two groups that bring together diverse stakeholders to address the root causes of hunger. The session will also cover the strategic approaches that the coalitions and the Great Plains Food Bank use to mobilize resources, engage community partners, and create sustainable solutions. This session is ideal for anyone interested in strengthening partnerships and exploring innovative ways to address food insecurity within their own communities.

Objectives:

1. Explain how collaborative efforts have evolved over time to tackle hunger, highlighting key milestones, successes, and barriers in their work to create healthy communities.
2. Describe the different models of coalition membership, including how diverse stakeholders - ranging from local organizations to government agencies - work together to maximize impact.
3. Identify innovative ways to address food insecurity within their own communities.

Speaker: *Jill Ambuehl, Great Plains Food Bank*

- Title: **Lessons Learned From Responding to Measles Outbreaks Among Unvaccinated Minnesotan Children**
Prairie Rose Room 103

Minnesota Department of Health staff will discuss current measles epidemiology and MMR vaccination trends in Minnesota, focusing on several recent outbreaks among unvaccinated children in Minnesota. They will also look at successful interventions including, contact monitoring, exclusion from high-risk activities and settings. Successful partnerships with healthcare and educational organizations to raise awareness and promote vaccination efforts. Lastly, they will touch on ongoing outreach and communication strategies with community partners to increase MMR vaccination rates among hesitant communities in Minnesota.

Objectives:

1. Describe recent measles epidemiology and MMR vaccine coverage trends in Minnesota.
2. List public health interventions used to contain recent measles outbreaks.
3. Describe successful community outreach and communication strategies.

Speakers: *Emily Banerjee and Ben Christianson, Minnesota Department of Health*

- Title: **Commercial Determinants of Health: Solutions to Protect Public Health**
Prairie Rose Room 104

This presentation introduces audience members to the commercial determinants of health, which is an emerging field in public health that examines corporate actors as the vector of non-communicable diseases. In particular, this presentation will detail the corporate actions of various health harming industries, including tobacco, alcohol, ultra-processed foods and drinks, pharmaceutical, fossil fuel, among others, and how commercial activity impacts and harms public health. The presentation will end by exploring solutions to address commercial determinants by exploring public health strategies to counter corporate activity and minimize commercial harm.

Objectives:

1. Explain commercial determinants in relation to other determinants of health including biological, behavioral and social.
2. Understand how commercial actors harm the public through the use of various marketing and political strategies.
3. Identify public health strategies to counter corporate activity and minimize commercial harm.

Speaker: *Eric Crosbie, University of Nevada, Reno*

- Title: **Building HOT Relationships to Advance Public Policy**
Prairie Rose Room 105

Navigating public policy alone can be tough. Establishing HOT (Honest, Open, Trusted) Relationships are crucial for driving public policy forward and creating lasting, impactful solutions to complex public health challenges like tobacco use, nutrition, and early childcare. In this session, participants will engage with each other and leave with a clear understanding of the differences between Coalitions and Collaboratives, as well as five steps to Building HOT Relationships!

Objectives:

1. Understand a baseline comprehension of Advocating versus Lobbying.
2. Describe the distinctions between a coalition and a collaborative.
3. Understand the five steps to Building HOT (Honest, Open, Trusted) Relationships that last in the Public Policy space.

Speaker: *Tony Burke, American Heart Association*

- Title: **Introduction to Sanitation Field Evaluations**

Exhibit Hall A II

In this session, the why and what of a sanitation field evaluation will be discussed. Who can conduct a field evaluation with highlighted along with the difference between listed and field-evaluated equipment. The NSF standards will be described. The common problems found during a field evaluation will be highlighted and what do when equipment found to be compliant with the standard will be discussed.

Objectives:

1. Describe a sanitation field evaluation including identifying who should conduct these evaluations.
2. Identify when and why a sanitation field evaluation should be conducted.
3. List the common concerns and actions recommended when conducting a sanitation field evaluation.

