



IPHA 85TH ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE CONFERENCE

Together We Thrive

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TENTATIVE

**Crowne Plaza Springfield - Convention Center
Springfield, Illinois**



SEPTEMBER 1-3 | 2026

DAILY OVERVIEW

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 1 | DAY ONE

11:00 AM REGISTRATION OPENS

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM ROUND ONE | PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM Break Time

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM ROUND TWO | PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

DAILY OVERVIEW

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 2 | DAY TWO

7:30 AM REGISTRATION OPENS

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM BREAKFAST | EXHIBIT HALL OPENS

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Welcome | Keynote Address

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM Poster Presentation | Networking | Exhibitors

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM ROUND ONE | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM LUNCH
Poster Presentation | Networking | Exhibitors

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM ROUND TWO | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ROUND THREE | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Community Service Activity

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM DINNER | IPHA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 3 | DAY THREE

6:30 AM REGISTRATION OPENS

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM BREAKFAST
Poster Presentation | Networking | Exhibitors

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM IPHA Annual Business Meeting | Plenary Session

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Welcome | Keynote Address

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM Poster Presentation | Networking | Exhibitors

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM ROUND FOUR | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

12:00 PM Exhibit Hall Closes

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ROUND FIVE | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM LUNCH AND AWARDS

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM Closing Session | Raffle and Prizes

3:00 PM ADJOURN

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS



This track takes a whole-person approach to health by connecting mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Sessions will highlight community-based, clinical, and workplace strategies that support behavioral health, including trauma-informed and culturally responsive practices that promote healing, resilience, and balance. Presentations may also focus on worksite wellness programs and organizational approaches that foster healthier, more supportive environments for employees.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION



This track is all about keeping communities healthy at every stage of prevention. Sessions will explore programs and strategies that support primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. This includes preventing disease before it starts, early detection and treatment, and managing conditions and improving quality of life. Presentations will also highlight how health communication, outreach, and marketing strategies can be used to engage communities, promote healthy behaviors, and increase participation in prevention programs using evidence-based and community-informed approaches.

EMERGING ISSUES AND HOT TOPICS



This track keeps a pulse on what's new and what's next in public health. Sessions will spotlight current challenges, innovative ideas, and lessons learned from the field, offering space to explore issues that are shaping public health practice right now and in the future.

LIFTING UP THE CHW WORKFORCE



This track highlights the people at the heart of community health work. Sessions will focus on ways to support, strengthen, and sustain the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce through training, professional growth, and meaningful integration into health and social service systems. Presentations will share practical approaches that elevate CHW voices and showcase their impact in communities.

OPERATIONALIZING PUBLIC HEALTH



This track focuses on the behind-the-scenes work that keeps public health programs running and visible. Sessions will share practical tools and real-world strategies for turning ideas into action, strengthening organizations, and connecting effectively with the communities they serve. Presentations will highlight approaches that support sustainability, efficiency, and clear communication across public health and community-based settings.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS | ONE

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 2

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

SESSION	SPEAKERS	TRACK
Art as a Medium for Healing: A CHW-Led Project for Grieving Youth	Maureen Burns Kaitlyn Macias	
From Burnout to Balance: Building Mindfulness Into Work and Learning	Misty Rhoads Aimee Janssen-Robinson Nikkie Hillier Amanday Harvey	
Designing for Action: Applying Behavioral Science to Prevention Engagement and Patient Experience	Hale Forster	
Novel Integration of Spatial and Social Determinants of Health to Advance Community Through Human-Centered Design	Brain Chen	
Shared Voices, Shared Solutions: A Listening Session on SNAP Experiences Across Illinois	Alizah Harper Kaitlyn Stetimatter Patrobas Wafula	
Coaching the Community Health Worker	Shameka Simon	
Designing Sustainability for CHWs: Organizational Processes and Billing Opportunities	Tracey Smith Rachael Telleen	
Bringing the Invisible to Light: Showing the Return on Investment of Public Health	Bethanie Albrecht	

