



MINNESOTA DOCTORS FOR HEALTH EQUITY

2022 ANNUAL MEMBER AND PARTNER REPORT

Mission: Educating and activating Health Professionals to work toward health equity.

Vision: Health Professionals will use their voice, knowledge, and influence to eliminate the inequities that exist in health and healthcare, while working effectively with their patients, health systems, communities, and decision makers to address health equity wherever they live, work, learn, and play.

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President's Message

From Cuong Pham, MD - President, Minnesota Doctors for Health Equity

Looking back at 2022 provides a great opportunity to reflect on the impact of our work. The organization has evolved from what began in 2016 as a collaborative effort to address health disparities in Minnesota to developing resources, tools, and support to ensure sustained action to advance health equity.

This past year, MDHEQ took the important step of developing and adopting a [strategic plan](#), updating the mission and vision, outlining guiding values and principles, and identifying objectives and tactics to advance the mission. In line with this newly adopted strategic plan, this past year MDHEQ made progress in several key areas, particularly reviewing operational leadership needs, establishing a human-centered co-design member engagement framework, and supporting community-led initiatives. Specific examples of this work included: Collaboration to support voter registration and civic health; participation in member and partner social events; hosting a member book club; engaging in a community gun buyback program; sponsoring several student events; supporting financial scholarships for members on a Health Equity fellowship; and organizing our work on food access using a human-centered framework. We also hosted meetings with the MN Department of Human Services Commissioner and community co-designers engaged in our food insecurity project so those experiencing hardships could directly engage and share their stories with state leadership.

Looking to the future, I want to welcome the new Minnesota for Doctors Health Equity Board members, including Dr. Brooke Cunningham, the new MDH Health Commissioner. I am excited to see new voices that represent our communities and health care system. It will be an opportunity for us to refocus our priorities, build accountability in our anti-racism work and ultimately align our mission with the needs for those we care for. Our work is never done and needs to be adaptable and responsive and I look forward to learning from our membership and board in the year to come.



MDHEQ Board President, Cuong Pham, delivering gun locks to a community event



2016- 2021: Founding members began brainstorming an organization for health professionals designed with health equity at the center. Became an official 501c3 and formally launched advocacy and education efforts on racism as a public health crisis, housing, rural health and embedding equity in the COVID-19 response and recovery.

2022: Focusing on Human Centered Co-Design and Community Led Initiatives

(click links for additional information)

November: partnered with White Coats 4 Black Lives for a Teach In on Community Outreach around Health Justice

October: Held Annual Member Meeting focused on the food insecurity co-design project and Owamni's work on Indigenous education and food access

October: Provided a sponsorship opportunity for members to participate in the Center for Health Equity Education and Advocacy Health Equity Scholars program

Q3: Partnered with Vot_ER and sponsored members to attend the Civic Health Conference and activated members to help patients get registered to vote

July: Submitted letter marking the two year anniversary of calling for Minnesota to declare racism as a public health crisis

Q1: Launched the human centered co-design health equity project on food insecurity

October: Partnered with Well Spring Second Chance Center on a Gun Buy Back event to distribute trigger locks

August: partnered with Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate for an event to learn about environmental justice

July: Hosted summer social for members to connect and engage

July: Submitted letter calling on state leaders to protect access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare services

June: Hosted Summer Health Equity Book Club on What We Hunger For: Refugee and Immigrant Stories about Food and Family

Q1: Completed organizational strategic plan for 2022-2025, updating the mission and vision, and outlining guiding values and principles, and identifying objectives and strategies to advance the mission.

Statements

As we look forward, there are many seen and unseen opportunities ahead. As we reflect upon our financial picture in 2022, we are in the strongest position financially since we started our organization. We have sufficient funds to continue our mission for the next two years without additional funding. While we continue to pursue financial partnerships to increase our ability to fund events and projects, we are proud to be starting this year on a strong financial footing. We encourage our members to continue to donate to our mission and continue to help grow this extraordinary organization!

~Tom Schmidt, MD, MDHEQ Treasurer

2022 brought new opportunities for MDHEQ to try to center at the margins. We considered how to better engage with community members experiencing inequities such as food insecurity and homelessness. With this in mind, we focused over the year on a human-centered design approach to centering community member voices with lived experience to help guide our work moving forward. We also grappled with how we as an organization can better collaborate with and support the work of those in the community already doing the work of promoting health equity, deconstructing structural racism, and standing up to white supremacy. There is still much work to do, but I am continuously inspired by my colleagues on the board and members of MDHEQ who ask the questions to push us as an organization toward upholding these ideals. I look forward to continuing the work in 2023.

~Beth Rogers, MD, MAS, MDHEQ Secretary