Speaker: *Mel Kleven, Nemko*

Breakout Sessions (Set D) 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

- Title: **Meeting Patients Where They Are: HCV, HIV, and Syphilis Services in a Tribal Harm Reduction Program**

Prairie Rose Room 101

Join us for 'Meeting Patients Where They Are: Hepatitis C, HIV, and Syphilis Services in a Tribal Harm Reduction Program,' an in-depth session exploring strategies to provide essential infectious disease services within harm reduction settings. Learn how tribal programs are integrating screening, prevention, and treatment for Hepatitis C, HIV, and syphilis to improve health outcomes in Indigenous communities. Participants will gain insights into culturally responsive approaches, challenges, and best practices for engaging at-risk populations. This session is ideal for healthcare providers, public health professionals, and harm reduction advocates working to eliminate infectious diseases in tribal communities.

Objectives:

1. Understand how harm reduction programs can integrate access to Hepatitis C, HIV, and Syphilis screening, treatment, and prevention for people who use drugs and other vulnerable populations.
2. Identify how to implement effective approaches for integrating testing, treatment, and linkage to care within harm reduction settings
3. Describe how to develop strategies to build trust, reduce stigma, and collaborate with community partners to improve health outcomes for underserved populations.

Speaker: *Dr. Jorge Mera, Cherokee Nation Health Services*

- Title: **Advancing the Science: The Latest in Alzheimer's and Dementia Research**
Prairie Rose Room 102

Alzheimer's is a global health problem with nearly 7 million people living with the disease in the US alone. Tremendous gains have been made in the understanding of the science and basic biology underlying Alzheimer's and other dementias. These advances are leading to great strides in strategies for prevention, detection, diagnostics, and therapeutic interventions. The Alzheimer's Association is a global leader in research, mobilizing the field to advance the vision of a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

Objectives:

1. Describe epidemiology of Alzheimer's and other dementias along with emphasizing the understanding of why early detection and diagnosis are important.
Define biomarkers, why they are needed, and some of the ways biomarkers are used in dementia research, including the latest advances in clinical treatments, trials and lifestyle interventions.
2. Identify the diversity in therapeutic approaches currently under investigation and will be able to list advances in clinical trials, treatments and/or lifestyle interventions.
3. List modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors for Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Speaker: *Melanie Gaebe, ND Alzheimer's Association*

- Title: **Enteric Disease: Surveillance Overview and Outbreak Detection, Response, and Coordination with Partners**
Prairie Rose Room 103

During the presentation, attendees will understand what enteric diseases are, the importance of routine surveillance and how outbreaks are detected. Outbreak response activities and procedures will be discussed accompanied by examples from some past outbreaks in the state. Participants will be educated on the roles and responsibilities of outbreak response teams and partners. Lastly, participants will learn different control and mitigation measures that can be implemented to prevent further illness.

Objectives:

1. Describe routine enteric disease surveillance activities and recognize how it is used to detect outbreaks.

2. Identify standard outbreak response protocols and investigation participant roles and responsibilities.
3. Explain enteric disease and outbreak control measures.

Speaker: *Michelle Dethloff, ND Department of Health and Human Services*

Prairie Rose Room 104

- Title: **Progress Against the Opioid Epidemic: Report from the ONE Program**

For twenty years North Dakota, along with the rest of the country, has been battling a crisis of opioid misuse. Are we seeing an inflection point? In 2022, 148 North Dakotans lost their lives to drug overdose. This declined to 124 in 2023, and estimated to be 118 in 2024, along with a notable decline across the country. This presentation will describe progress made in responding to the opioid crisis in North Dakota, with particular focus on the Opioid and Naloxone Education program.

Objectives:

1. Describe trends in overdose deaths in North Dakota in recent years.
2. Summarize successes in opioid harm mitigation in North Dakota, and in the ONE Program.
3. Describe what is needed to further reduce opioid-related harm in North Dakota.

Speaker: *Mark Strand, North Dakota State University*

- Title: **Understanding the Lived Experience of Diverse Community Members of North Dakota**

Prairie Rose Room 105

Objectives:

1. Understand challenges diverse North Dakota residents have faced in their life
2. Be able to identify appropriate places a diverse community member can access resources
3. Have one strategy to apply at your own place of work for supporting individuals from diverse communities

Speaker: *Alicia Belay (Moderator), North Dakota Health and Human Services*, Panelists: *Leslee Williams, There Is A Solution Inc, Reginald Tarr, United African Community, Zachery S. King, & Sarah Carlson*

- Title: **Harmful Algal Blooms and Public Health**

Exhibit Hall A II

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in North Dakota effect water quality and public health. This presentation explores the causes and impacts of HABs, focusing on toxin production,

exposure pathways, and health effects on humans and animals. We will also discuss North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality monitoring techniques and public notification system for recreational waterways, and the expansion of our monitoring network.

