

Project REACH

Rural Experts Advancing Community Health

Katie Rydberg, MPH

Shelly Muñoz, MS

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Rural Experts Advancing Community Health



CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL
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Project REACH Overview

- Initiative of UMN Rural Health Program funded by UMN Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) and Office of Academic and Clinical Affairs (OACA)
- Collaboratively engage with community leaders from rural Minnesota to understand their priorities, and provide leadership training to help them improve health outcomes in their communities
- Provide training and technical assistance around using research and data, health policy, effective policy communication, and civic engagement
- Build a rural health network by connecting community leaders in rural Minnesota with resources, mentors, and expertise at the University of Minnesota and other partners across the state

Project REACH Structure

- Meet twice a month via Zoom for 1.5 hour sessions
- Work with team on policy framing of the local health problem
- Policy communication skill building; writing a policy proposal
- Sharing policy proposal with state legislators and/or other local decision makers
- Support by University of Minnesota learning partners
- No cost to participate and participants receive \$1,200 stipend
- Cost of travel covered
- Additional professional development opportunities
- Alumni Fund

Learning Partners (2021-2025)

- Dr. Ryan Allen, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- Dr. Lynn Blewett, School of Public Health
- Dr. Zobeida Bonilla, School of Public Health
- Alyssa Fritz, Rural Health Research Center
- Dr. Carrie Henning-Smith, Rural Health Research Center/School of Public Health
- Dr. Julia Interrante, Rural Health Research Center
- Dr. Mary Jo Katras, UMN Extension Center for Family Development
- Dr. Katy Backes Kozhimannil, Rural Health Research Center/School of Public Health
- Megan Lahr, Flex Monitoring Team/Rural Health Research Center
- Dr. Eric Lind, Center for Transportation Studies
- Dr. Lacey Loomer, UMN Duluth Labovitz School of Business and Economics
- Dr. Hannah MacDougall, School of Social Work
- Dr. Laura Palombi, UMN Duluth College of Pharmacy
- Maddy Pick, Flex Monitoring Team/Rural Health Research Center
- Megan Schossow, Upper Midwest Agricultural and Safety Health Center
- Dr. Kyle Shelton, Center for Transportation Studies
- Dr. Nathan Shippee, School of Public Health
- Laurissa Stigen, College of Nursing
- Mariana Tuttle, Rural Health Research Center

Project REACH Curriculum

- Defining the policy problem
- Utilizing data to inform local health policy problems
- Understanding the legislative process
- Identifying policy solutions
- Engaging stakeholders in policy work
- How to write a policy proposal
- Running effective meetings with legislators
- Preparing testimony or giving presentations in public forums
- Additional forms of written policy communication (e.g. op-eds, one-pagers, fact sheets)
- Other topics dependent on participant interests

Guest Lecturers (2023-2024)

- Dr. Katy Backes Kozhimannil, UMN Rural Health Research Center
- Dr. Carrie Henning-Smith, UMN Rural Health Research Center
- Sarah Sandgren, Health Care and Aging Outreach Director for Senator Tina Smith
- Senator Aric Putnam, Minnesota Senate District 14
- Molly Malone de Asturias, Former County Commissioner for Murray County
- Betsy Haugen and Molly Niehls, Minnesota Legislative Library
- Ann Bussey, former Project REACH participant
- Dr. Jennifer Aranda, Ellen Wolter, Lisa Hinz, and Isabel-Huot Link, Educators at the UMN Extension
- Erica Barnes, Executive Director of MN Rare Disease Council
- Anita Provinzino, District Administrator, Northern St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District

