



2025 CHEAC Annual Meeting

**Standing Strong for All: Resilience and
Innovation in Public Health**

**Renaissance Palm Springs
October 1 – 3, 2025**

#CHEAC25

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Dear 2025 CHEAC Annual Meeting Attendees,

On behalf of the CHEAC Executive Committee and staff, I'm delighted to welcome you to the 2025 CHEAC Annual Meeting. We are honored to bring together public health professionals from nearly every local health jurisdiction in California.

This year's theme, Standing Strong for All: Resilience and Innovation in Public Health, highlights the dedication of local health department leadership and staff and our shared focus on strengthening strategies and leveraging resources in these uncertain times.

We're excited to host you here in beautiful Riverside County, with a robust agenda of workshops, sponsor-led sessions, and three engaging plenaries designed to provide perspective and practical tools. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the CHEAC team for championing our priorities, elevating our work, and organizing outstanding gatherings like this one.

As CHEAC President, I've witnessed the tireless advocacy of our members and the CHEAC team – work that helped safeguard ongoing state investment in Future of Public Health funding despite challenging fiscal headwinds.

While the future may hold more challenges, I am proud of the unity, resolve, and resourcefulness our members have demonstrated throughout 2025. This conference is a timely chance to share strategies, build connections, and reaffirm our commitment to the communities we serve.

Thank you for traveling to Palm Springs to be part of this important gathering.

I know you'll leave with new insights, stronger partnerships, and a renewed sense of purpose. We are public health—and we will continue to stand strong for all.

Yours in Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Stephens".

Michele Stephens
CHEAC President
Assistant Director, Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services

CHEAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Michele Stephens**, President, Humboldt County
- Jayleen Richards**, Vice President, Solano County
- Kim Saruwatari**, Secretary/Treasurer, Riverside County
- Elsa Jimenez**, Immediate Past President, Monterey County
- Colleen Rodriguez**, Small County Chair, Calaveras County
- Sara Bosse**, Madera County
- Tim Lutz**, Sacramento County
- Elizabeth Hernandez**, San Diego County
- Colleen Chawla**, San Mateo County
- Shelly Davis**, Siskiyou County

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN OPEN FROM 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast	Ballroom Foyer
9:00 am – 9:20 am	Welcome - Riverside County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Van Wagenen, County Executive Officer, Riverside County • V. Manuel Perez, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, Riverside County 	Madera/Pasadena
9:20 am – 10:30 am	Opening Plenary - A Conversation with California State Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Erica Pan, Director, California Department of Public Health • Michelle Baass, Director, California Department of Health Care Services 	Madera/Pasadena
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Breakout #1	Cracking the CMAA Code: Funding Innovation for High-Need Communities	Catalina
	From Ripples to Waves: Growing and Sustaining a Community Water Safety Program	Mojave Learning Center
	From Data to Action: Building a Drug Overdose Surveillance Dashboard	Sierra
	LHD 101 - A Curriculum-Based Approach to Exploring Careers at Local Health Departments	Ventura
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Networking Lunch	

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

(CONTINUED)

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Breakout #2	Equity Roles in California's Local Governments: What Equity Looks Like When Our Country is at a Crossroads	Catalina
	Sparking Innovation: Opportunities for Public Health and Community Development in Uncertain Times	Mojave Learning Center
	Health To Go: Innovating Access to Essential Health Supplies through Public Health Vending Machines	Sierra
	AI in Practice: Responsible Tools for Public Health Departments	Ventura
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Breakout #3	No Data, No Problem: Empowering Rural Traffic Safety with Local Insights	Catalina
	Sailing into the Wind: Adjust Your Sails and Use Adversity to Move Forward	Mojave Learning Center
	With Fire Comes Smoke: Aligning Forest Management and Public Health Communications for Air Quality Response	Sierra
	Public Health Workforce and Training Strategy: Do the Right Thing and Stay the Course with Steady, Continuous Progress	Ventura
4:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own	

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN OPEN FROM 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast	Ballroom Foyer
9:00 am – 10:15 am	Thursday Plenary – Public Health Meets Public Office: A Dialogue with Former Health Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mimi Hall, District 4 Supervisor, Plumas County Lynda Salcido, District 5 Supervisor, Mono County 	Madera/Pasadena
10:45 am – 11:45 am Breakout #4	Building a Resilient Strategic Plan	Catalina
	Creating a Culture of MAA/TCM	Mojave Learning Center
	Bridging the Gap: Aligning CHA/CHIP and PHAB Pathways Recognition to Advance Rural Health Equity	Sierra
	CalAIM Justice-Involved in Action	Ventura
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	Networking Lunch	
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Breakout #5 (continued on next page)	Sailing into the Wind: Adjust Your Sails and Use Adversity to Move Forward	Catalina
	Integrating Climate Change into CHA/CHIPS: A New Resource for Local Health Departments	Mojave Learning Center
	Access and Functional Needs Beyond One-Size-Fits-All: County -Specific Planning and Response Models	Sierra
	AI in Practice: Responsible Tools for Public Health Departments	Ventura

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

(CONTINUED)