Objectives:

1. Describe harmful algal blooms (HABs) including what they are and how they are formed.
2. List the health risks associated with harmful algal blooms.
3. Identify the monitoring and notification procedures for the North Dakota HABs monitoring network.

Speaker: **Brian Houle, North Dakota Dept of Environmental Quality**

Breakout Sessions (Set E) 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

- Title: **Sexual Violence Prevention in ND**

Prairie Rose Room 101

Sexual violence is a complex public health concern, and certain communities face a higher burden of this violence, which highlights the need to address community factors that influence health and behaviors. Community factors are the conditions in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age. Fair access to education, employment, and income opportunities is crucial for people's optimal health, safety, and well-being. In this presentation, the North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition, First Nations Women's Alliance, and the ND Department of Health and Human Services will discuss their collaborative efforts under the CDC Rape Prevention and Education grant. It will explain how sexual violence prevention requires community and societal level strategies in addition to school-based programs to create safe and healthy communities in ND.

Objectives:

1. Identify sexual violence as a public health concern.
2. Describe how community factors influence health and behavior.
3. Explore examples of approaches to preventing sexual violence .
4. Identify ND efforts working to prevent sexual violence.

Speaker: *Mallory Sattler, ND Department of Health and Human Services, Stacey Kartes, First Nations Women's Alliance, & Allison Wiedrich, ND Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition*

- Title: **Pathways to Wellness: Integrated Approaches to Improving Food Security and Health**

Prairie Rose Room 102

This session explores the vital connection between food security and health, emphasizing the need for integrated approaches that foster community resilience. Participants will gain insights into collaborative solutions, including a case study on wellness pantries that effectively combine access to nutritious food and health resources. The presentation will highlight future opportunities for enhancing food security and promoting awareness, encouraging stakeholders to take action toward creating healthier communities. Join us to learn how public health strategies can improve overall wellness and build stronger, more resilient populations.

Objectives:

1. Describe the connection between food security and health.
2. Explore integrated approaches and collaborative solutions.
3. Identify strategies for awareness and action for community resilience.

Speaker: *Katie Johnke, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health*

- Title: **Nurse Case Management: Tuberculosis (Part 1)** *This session runs concurrent with the next session.*

Prairie Rose Room 103

The course begins with an overview of case management, defining its role in public health and its significance in TB care. It then delves into the eight core elements of TB Nurse Case Management, including case finding, assessment, problem identification, planning, implementation, outcome identification, evaluation, and documentation. Through interactive polls and real-world case studies, participants will engage in critical decision-making scenarios, covering pediatric TB, drug-resistant TB, and complex social factors influencing treatment adherence. The course highlights key challenges, such as patient non-compliance, cultural considerations, and social determinants of health, while providing effective strategies for overcoming these barriers. By the end of this course, nurses and healthcare professionals will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to optimize patient-centered care, enhance TB treatment adherence, and contribute to TB elimination efforts within evolving healthcare landscapes.

Objectives:

1. Define and Explain TB Nurse Case Management.
2. Understand TB Nurse Case Management, including its goals, essential elements, and benefits in optimizing patient care.
3. Identify Challenges and Strategies in TB Case Management.

4. List common challenges faced by TB case managers, such as patient non-compliance, cultural considerations, and resource limitations, while presenting effective strategies to overcome these barriers.
5. Identify opportunities to enhance Case Management Skills through Real-World Applications.
6. Describe case studies to illustrate the practical application of case management principles, including assessment, planning, implementation, and patient-centered interventions to improve TB treatment outcomes.

Speaker: *Patricia Woods, The Op Stop*

- Title: **From Packaging to Policy- Categorizing E-Liquids**
Prairie Rose Room 104

During this session, attendees will learn about flavored e-liquids and novel product packaging designs that may entice youth and young adults to use ENDS. Attendees will learn about the development of the innovative and published Flavor Ingredient Wheel and thematic label analysis developed by a research team at NDSU. Both assessment tools and their applicability to tobacco and nicotine product evaluation will be reviewed. Advocacy and policy recommendations will be presented.

Objectives:

1. List the ingredients found in e-liquids.
2. Identify two methods used to evaluate e-liquids (packaging and ingredients).
3. Describe three strategies to advocate for policy change regarding e-liquids.