Day at the Capitol



PROJECT REACH PARTICIPANTS, 2021-24

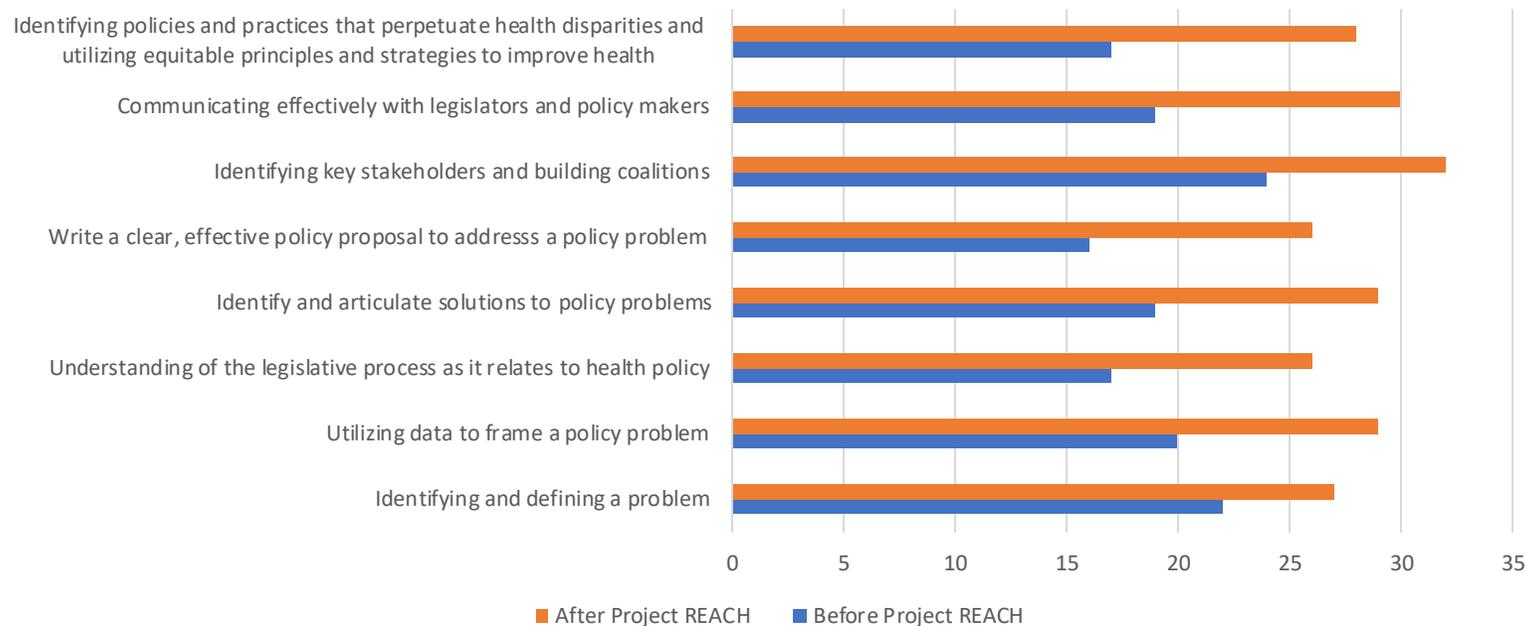


1. Side Lake Ann Bussey, MS Cohort 1		6. New Ulm Erin Schwab, BS Cohort 2		11. Hibbing Shawn Savolainen Cohort 4	
2. Montevideo Leah Lehtola, BS Cohort 1		7. Bemidji Ben Cahill, CHW Cohort 3		12. Winona Dan Wilson Cohort 4	
3. Grand Rapids Adam Pavek, PharmD Cohort 1		8. Brainerd Shelly Muñoz, MS Cohort 3		13. Walker Fatuma Youb, MPH Cohort 4	
4. Hallock Jeanna Kujava, RN, BA Cohort 2		9. International Falls Christina Daniel-McKee Cohort 4			
5. Grand Marais Jodi Tervo Roberts, MS Cohort 2		10. St. Peter Ana Garza, CHW Cohort 4			

Evaluation (2021-2024)

Growth in specific competencies of Project REACH participants

n=8



Application Process

- Application cycle is from January-April
- Two-part process
 - Interest form
 - Application
- Selection based on policy relevance, geographic distribution of participants, and potential impact
- 3-6 people selected per cohort

PROJECT R.E.A.C.H.
(RURAL EXPERTS ADVANCING COMMUNITY HEALTH)
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
POLICY PROJECT

Fellow: Shelly A Munoz



WELCOME TO MY PROJECT OVERVIEW APRIL 15, 2024

- 1) Advocacy for Children's Day – United Way
- 2) Tour of the Capitol
- 3) Sharing of my Policy work with Sarah Sandgren - Senator Tina Smith
- 4) Supporting my friend Erica Barnes and her Policy work on the Minnesota Debt Fairness Act.
- 5) Meeting Attorney General Keith Ellison
- 6) Sharing my Policy work with Representative Joshua Heintzeman
- 7) Sharing my Policy work with Senator Justin Eihorn
- 8) Sharing my Policy work with Ben Lien- Senator Amy Klobuchar
- 9) How my work has continued...