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Sponsor Sessions #1	Connecting for Better Health – Breaking Data Silos to Advance CalAIM: Practical Strategies for Improving Access to ECM & Community Supports	Catalina
	Unite Us – Bridging Divides for Holistic Health: Leveraging Technology for Enhanced Interdepartmental Collaboration	Mojave Learning Center
	Innovaccer – How Local Government Can Promote Data Governance in AI-Powered Public Health: Survey Insights, Dialogue, and a Practical Checklist	Sierra
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm Sponsor Sessions #2	Manifest MedEx – Engaging Schools in Health Information Exchange to Support Youth Suicide Prevention	Catalina
	Amazon Web Services – Public Health Modernization: Leveraging GenAI for Government Innovation	Mojave Learning Center
	Metopio – Power of Collaboration: Revolutionizing Public Health Data Access and Strategically Leveraging AI	Sierra
4:45 pm	Dinner on Your Own	

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast	Ballroom Foyer
9:00 am - 10:00 am Breakout #6	Reimagining Public Health with Courage, Creativity, and Community	Catalina
	Public Health on Purpose: How Braided Funding and Strategic Partnerships Power Local Innovation	Mojave Learning Center
	Social Health Information Exchanges: Integrating Cross-Sector Data for WholePerson Care Transformation	Sierra
	Unified Response: A Multidisciplinary Public Health Approach to H5N1	Ventura
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Closing Plenary - Resilient Together: The Heart and Hope of Public Health	Madera/Pasadena
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Umair Shah, Former Secretary, Washington State Department of Health 	

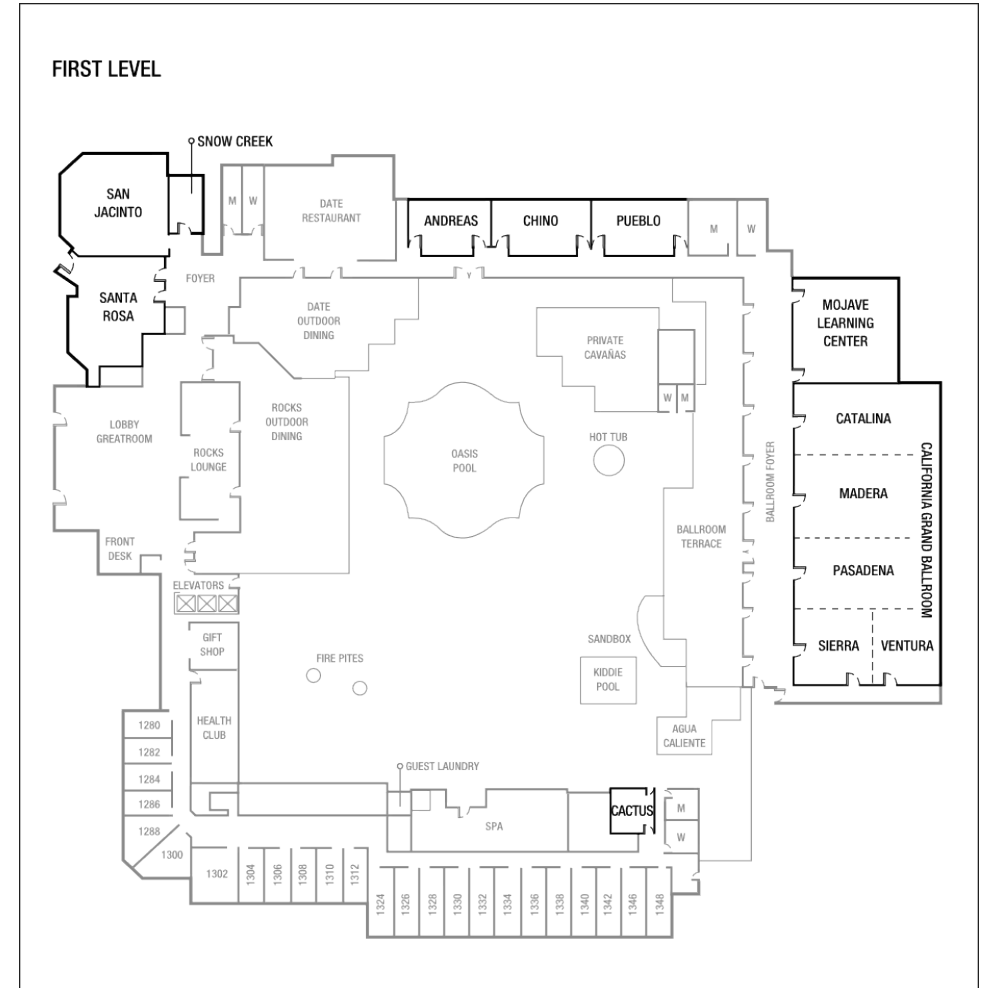


Scan For Event Materials



Scan For Event Evaluation

FACILITY MAP



OPENING PLENARY

CONVERSATION WITH CALIFORNIA STATE LEADERSHIP

Wednesday, October 1 | 9:20 am-10:30 am | Madera/Pasadena

Under the direction of Governor Gavin Newsom, California's health and human services departments and offices are in the midst of numerous ambitious initiatives in pursuit of improving the health and wellbeing of all Californians. Join us for a conversation with state leaders from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) on the Administration's accomplishments, remaining priorities, and how California is responding to federal funding and policy shifts.