Speaker: ***Kolby Schafer, North Dakota State University***

- Title: **Thinking Art**
Prairie Rose Room 105

Thinking art is a curriculum designed by Harvard to teach critical thinking skills through guided viewing of art. As you dive deeper into an artwork you will learn observation and critical thinking skills transferable to learning about any subject. As Public Health Practitioners we rely on our abilities to observe important cues and decipher the best ways to move forward. Whether you are an Environmental Health Practitioner doing inspections, a nurse providing services or working on emergency preparedness and response, improving our ability to observe what is there, ask questions and thinking in new ways can help us.

Objectives:

1. Describe strategies that can improve critical thinking skills.
2. List ways to improve observational skills.

3. Explain ways to increase empathy through a guided observation of an artwork and group work.

Speaker: *Daphne Johnson Clark, Upper Missouri District Health Unit*

- Title: **North Dakota Climate Initiative: Working Together for Tomorrow with Q&A with ND Dept. of Environmental Equality Team**
Exhibit Hall A II

This session will provide an overview of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) and its role in shaping North Dakota's sustainable future. Participants will learn about the development of North Dakota's first Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and how ongoing work on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The discussion will highlight the connections between climate action, public health, natural resources, and environmental well-being, with an opportunity for attendees to engage in a Q&A panel with the project team.

Objectives:

1. Describe the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) and its role in addressing greenhouse gas emissions in North Dakota.
2. Outline the background and key components of North Dakota's first Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and the collaborative efforts that led to its publication.
3. List the steps of the transition to Phase Two, focusing on the development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and its strategies for long-term emission reductions.
4. Describe the connections between greenhouse gas reduction efforts and their broader impacts on natural resources, environmental health, and public well-being.
5. Identify the importance of climate action for public health and how ongoing initiatives can drive positive change for North Dakota's communities.

Speaker: *Hunter McKelvey, North Dakota Dept of Environmental Quality*

Breakout Sessions (Set F) 2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

- Title: **Compassionate Care in Pregnancy: Meeting Women Where They Are**
Prairie Rose Room 101

In this session, panelists discuss the vital role we all play in supporting women during pregnancy. Every healthcare interaction presents an opportunity for positive outcomes for both mother and child. Experts from diverse backgrounds explore how key moments during pregnancy impact families navigating available services. Offering healthcare free from judgment and stigma helps women access necessary care for mental health and substance use. Additionally, addressing women's broader needs supports their journey toward a healthy pregnancy.

Objectives:

1. Recognize the critical importance of supporting pregnant women in all circumstances to promote positive outcomes.
2. Identify at least three effective ways to offer support to a pregnant individual, regardless of your profession.
3. Understand the potentially life-altering consequences of failing to provide appropriate medical care and compassionate support.

Speaker: *Alicia Belay, North Dakota Health and Human Services (moderator)*

Panelists: *Ana Tobaisz, Kristy Johnson, & Ashlee Wegely*

- Title: **Partners in Health: The Role of Pharmacy in Public Health Initiative**
Prairie Rose Room 102

This program will describe the dynamic relationship between pharmacy practice and public health, with a focus on the current climate in North Dakota. Participants will gain insights into how pharmacists contribute to public health initiatives and identify key areas for collaboration. By the end of the program, participants will be energized with the knowledge and possibilities to enhance patient care and improve community health outcomes.

Objectives:

1. Describe the current climate and practice of pharmacy in North Dakota.
2. Explain how pharmacists contribute to public health initiatives, including disease prevention, health promotion, and care collaboration.
3. Identify key areas where pharmacy and public health collaborate to improve community health outcomes.
4. Identify and formulate strategies for integrating pharmacy services into public health programs to enhance patient care and community health.