BREAKOUT SESSIONS | TWO

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 2

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

SESSION	SPEAKERS	TRACK
To Develop or Disrupt: Choosing the Right Change Strategy	Becky Gabany	
Firearm Safe Storage Initiatives in a Pediatric Health System	Ashley Wolf Anna Volerman	
Prioritizing Health: The Power of Consistency and Daily Habits	Sana Kausar Haibya	
Assessing the Landscape – An Emerging Focus on Men’s Health	Andrew Lerch	
Better Data, Better Care: Community-Driven Sexual & Reproductive Health in Action	Madeline Quasebarth Jameika Sampson	
CHW Certification	Sarahjini Nunn	
Mapping What Matters: Population Data and Predictive Insights for Equitable Community Care	Haley Klitzing Samantha Saini Kailee Zito Rebecca Anderson Don Kauerauf Mike Daggitt	
Measuring What Matters: A Practical Approach to Program Evaluation	Jaweriya Azeem	

BREAKOUT SESSIONS | THREE

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 2

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

SESSION	SPEAKERS	TRACK
The Power of Deflection Initiatives to Transform Behavioral Health Through a Whole-Person Approach	Koren Vanderweele Matt Doss	
Turning Tension into Trust: Evidence-Based Approaches for Navigating Sensitive Health Conversations	Costadina Aneziris	
Navigating Insurance and Finances	Sofia Fernandex Shelby Wells	
Word Requirements, Redeterminations, and the Road Ahead	Kiersten Abate	
The Youth Advantage: Connecting Young People So Communities Thrive Together	Chris Egleston	
Together We Thrive: Strengthening CBO Infrastructure for CHW Sustainability	Makeda Coute Heidi Arthur Leticia Reyes-Nash Gina Massuda Barnett	
Funding the Connective Tissue: Philanthropy's Role in Building Sustainable CHW Workforce Ecosystems	Satori Bailey Angela Baran Veronica Sanchez Villa Tracey Smith	
From Inspection to Action: Building Connected Food Safety Systems in Local Health Departments	Ba Tung Tran Brian Chen	

BREAKOUT SESSIONS | FOUR

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 3

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

SESSION	SPEAKERS	TRACK
The Silent Strain: Breaking the Stigma and Transforming Stress and Burnout to Resilience	Sana Kausar Habiya Jaweriya Azeem	
Coming to RESCUE-IL: State-Funded Stock Inhaler Programming in Illinois Schools	Andrea Pappalardo-Wlochowicz Anna Volerman Paige Hardy	
How to Develop Toolkits for Disease Prevention	Emily Inman Claire Hughes	
OUTSafe: Preventing Violence in Illinois' Older Adult LGBTQ+ Population	Jeffery Erdman	
Thriving Together: CHWs Growing Change Through Urban Agriculture	Jeri Mack	
The Heart of Rural Health: Empowering CHWs as Connectors, Advocates, and Leaders Through Program-Wide Integration	Elsy Ayala Olidia Montoya	
"That's Not Who We Are": How Civic Identity Can Bridge Political Divides	Allie Boman	
Building Bridges Across Illinois: A Roundtable on Public Health Research Collaboration	Aimee Janssen-Robinson Susan Olivo-Marston Amanda Harvey Nikkie Hillier Misty Rhoads	

BREAKOUT SESSIONS | FIVE

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 3

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

SESSION	SPEAKERS	TRACK
Building Survivorship and Caregiver Gaps: Rerouting Programs for Oncology Patients and Providers	Dustin Wilson Ellen Nieman	
From Prevention to Partnerships: Strengthening Oral Health Across Communities	Anushree Tiwari Megan Reutter Jennifer Sherry	
Leveraging Storytelling Campaigns to Address Vaccine Hesitancy: Advocacy Skills and Tools in Action	Arlene Rydak	
Together We Thrive Against AI-Driven Health Misinformation	Tobiloba Olatokun Brian Chen	
Starting a CHW Service: It is a Marathon, Not a Sprint!	Britt Cain Gregory Scott	
Rethinking Community Health Worker Training: Prioritizing Knowledge Over Behavior Change	Tamara Hamlish Tracey Smith Gloria Barrera	
Building a Climate-Ready Illinois: Integrating Health Data and Cross Sector Collaboration	Ian Brooks Graham Briggs Anna Pinsoneault	
From Policy to Practice: Implementing Medicaid Lactation Coverage to Advance Breastfeeding Equity in Illinois	Margaret Saltysiak	