Dr. Erica Pan joined CDPH in July 2020 as the Deputy Director for the Center for Infectious Diseases and State Epidemiologist. During that time, she helped lead the state through the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple infectious disease outbreaks, Ebola planning, and the H5N1 bird flu. She was confirmed as the state Health Officer and department Director this spring.

In all, Dr. Pan has more than 20 years of public health leadership experience. Before joining CDPH, she served as the Alameda County Health Officer. In fact, she held various roles at the Alameda County Public Health Department since 2011, including Director of the Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, and Deputy Health Officer.

Dr. Pan is also a clinical professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of California, San Francisco.



Dr. Erica Pan,
MD, MPH, FIDSA,
FAAP, SPHO, Director,
California Department
of Public Health

OPENING PLENARY

(CONTINUED)

Director Michelle Baass was appointed Director of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) by Governor Gavin Newsom in September 2021. Before her appointment to DHCS, Ms. Baass served as Undersecretary of the California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Agency during the COVID-19 pandemic and as Deputy Secretary of the CHHS Office of Program and Fiscal Affairs from 2017 to 2018.

Prior to joining the executive branch, Ms. Baass worked in the Legislature for 13 years, including in the California Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, the Senate Office of Research, and the California Legislative Analyst's Office.

Ms. Baass earned a Master's of Public Policy and Administration degree from California State University, Sacramento, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and German from the University of Notre Dame.



Michelle Baass,
MPPA, Director,
California
Department of
Health Care Services

THURSDAY PLENARY

PUBLIC HEALTH MEETS PUBLIC OFFICE: A DIALOGUE WITH FORMER HEALTH DIRECTORS

Thursday, October 2 | 9:00 am-10:15 am | Madera/Pasadena

Join us for an illuminating conversation with former public health directors and now locally elected leaders as they reflect on their journeys navigating the intersection of public health, policy, and leadership. This plenary will explore the critical lessons learned from leading during times of crisis and calm, and how these leaders leveraged their roles to elevate public health. From building trust with communities to influencing policy, this dialogue offers invaluable insights for current and future public health professionals striving to make lasting impact through public service.



Mimi Hall, MPH,
District 4 Supervisor,
Plumas County

Mimi Hall is a seasoned public health leader with over 20 years of experience advancing local health systems across California. Now serving as District 4 Supervisor on the Plumas County Board of Supervisors, she brings deep expertise in public health and administration to county governance and community leadership.

Throughout her career, Mimi has led transformative public health initiatives at local and state levels, focusing on equity, data-driven decision-making, and cross-sector collaboration. She has held leadership roles on key committees and as President of the County Health Executives Association of California.

Mimi has been a driving force in expanding access to public health data, improving system interoperability, and using analytics to reduce health disparities. She also played a central role in creating the Pajaro Valley Healthcare District and rescuing Watsonville Community Hospital, preserving essential care for underserved communities.

THURSDAY PLENARY

(CONTINUED)

In 2021, she received the PEN America Courage Award for her leadership and transparency during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is the only woman and the first immigrant and minority elected to office in Plumas County.

Lynda Salcido has served Mono County with dedication since 1996, bringing decades of leadership experience in local government and public health to her role on the Board of Supervisors. She spent over 20 years as Mono County's Public Health Director, leading the county through major health initiatives and emergencies — including the COVID-19 pandemic — with steady, compassionate leadership. During this time, she also directed the county's Emergency Medical Services program, served as a board member of the Southern Mono Healthcare District, and was previously called upon to serve in the position of Interim County Administrative Officer.



Lynda Salcido, PHN,
District 5 Supervisor,
Mono County

Following her tenure with Mono County, Lynda was elected to the Mammoth Lakes Town Council, where she served a four-year term. This added a valuable municipal perspective to her already deep understanding of county operations.

Now in her first term as a Mono County Supervisor, Lynda is a committed advocate for rural and frontier communities. Her work is rooted in collaboration, community engagement, and a focus on real-world solutions that serve the public good.

Lynda is also a strong regional voice, building partnerships across Mono, Inyo, and Alpine Counties to address shared challenges and opportunities — making a meaningful difference throughout the Eastern Sierra.

CLOSING PLENARY

RESILIENT TOGETHER: THE HEART AND HOPE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Friday, October 3 | 10:30 am-12:00 pm | Madera/Pasadena

In today's environment, challenges press in from every direction—local, state, federal, media, and everyday life. In this closing plenary, Dr. Umair Shah will explore how local public health leaders and staff can remain strong amid complexity and change. Drawing on decades of experience across diverse communities, he will highlight resilience, collaboration, and tenacity while reminding us that the true strength of public health lies in our people, who heed the call to lead with heart and hope.