Speaker: *Elizabeth Skoy, North Dakota State University*

- Title: **Nurse Case Management: Tuberculosis (Part 2)** *This session runs concurrent with previous session.*
Prairie Rose Room 103

The course begins with an overview of case management, defining its role in public health and its significance in TB care. It then delves into the eight core elements of TB Nurse Case Management, including case finding, assessment, problem identification, planning, implementation, outcome identification, evaluation, and documentation. Through interactive polls and real-world case studies, participants will engage in critical decision-making scenarios, covering pediatric TB, drug-resistant TB, and complex social factors influencing treatment adherence. The course highlights key challenges, such as

patient non-compliance, cultural considerations, and social determinants of health, while providing effective strategies for overcoming these barriers. By the end of this course, nurses and healthcare professionals will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to optimize patient-centered care, enhance TB treatment adherence, and contribute to TB elimination efforts within evolving healthcare landscapes

Objectives:

1. Define and Explain TB Nurse Case Management.
2. Understand TB Nurse Case Management, including its goals, essential elements, and benefits in optimizing patient care.
3. Identify Challenges and Strategies in TB Case Management.
4. List common challenges faced by TB case managers, such as patient non-compliance, cultural considerations, and resource limitations, while presenting effective strategies to overcome these barriers.
5. Identify opportunities to enhance Case Management Skills through Real-World Applications.
6. Describe case studies to illustrate the practical application of case management principles, including assessment, planning, implementation, and patient-centered interventions to improve TB treatment outcomes.

Speaker: **Patricia Woods, The Op Stop**

- Title: **Secondhand Cannabis Smoke in Public Places**
Prairie Rose Room 104

As the legal status of cannabis (marijuana) changes, there is the potential for more nonsmokers to be exposed to secondhand smoke from cannabis. This presentation will explain the different ways that cannabis use can create air pollution (smoking, vaping, dabbing, farming and manufacturing). It will also present data on particulate air pollution (the amount of small particles 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller) levels in public places like concerts, cannabis festivals, and cannabis store smoking lounges. We will also discuss the concentrations of nicotine and cannabinoids present in secondhand cannabis smoke and discuss the known and predicted health effects of exposure.

Objectives:

1. Describe the amount of air pollution present in public places where people are actively consuming cannabis.
2. Explain how the chemistry and toxicity of secondhand cannabis smoke compares to that of secondhand tobacco smoke.
3. Identify policies that protect the public health from exposure to secondhand cannabis smoke.

Speaker: *Suzanne Schick, University of California, San Francisco*

- Title: **Moving Public Health Upstream**

Prairie Rose Room 105

Addressing differences in health outcomes across population groups requires public health to transform the practices, policies, and systems that improve the opportunity for leading a healthy life. To do this, public health needs to move upstream and identify opportunities and approaches that do more than focus on individual level intervention. This session will provide a rationale for public health to focus on policies, systems, and environmental (PSE) change approaches, which have the broadest population health impacts because they most effectively address root causes of health disparities. The session will also demonstrate an effective tool to support root cause understanding by reframing how we think about public health issues and their possible solutions. Finally, the session will provide several examples of public health programs that have successfully embedded an upstream approach.

Objectives:

1. Describe policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change strategies.
2. Identify examples of process of programs that shift from an individual change focus to one focused on changing the policies and systems that support opportunities for leading a healthy life.
3. Explain the need for why public health practices should not only focus on individual level interventions.

Speaker: **Ben Wood, Health Resources in Action (HRiA)**

- Title: **The Ever-Evolving Septic Industry**

Exhibit Hall A II

The onsite wastewater industry plays a crucial role in managing wastewater in both local and national contexts.

Objectives:

1. Describe national trends of the septic industry.
2. Identify local trends and events of public health concern for the onsite wastewater industry.
3. Identify strategies to prepare for proper planning to assure success in managing wastewater.

Speaker: **Travis Johnson, Infiltrator Water Technologies**

May 20th, 2025
Plenary
Plenary Session 3:45PM – 4:45PM

- Title: **Environmental Health is Public Health**
 - **Exhibit Hall A**

This presentation will explore the connection between Environmental Health and Public Health, emphasizing how the quality of the living environment directly influences the health of individuals and communities. It will highlight the importance of collaboration in achieving shared goals such as disease prevention, health promotion, addressing environmental justice, emergency preparedness and response, and enhancing public awareness. Examples will be provided to illustrate successful partnerships between local Environmental Health and Public Health departments, as well as effective collaborations between their respective associations.

Objectives

1. Explain the connection between Environmental Health and Public Health, highlighting how environmental factors influence individual and community health outcomes.
2. Demonstrate the importance of collaboration between Environmental Health and Public Health sectors in addressing shared goals such as disease prevention, environmental justice, emergency preparedness, and public awareness.
3. Provide real-world examples of successful collaborations between local Environmental Health and Public Health departments and their associations to illustrate effective problem-solving and partnership strategies.