Greater Twin Cities
United Way

ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN DAY



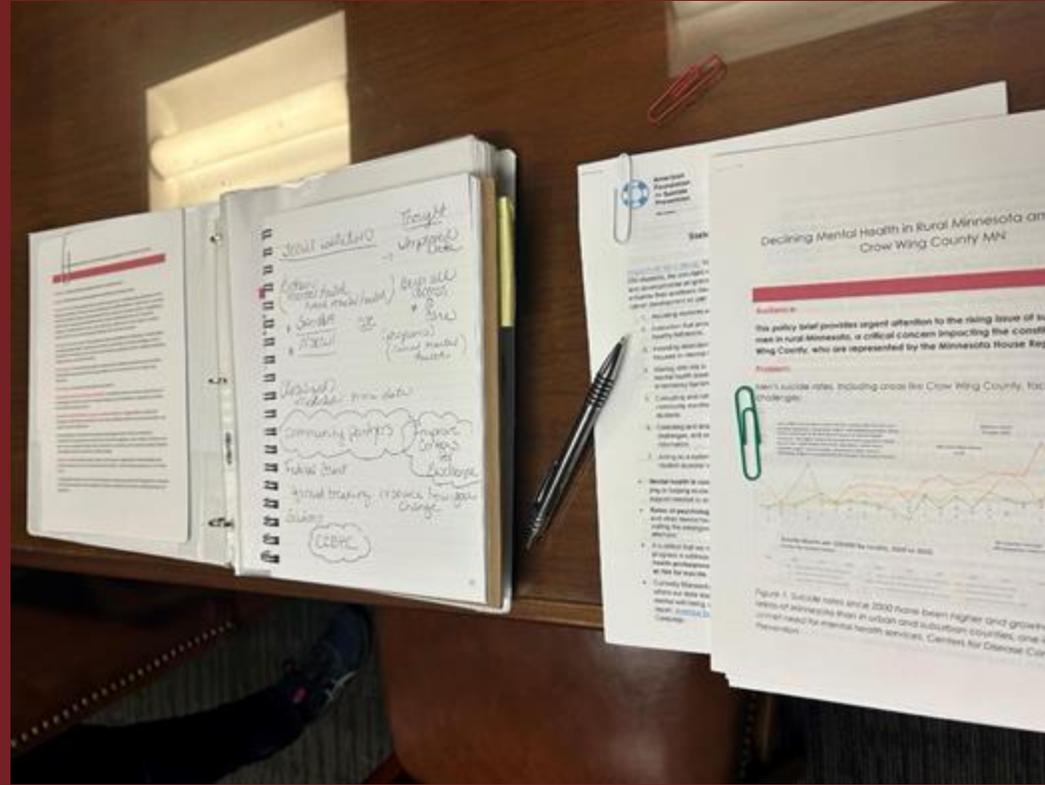
FULL POLICY AND ADVOCACY AGENDA





TOUR OF THE CAPITOL

MEETING WITH SARAH SANDGREN- SENATOR TINA SMITH



MINNESOTA DEBT FAIRNESS ACT



Supporting my friend with her

Policy Work

Erica Barnes

Chloe's Fight Rare Disease Foundation



ATTORNEY GENERAL KEITH ELLISON



It passed!



REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA
HEINTZEMAN



SENATOR JUSTIN
EICHORN



"To create supportive schools and communities where wellness is prioritized, stigma is eliminated, and every student and staff member has access to resources that foster well-being."



Brainerd Public Schools

Opportunity. Innovation. Success.



Sourcewell



REGION FIVE
Development Commission

THANK YOU



Shelly A Munoz

951-970-8110

shellymunoz316@gmail.com

Thank you!

If you have questions about Project REACH, please contact Katie Rydberg at reedx472@umn.edu

Program website:

<https://ctsi.umn.edu/training/project-reach>

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