Dr. Umair Shah,
MD, MPH, Former
Secretary, Washington
State Department of
Health

Dr. Umair A. Shah is a physician, public health leader, and expert in health transformation with more than two decades of experience bridging healthcare and public health. He most recently served as Secretary of Health for Washington State, where the agency received national recognition for its work in innovation, strategic partnerships, and public health communications.

Previously, Dr. Shah led Harris County Public Health in Texas — the health department for the nation's third-largest county — where his leadership earned national honors, including recognition as Local Health Department of the Year. He also served as president of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), representing more than 3,000 local health departments across the country. During his time in Texas, he spent two decades as an emergency physician in the VA health system, deepening his expertise in clinical care and crisis response.

CLOSING PLENARY

(CONTINUED)

Now based in the Seattle area, Dr. Shah holds faculty appointments at the University of Washington, Washington State University, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Texas. He is the founder of Rickshaw Health, a consultancy advising health agencies and leaders on strategy, innovation, and systems change. His leadership is grounded in his Asian American heritage, Midwestern upbringing, and Texas roots — values that continue to shape his commitment to resilience, excellence, and meaningful impact in health.

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #1

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Cracking the CMAA Code: Funding Innovation for High-Need Communities Catalina

Learn how a small county is streamlining costs, supporting local research, and creating funding innovations by leveraging existing County-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities funding with a recipe that is applicable to counties of any size. Calaveras County has participated in the CMAA program since 2003, but it wasn't until 2025 that a formal system for allocating these crucial funds was developed. To align funding with local health priorities, the county created the CMAA Revenue and Request Policy, optimizing resources, fostering collaboration, and addressing key community needs. Attendees will learn about the practical tools and strategies needed to replicate or adapt the framework while strengthening health infrastructure in their communities.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Justin Barnes, Calaveras County Public Health
Haley Graham, Calaveras County Public Health
Kyrié Byker, Calaveras County Public Health
Colleen Rodriguez, Calaveras County Public Health

From Ripples to Waves: Growing and Sustaining a Community Water Safety Program Mojave Learning Center

Learn how to create and grow a sustainable, high-impact water safety program through innovative outreach, creative funding, and strong partnerships. This workshop offers strategies to address unique challenges in foothill communities—where natural hazards, limited resources, tourists and dispersed populations demand tailored solutions. Focused on sustainability, the model combines braided funding with community collaboration to build resilient water safety initiatives. Participants will explore how to develop these programs from the ground up, empowering communities to take ownership and turn small ripples into lifesaving waves. While originally designed for rural contexts, the approach is adaptable for suburban and urban communities alike.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Joanne Hasson, Amador County Public Health
Marcy Harlan, Amador County Public Health
Stacey Frame, Amador County Public Health
Lindsey Clark, Amador County Public Health

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #1

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

From Data to Action: Building a Drug Overdose Surveillance Dashboard Sierra

Walk through the process of developing the Overdose Surveillance and Response Program's drug overdose surveillance dashboard, from planning to final publication. The process begins with identifying core objectives, stakeholders, and assessing available data. See how data is then processed using SAS statistical software and drafted in Tableau for review by leadership. The final steps involve previewing the dashboard to external partners and developing a media launch strategy. This workshop will provide practical tips for each stage of development and review lessons learned to help other jurisdictions build an effective and dynamic surveillance tool.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Kristen A. Angel, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency
Fatema Sakha, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency
Nathaly J. Moran, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency

LHD 101 - A Curriculum-Based Approach to Exploring Careers at Local Health Departments Ventura

Take an in-depth look at a newly developed curriculum designed to introduce high school and college students to careers at local health departments (LHDs). Created to foster a pipeline of new public health professionals in central California the curriculum offers students a clear understanding of pathways into stable and rewarding careers in LHDs.

Workshop participants will gain insight into the curriculum's development, structure, content, and implementation strategy. This workshop is ideal for educators, public health professionals, and workforce development leaders looking to inspire and prepare the next generation of Public Health.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Alyssa Kennett, Central California Public Health Consortium

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #2

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Equity Roles in California's Local Governments: What Equity Looks Like When Our Country is at a Crossroads

Catalina

In recent years, equity roles in government agencies, particularly public health departments, have rapidly expanded, with California leading the way. Eighty percent of health departments in the San Francisco Bay Area have equity officers, and the California Department of Public Health has funded efforts to replicate this model statewide. BARHII has supported this growth through assessments, tools, and communities of practice.

However, local governments are now navigating how to sustain and advance health equity in line with legal commitments and values in a shifting federal landscape. This workshop will explore strategies equity staff are using to promote equitable policies and practices and how California departments are defending progress in the face of federal challenges.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Melissa Jones, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII)
Sefanit Mekuria, Contra Costa County Health
Jeremy Scruggs, City of Long Beach Health and Human Services
Judis Santos, Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Government

Health To Go: Innovating Access to Essential Health Supplies Through Public Health Vending Machines

Sierra

Join the Sonoma County Department of Health Services for an inside look at Health To Go — their innovative spin on public health vending machines (PHVMs). This workshop will offer practical insights and replicable strategies for delivering health resources to underserved populations by combining innovative technology with public health best practices. Health To Go aims to expand access to essential health supplies for county residents living in low-resourced areas and those disproportionately affected by drug overdose deaths.