Speaker: *Eric Bradley, MPH, Douglas County Health Department*

May 21st, 2025
Plenary Session 7:45 AM – 8:15AM
Exhibit Hall A

- Title: **NACCHO: Supporting Local Public Health Through National Challenges**

In this session, the role of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and how it serves as a national voice and resource for public health. There will be timely examples of public health concerns and how NACCHO is advocating for public health. Programs, tools and events resources will be provided to strengthen local efforts.

Objectives:

1. Describe NACCHO's mission and core functions in supporting local health departments.
2. Identify and highlight key national challenges currently impacting local public health and how NACCHO is responding.
3. Detail opportunities for local public health leaders to engage with NACCHO and access resources to strengthen local efforts.

Speaker: **Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA – CEO, NACCHO**

May 21st, 2025

Breakout Sessions (Set G) 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

- Title: **Optimizing HIV Service Delivery: A Systems Approach**
Prairie Rose Room 101

HIV incidence is increasing among people who use drugs (PWUD). Syringe services programs (SSPs) are trusted, low-barrier health hubs for this population but face challenges to increasing the provision of evidence-based HIV services (e.g., testing, PrEP, ART). This presentation will describe a randomized controlled trial of a systems-based, organization-level implementation strategy – the Systems Analysis and Improvement Approach (SAIA) – for optimizing the delivery of HIV services to PWUD through SSPs. Insights will be provided by Western Plains Public Health, a participating study site. If successful, SAIA could be scaled or adapted for other infectious or chronic diseases within under-resourced community settings.

Objectives:

1. Describe a systems-based, organization-level implementation strategy for optimizing the delivery of HIV services to people who use drugs through a North Dakota-based syringe services program.
2. Identify HIV services including screening, PrEP and treatment for those living with HIV.
3. Develop recommendations to programs serving under-resourced communities for evidence-based HIV services.

Speaker: **Shelby Huffaker, University of California, San Diego & Jennifer Pelster, Western Plains Public Health**

Commented [ZA1]: Maybe: Participants will learn how to develop a systems-based, organization-level implementation strategy to enhance HIV service delivery for people who use drugs.

The presentation will provide insights into the integration of HIV services within a North Dakota-based syringe services program.

Attendees will gain practical knowledge on optimizing service coordination, outreach, and engagement strategies to improve health outcomes in this population.

- Title: **Provider and Community-based Recommendations to Improve Colorectal Cancer Screening and Prevention in North Dakota**

Prairie Rose Room 102

Colorectal cancer (CRC) incidence in the U.S. has declined by 30% over the past decade, largely due to screening. However, improvements vary by state, with North Dakota lagging despite higher-than-average cancer incidence. This qualitative study explored patient attitudes, beliefs, and perceived control regarding CRC screening through community focus groups and provider interviews in counties with the highest and lowest CRC mortality-to-incidence ratios. Findings highlight barriers, best practices, and needed health promotion interventions. Insights from this research can inform public health campaigns, enhance provider understanding of community barriers, and support strategies to increase screening rates and advance health equity.

Objectives:

1. Explain the prevalence of colorectal cancer in North Dakota.
2. Identify strategies to promote colorectal cancer screening in rural and urban areas in North Dakota.
3. Describe the results of a qualitative study that explored patient attitudes regarding colorectal cancer screening.

Speaker: Shawnda Schroeder, University of North Dakota

- Title: **Avian Influenza**

Prairie Rose Room 103

This session will provide an overview of avian influenza, including disease transmission, symptoms, impact on both individuals and businesses, and how different state agencies are responding to the ongoing outbreak.

Objectives:

1. Describe avian influenza including disease transmission and symptoms.
2. Identify the epidemiology of the current avian influenza outbreak ongoing in the U.S.
3. Explain the outbreak response efforts in North Dakota and highlight how different state agencies are responding during the ongoing outbreak.

Speaker: *Levi Schlosser, ND Department of Health and Human Services*

- Title: **The Application of Universal Prevention Throughout the Behavioral Health Spectrum**

Prairie Rose Room 104

Prevention plays a critical role throughout the MEB (Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health) Spectrum, formerly the Continuum of Care, and understanding this role can prepare prevention professionals to be the most effective in their work. Having a solid understanding of this model is one of the first steps prevention professional should grasp. Join us for an interactive discussion that outlines each component of the spectrum, and the role prevention has throughout, as well as identifying areas that prevention can serve in a supportive role as communities work collaboratively to reduce substance misuse.