Explore the challenges of implementing Health To Go, from navigating a volatile funding landscape and establishing financially resilient revenue streams to securing positive media attention. The session will also outline the County's plans for future expansion and provide actionable recommendations for scaling the model to other jurisdictions.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Alyssa Hamilton, Sonoma County Department of Health Services

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #2

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

** 1 of 2 identical offerings*

AI in Practice: Responsible Tools for Public Health Departments

Ventura

Join this workshop for a forward-looking discussion on the role of Generative AI (GenAI) in public health. This workshop will explore how the California Department of Public Health is pioneering GenAI adoption across programs — from enterprise adoption of tools like Microsoft 365 Copilot and usage of Azure OpenAI to launching initiatives like the Health Facility Evaluation Citation Assistant. Learn how the department is leveraging current resources to balance innovation with governance, privacy, and equity, and what it means to lead responsibly in a rapidly evolving AI landscape.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Ian Sanford, CDPH Technology Integration Services Branch

Sparking Innovation: Opportunities for Public Health and Community Development in Uncertain Times

Mojave Learning Center

The public health sector is facing significant challenges, but the changing landscape also presents opportunities to forge new partnerships. Join us for a dynamic conversation exploring public health partnerships with those shaping the built environment, specifically the community development sector. Community development is a ready-made partner in initiatives like CalAIM, offering opportunities to integrate housing and other community and healthcare supports.

This workshop will discuss priority actions, areas of focus, and key components for meaningful collaboration between these sectors. We will also share insights from a valuable primer supporting public health and community development collaboration, developed through a partnership between Build Healthy Places Network and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Ruth Thomas-Squance, Build Healthy Places Network
Noni Ramos, Housing Trust Silicon Valley
Romi Hall, Center for Community Investment

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #3

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

No Data, No Problem: Empowering Rural Traffic Safety with Local Insights Catalina

Many rural local health jurisdictions struggle to prove their needs without formal datasets, creating a Catch-22 that hinders access to funding. Calaveras County Public Health (CCPH) overcame this barrier by orchestrating grassroots data-gathering efforts around vehicle occupant safety, enabling the department to win its first general grant from the Office of Traffic Safety to directly address community-specific concerns.

Building on this success, CCPH is designing and deploying a mixed-methods motorcycle safety survey to identify local risk factors alongside a motorcycle helmet and car seat belt usage survey. Session attendees will gain practical guidance on structuring in-kind and primary data collection projects, leveraging results to strengthen future grant proposals, and implementing targeted, data-driven public health interventions.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Justin Barnes, Calaveras County Public Health
Haley Graham, Calaveras County Public Health

Kyrié Byker, Calaveras County Public Health
Colleen Rodriguez, Calaveras County Public Health

** 1 of 2 identical offerings*

Sailing into the Wind: Adjust Your Sails and Use Adversity to Move Forward Mojave Learning Center

Feeling the wind in your face? Join this interactive workshop to unpack the oppositional forces you are experiencing and explore the mindsets and strategies that can keep you — and your department — moving forward.

In this workshop, participants will:

- Learn how to think about Public Health goals from a Connected World View
- Work with colleagues to explore where is the wind coming from, what power they hold, and what you can influence.
- Hear the impacts of living in fear.
- Apply Connected World View mindsets to “adjust your sails” and keep moving forward.
- See the tangible benefits of honoring the wind.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Sara Bosse, Madera County Department of Public Health

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #3

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

With Fire Comes Smoke: Aligning Forest Management and Public Health Communications for Air Quality Response Sierra

As wildfire risk grows in California, public health departments are stepping up to address the health impacts of smoke exposure while supporting fire management efforts. Learn about Tuolumne County Public Health Department's (TCPH) cross-government approach through the Social Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) 2.0 initiative. In collaboration with local and federal agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service and EPA, TCPH has developed a framework that aligns prescribed fire operations with timely, population-specific air quality communications to reduce smoke-related health risks.

Participants will learn about this model's interagency coordination, tools like AirNow and PurpleAir, and tailored messaging for vulnerable groups, such as children and older adults. The session will also cover efforts to evaluate impact, inform future planning, and secure sustainable funding.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Kristina Herrera, Tuolumne County Public Health

Public Health Workforce and Training Strategy: Do the Right Thing and Stay the Course with Steady, Continuous Progress Ventura

San Diego County's Public Health Services (PHS) is transforming its workforce infrastructure through the CDC Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), focusing on continuous progress and a people-first strategy to meet evolving public health needs.

This workshop will showcase innovations such as the Public Health 101 Series, and its original training on Outbreak Management. Attendees will learn how initiatives such as leadership development efforts, revamped onboarding, the new Wellness Plan, targeted surveys, and standardized training are improving staff engagement, competencies, and preparedness. The session will explore how to sustain and scale innovative workforce solutions, ensuring departments remain resilient in the face of future public health challenges.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Jo-Ann Julien, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

10:45 am - 11:45 am

Building a Resilient Strategic Plan Catalina

Developing a robust strategic plan is essential for local health departments seeking to achieve long-term goals and navigate this current, and ever-evolving landscape. This dynamic workshop provides a comprehensive overview of a strategic plan revision process with a focus on health equity and empowering participants with the knowledge and tools to drive organizational success using a results-based accountability framework. This workshop will provide context for how the original plan was developed, how performance measures were identified, and how staff—department-wide—engaged in this collaborative process. The workshop will also review the importance of connecting your strategic plan with accreditation/re-accreditation efforts.

Through a blend of this real-world case study, and expert guidance, attendees will gain practical experience in crafting a robust strategic framework. Attendees will be equipped with the skills to engage staff in naming and addressing challenges and opportunities, fostering a culture of proactive decision-making.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Tanya Bustamante, City of Berkeley, Health, Housing, & Community Services Department
Niccore Tyler, Marin County Health and Human Services

Creating a Culture of MAA/TCM Mojave Learning Center

Join this workshop to learn how to leverage the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) Program within the Justice Involved Reentry Initiative (JIRI) and Targeted Case Management (TCM) in Tuberculosis control by building strong relationships with key stakeholders, securing leadership engagement, and piloting the program in new areas for long-term sustainability. Using JIRI and Tuberculosis control as examples, we'll highlight strategies for onboarding new programs into MAA and TCM, demonstrating how interagency collaboration can unlock federal reimbursement opportunities. Learn leadership engagement strategies, stakeholder alignment, and steps for scaling MAA to enhance public health efforts. Participants will also gain insights into developing resources that support the long-term sustainability of MAA/TCM.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Venus Zayas, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency
Ben Simsuangco, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency
Dora Zeevaert, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency
Elisa Mack, Hansine Fisher and Associates

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

10:45 am - 11:45 am

Bridging the Gap: Aligning CHA/CHIP and PHAB Pathways Recognition to Advance Rural Health Equity Sierra

Rural health departments experience significant barriers in conducting comprehensive CHA/CHIP processes that meet PHAB requirements. Geographic isolation, limited staffing, and data constraints due to small sample sizes challenge a rural health department's ability to engage their community and craft actionable health improvement plans. This workshop will highlight successful approaches from Colusa County and partner organizations to overcome these challenges by centering health equity, fostering cross-sector collaboration, and aligning CHA/CHIP activities with PHAB's Standards & Measures. Public health staff will share practical lessons on navigating Pathways Recognition expectations, leveraging community partnerships, and translating assessment data into targeted health improvement strategies. Participants will leave equipped with tools and frameworks to strengthen their rural public health infrastructure and advance Pathways Recognition readiness.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Sofia Becerra, Colusa County Public Health
Abigale Henderson, Colusa County Health and Human Services
Kaela Beckley, Colusa County Public Health
Mariza Manson, Colusa County Public Health

CalAIM Justice-Involved in Action Ventura

Learn from Yuba and Sutter Counties' groundbreaking efforts to plan and implement the CalAIM Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative. Yuba County was among the first jurisdictions to go live in October 2024 and has been a pioneer in learning how to build sustainability and the true applicability of the program within a county jail and a youth detention center. With a strong partnership between the two counties, Sutter County was able to launch two quarters later in April 2025, still amongst some of the first counties to go live in the state of California.

Hear from the managers of the CalAIM Justice-Involved Reentry Program about their overall planning process and the innovative lessons learned along the way. This workshop will share a wealth of knowledge and experience that is beneficial for counties that have gone live — and those that are still in the planning phase.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Stephanie Lucio, Yuba County
Christa McCauley, Sutter County

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #5

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

** 1 of 2 identical offerings*

Sailing into the Wind: Adjust Your Sails and Use Adversity to Move Forward Catalina

Feeling the wind in your face? Join this interactive workshop to unpack the oppositional forces you are experiencing and explore the mindsets and strategies that can keep you—and your department—moving forward.

In this workshop, participants will:

- Learn how to think about Public Health goals from a Connected World View
- Work with colleagues to explore where is the wind coming from, what power they hold, and what you can influence.
- Hear the impacts of living in fear.
- Apply Connected World View mindsets to “adjust your sails” and keep moving forward.
- See the tangible benefits of honoring the wind.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Sara Bosse, Madera County Department of Public Health

Integrating Climate Change into Community Health Assessments and Improvement Plans: A New Resource for Local Health Departments

Mojave Learning Center

California faces escalating climate-driven challenges, from wildfires and heat waves to air pollution and harmful algal blooms. Local public health departments are key to both immediate response and long-term resilience, and require practical tools to integrate climate considerations into public health frameworks.

This workshop introduces action-oriented guidance developed by the Public Health Alliance in partnership with the California Department of Public Health to provide local health jurisdictions with a roadmap to embed climate change into Community Health Assessments (CHAs) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs). Participants will explore successful integration strategies, available resources, and implementation challenges, gaining practical tools to strengthen community climate resilience that complement the MAPP framework and meet Public Health Accreditation Board standards.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Savannah North, Public Health Alliance
Elizabeth Rhoades, California Department of Public Health

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #5

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Access and Fundamental Needs Beyond One-Size-Fits-All: County-Specific Planning and Response Models

Sierra

Explore diverse approaches to addressing Access and Functional Needs (AFN) in emergency planning, preparation, and response across large and small counties. Participants will gain insight into the practical implementation of varying strategies, including the creation and management of opt-in registries, the collaborative acquisition of identified data from partner agencies, and the development of an AFN workgroup utilizing an innovative information dissemination model. Each county's unique demographics, resources, and challenges will be highlighted, demonstrating how tailored solutions can effectively enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations during emergencies.