Objectives:

1. Describe the Spectrum of Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral (MEB) Interventions.
2. Explain the role prevention plays throughout the spectrum.
3. Identify strategies that would comply with each step of the spectrum.

Speaker: *Jenny Fuller, Youth Connections*

- Title: **Examining Mental Models for Community Engagement Practice**

Prairie Rose Room 105

Community engagement — the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of those people — is an essential element of public health practice. Public health practitioners who commit to authentic forms of community engagement must recognize the importance of iterative, reflective, and adaptable approaches. Committing to authentic forms of engagement requires an examination of mental models (deeply held beliefs and assumptions that often do not get examined and which can hinder the adoption of new practices). In this session, attendees will learn about tools to examine mental models and how to apply learnings from them to implement new approaches to community engagement in public health practice.

Objectives:

1. Learn about mental models and their influence on public health practice
2. Diagnose mental models that influence current approaches to community engagement
3. Identify new approaches to authentic community engagement in public health practice

Speaker: *Ben Wood, Health Resources in Action (HRIA)*

- Title: **One Plate, Two Agencies – Partnering to Promote Food Safety and Nutrition in Schools**

Exhibit Hall A II

The presentation will cover general information regarding the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Food and Lodging Unit responsibilities in schools, staff training, results of the FDA Risk Factor Study for School kitchen inspections and how the data impacts our agencies, and a Q&A session regarding common questions by both agencies regarding school kitchens, areas of improvement, and general food safety knowledge.

Objectives:

1. Describe an overview of the DPI and DHHS Food and Lodging responsibilities in school kitchens.
2. Review the most common observations and interventions during school kitchen inspections.
3. Conduct open forum discussion to answer questions regarding school nutrition and inspection programs.

Speaker: *Michael Lee, North Dakota Health & Human Services, and Rhonda Amundson, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction*

Breakout Sessions (Set H) 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

- Title: **The Canopy Peer Navigation Program – Peer Support for People Living with HIV in North Dakota**

Prairie Rose Room 101

The Canopy Peer Navigation Program is North Dakota's first peer support program for people living with HIV. Our Peer Navigators are people living with or who have lived experience with HIV, who provide support from a place of lived experience. The Peer Navigation Program offers both individual and group peer support services, enabling both individualized support and community building. Referrals are primarily made through Ryan White Case Managers, but other service providers are also welcome to refer clients.

Objectives:

1. Describe peer support and the benefits on these programs.
2. Identify how peer support is needed for individualized support and community building.
3. List the services available and describe the referral process for peer support.

Speaker: **Kara Gloe and Jason Grueneich, Canopy Medical Center**

- Title: **Walk This Way...Foot Care**

Prairie Rose Room 102

The presentation is geared to those interested in understanding the need for foot health to maintain a healthy lifestyle with the prevention of foot complications in the treatment and management of diabetes. The information will include history and basic implementation of a comprehensive foot program that includes assessment, common conditions, and client education. Information provided will be beneficial personally, as well as professionally and can be an interactive tool for an aspect of a healthy lifestyle for all, including individuals with an array of chronic illnesses.

Objectives:

1. Detail the history and implementation of the LEAP (Lower Extremity Amputation Prevention) Program for foot assessment.
2. Describe the LEAP method of foot assessment and its value in the prevention of lower extremity amputation and foot care maintenance in the diabetic and non-diabetic population.
3. Identify basic skeletal foot deformities and potential complications; as well as recognize common skin and nail conditions.
4. Describe basic foot safety and consumer education principles.

Speaker: *Stacie Metelmann, RN, CDCES, CDFCS*

- Title: **Avian Influenza (Tabletop)**

Prairie Rose Room 103

This session will provide an overview of avian influenza, including disease transmission, symptoms, impact on both individuals and businesses, and how different state agencies are responding to the ongoing outbreak.

Objectives:

1. Identify best practices for communication involving H5N1 detection in your community.
2. Describe mitigation required in case of H5N1 detection in a flock.
3. Detail the process required if an outbreak were to occur in a local community in North Dakota.
4. Identify efforts for how a multi-department response looks as it pertains to H5N1.