The workshop will emphasize the importance of understanding community-specific needs, data privacy, and leveraging available resources to develop effective AFN strategies, as well as how to integrate AFN considerations into existing emergency management frameworks.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Brianne Chappell-McGovern, Mono County Public Health
Elizabeth Rubin, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

** 1 of 2 identical offerings*

AI in Practice: Responsible Tools for Public Health Departments

Ventura

Join this workshop for a forward-looking discussion on the role of Generative AI (GenAI) in public health. This workshop will explore how the California Department of Public Health is pioneering GenAI adoption across programs — from enterprise adoption of tools like Microsoft 365 Copilot and usage of Azure OpenAI to launching initiatives like the Health Facility Evaluation Citation Assistant. Learn how the department is leveraging current resources to balance innovation with governance, privacy, and equity, and what it means to lead responsibly in a rapidly evolving AI landscape.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Ian Sanford, CDPH Technology Integration Services Branch

SPONSOR SESSIONS

SESSION #1

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Connecting for Better Health – Breaking Data Silos to Advance CalAIM: Practical Strategies for Improving Access to ECM & Community Supports

Catalina

Local health departments and Continuums of Care (CoCs) in California struggle to access and share the data needed to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports under CalAIM.

This workshop will share lessons learned and strategies from recent technical assistance initiatives aimed at overcoming data matching and sharing barriers. BluePath Health will present a structured approach to cross-sector collaboration, focusing on improving care coordination, streamlining data access, and facilitating joint problem-solving.

Participants will engage in a hands-on activity to identify local data-sharing challenges, draft use cases for coordination, and explore solutions that support CalAIM while respecting privacy and operational constraints.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Timi Leslie, Connecting for Better Health, President, BluePath Health

Julie Silas, HomeBase

Eric Gianella, McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University

Christina Andersen, Connecting for Better Health

Unite Us – Bridging Divides for Holistic Health: Leveraging Technology for Enhanced Interdepartmental Collaboration in California Health Departments

Mojave Learning Center

Are your health and social services systems siloed?

As California strives for integrated, whole person care, effective collaboration across diverse departments — from public health and behavioral health to social services and housing — is paramount. However, traditional siloed structures often impede seamless communication, referral pathways, and shared accountability, leading to fragmented care experiences and inefficient resource utilization.

This workshop will show how counties are using technology to foster robust interdepartmental connections within county health systems by using streamlined referral management, data-driven decision making, and improved cross-sector coordination to build stronger community networks and provide the right care at the right time. (Facilitator & Panelists continued on next page).

SPONSOR SESSIONS

SESSION #1

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Facilitator & Panelists:

Alice Steiner, Unite Us

Justin Barnes, Calaveras County Public Health

Innovaccer – How Local Government Can Promote Data Governance in AI-Powered Public Health: Survey Insights, Dialogue, and a Practical Checklist

Sierra

Artificial intelligence is set to transform public health, from disease surveillance to equity-focused interventions. However, adoption in local and state health departments remains low (5 percent), despite 60 percent of frontline staff using AI tools informally, signaling a critical readiness gap.

In this interactive workshop, participants will explore key findings on AI awareness, infrastructure, staffing, data governance, and the contrast between informal and formal adoption.

- **Take Home an Actionable Checklist:** Leave with a practical roadmap for building your health department's AI strategy, focusing on data governance, compliance, and organizational readiness.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Jennifer Conner, Innovaccer

Anil Jain, Innovaccer

Brian Thomas, Alameda County Health

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SESSION #2

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Manifest MedEx – Engaging Schools in Health Information Exchange to Support Youth Suicide Prevention

Catalina

Schools play a crucial role in student health but often lack access to protected health information (FERPA & HIPAA), limiting their ability to support students effectively. Meanwhile, public health departments are turning to nonprofit Health Information Organizations (HIOs) for cost-effective, innovative solutions to improve public health initiatives, including disease management and syndromic surveillance.

In 2024, Fresno County partnered with Manifest MedEx, California's largest nonprofit HIO, to launch the Youth Suicide Prevention Project. The initiative uses real-time hospital ADT notifications and longitudinal patient records to identify at-risk students and trigger timely interventions. With a pilot program involving two schools and 30,000 students, Manifest MedEx monitors hospital admissions for suicide-related diagnoses, then sends encrypted alerts to the schools to coordinate care and support. This collaboration ensures timely intervention while adhering to FERPA and HIPAA regulations. Fresno plans to expand the project to five schools in the 2025-2026 school year.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Jason Buckner, Health Information Exchange

Joe Prado, Fresno County Department of Public Health

Metopio – Power of Collaboration: Revolutionizing Public Health Data Access and Strategically Leveraging AI

Sierra

Public health departments face increasing community needs with fewer resources. This workshop will showcase how one local health department turned this challenge into an opportunity by launching a Health Atlas — a centralized platform integrating over 100 health and social indicators developed in tandem with Metopio.