Speakers: *Levi Schlosser (Moderator), North Dakota Health and Human Services* Panelists: *Wade Jones, USDA and Ethan Andress, DVM*

- Title: **Exploring Ceremony Assisted Substance Use Treatment**

Prairie Rose Room 104

Substance use rates among American Indians (AIs) are notably higher than those of the general U.S. population, prompting a need for more culturally appropriate treatment approaches. Traditional ceremonial practices have long been used within AI communities for healing, and while their effectiveness is well-recognized, research is needed to measure and report their efficacy, to aid in creating a replicable model for other Indigenous communities. This presentation will explore Ceremony Assisted Treatment (CAT) and outline the first step of a community-based research project examining the efficacy of CAT at a treatment organization in Rapid City, SD.

Objectives:

1. Explain how Indigenous ceremonial practices contribute to emotional and spiritual healing and enhance outcomes for individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs).
2. Analyze the effectiveness of incorporating culturally responsive interventions, such as CAT, with established Western treatment models following ASAM criteria for addressing substance use among Native communities.
3. Describe the current research study assessing CAT's perceived impact and efficacy on AI individuals seeking treatment at Oaye Luta Okolakiciye (OLO) in Rapid City, SD.

Speaker: *Brynn Luger, University of North Dakota School of Medicine*

- Title: **Artificial Intelligence Foundations and Ethics**

Exhibit Hall A II

Artificial intelligence tools have become increasingly more common in the workplace in the past few years. Many challenges exist in using artificial intelligence tools including concerns of data privacy, both for the user, the data, and the people the data represents. The purposes of this presentation include defining foundational artificial intelligence vocabulary, describing appropriate workplace use, practicing using generative AI tools, and analyzing ethical considerations when using artificial intelligence tools with a focus on personal data privacy.

Objectives:

1. Define foundational terms used artificial intelligence vocabulary.
2. Describe appropriate workplace uses of artificial intelligence.
3. Practice use of generative artificial intelligence applications.
4. Analyze potential ethical considerations in using artificial intelligence applications in the workplace with a focus on personal data and privacy.

Speaker: *Lynette Bjornson Painter, Bismarck State College*

- Title: **Latest Revisions to the 2020 Food Code and 2022 Food Code Supplement**
Prairie Rose Room 105

The FDA Food Code and its Supplement provide a model to protect public health by ensuring that food is safe, unadulterated, and honestly presented when offered to consumers. It represents FDA's best advice for a uniform regulatory system focused on food safety in retail and food service. The 2022 FDA Food Code and its Supplement represent the latest revisions, offered for adoption by federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal jurisdictions responsible for overseeing food safety in retail food stores, food service, and vending operations. This presentation will explore these updates, offering knowledge and practical insights into these revisions.

Objectives:

1. Describe an overview of the 2022 FDA Food Code and its recent Supplement, highlighting the latest revisions.
2. Detail how these changes impact food safety regulations and public health practices, as well as updated compliance requirements.
3. Identify strategies for the practical application of the revisions and provide opportunities to clarify questions.
4. Connect with professionals in food safety and public health to share insights and experiences.

Speaker: **Greg Abel, US Food and Drug Administration (Virtual Speaker)**

Closing Plenary Session, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Title: **Public Health Wins**

Exhibit Hall A

Success in public health isn't just about tackling challenges—it's also about recognizing and celebrating victories, both big and small. This session will explore how shifting focus to 'wins' fosters a resilient and motivated team mindset. Through discussion and practical exercises, attendees will learn how appreciation and gratitude can strengthen team dynamics, improve energy, and sustain long-term commitment to public health efforts.

Objectives:

1. Recognize the power of celebrating public health wins in fostering motivation and resilience.
2. Develop a mindset of appreciation and gratitude for past accomplishments.
3. Understand how acknowledging successes enhances team morale, energy, and overall effectiveness.
4. Learn practical strategies to integrate gratitude and positive reflection into daily public health work.

Speakers: **Vaney Hariri, Think 3D Solutions**

Vaney Hariri has been helping people develop intentional cultures for over 16 years in many different levels of his community. As a leader, board member, mentor, and community advocate – his biggest mission is to help people love better, starting with themselves.

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Exhibit Hall A

North Dakota Public Health Awards