Participants will see how tools like the Health Atlas can break down data silos, drive informed action, and promote a more inclusive, resilient public health approach. Through live demonstrations and real-world use cases, attendees will learn to apply these strategies to their own jurisdictions.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Angie Grover, Metopio

SPONSOR SESSIONS

SESSION #2

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Amazon Web Services – Public Health Modernization: Leveraging GenAI for Government Innovation

Mojave Learning Center

In an era of rapid technological advancement, public health departments are increasingly leveraging generative AI and cloud technologies to revolutionize operational efficiency and data-driven decision-making. This workshop explores cutting-edge implementations of Amazon Web Services and generative AI technologies that are reshaping the landscape of public health data management and analysis.

Attendees will explore three groundbreaking use cases that demonstrate the transformative potential of advanced AI technologies, including Intelligent Document Processing (IDP) using Amazon Bedrock's Data Automation (BDA) feature, and Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) Data Extraction that leverages Bedrock's generative AI to streamline critical health data extraction and improve data accuracy and processing speed. Also learn how Amazon Q in QuickSight can create dynamic, interactive health data visualizations and enable rapid insights and predictive analytics.

Gain practical insights into cutting-edge AI technologies that can dramatically improve data processing, analysis, and strategic decision-making in public health environments.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Jim Daniel, Amazon Web Services

Venkata Kampana, Amazon Web Services

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #6

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
9:00 am - 10:00 am

Reimagining Public Health with Courage, Creativity, and Community Catalina

Public health in California is under unprecedented attack, and Defend California is a growing movement of residents, grassroots leaders, and public health advocates working together to protect essential public health infrastructure while challenging ourselves to build something better: systems that are responsive, community-rooted, and equity-driven. Explore how we can hold this dual imperative — defending what works and transforming what doesn't.

Using interactive tools from the Gamestorming methodology, this workshop will engage participants in collaborative exercises that blur the line between practitioner and community, allowing each to leverage their unique spheres of influence. The result: renewed clarity, deeper connection, and practical ideas for defending and evolving public health systems that reflect the lived realities of California's most impacted communities.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Kula Koenig, Public Health Advocates
Hannah Seriki, Public Health Alliance

Savannah North, Public Health Alliance

Public Health on Purpose: How Braided Funding and Strategic Partnerships Power Local Innovation Mojave Learning Center

In rural and resource-limited regions, innovation isn't just a strategy — it's a necessity. Inyo County has built a model of resilience by braiding funding streams, sharing staff across programs, and forging deep, effective partnerships with community-based organizations and Managed Care Plans (MCPs). This workshop will explore how a small local health department has leveraged creativity and collaboration to implement CalAIM initiatives, expand prevention efforts, and support community-centered events like LIFE Night — an innovative monthly gathering where families connect with services, resources, and one another in a trusted, welcoming space.

Hear from a facilitated panel who will share their perspectives and lessons learned from working together to stretch limited dollars while staying grounded in community need. Participants will gain insight into how cross-agency partnerships and flexible, purpose-driven funding strategies can drive innovation. Attendees will leave with replicable approaches to building strong collaborative relationships and maximizing impact through shared vision and strategic coordination.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Stephanie Tanksley, Inyo County Health and Human Services
Eliana Argueta, Health Net

Katelyne Lent, Inyo County Health and Human Services
Vanessa Bigham, Inyo County Health and Human Services

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #6

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
9:00 am - 10:00 am

Social Health Information Exchanges: Integrating Cross-Sector Data for Whole-Person Care Transformation Sierra

The challenges facing County Health and Human Service agencies today demand a more integrated, data-driven approach to service delivery. As state and local agencies and community-based organizations seek to improve health outcomes, reduce disparities, and address social determinants of health, the need for seamless data-sharing across sectors has never been greater. This workshop will explore how agencies and community-based organizations can leverage cross-sector data — spanning healthcare, housing, social services, education, and justice systems — to create a more coordinated and person-centered approach to care, truly driving the vision of Whole Person Care. Key discussion points will include an overview of why Alameda and Sacramento embarked on the Social Health Information Exchanges journey, what policy and governance considerations for inter-agency data-sharing were critical to the process and what strategies were considered to ensure privacy, security, and trust among stakeholders. The workshop will also discuss how the counties are working with partner entities (government, non-profit and for-profit) to effectively expedite data sharing agreements supporting cross-sector collaboration.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Timothy W. Lutz, Sacramento County Health Services
Brian Thomas, Alameda County Public Health

Jenine Spotnitz, Sacramento County Health Services
Reddy Gurram, Sacramento County Department of Technology

Unified Response: A Multidisciplinary Public Health Approach to H5N1 Ventura

This interactive workshop will highlight the dynamic, collaborative response to the H5N1 outbreak in Tulare County, bringing together leaders from Communicable Disease (CD), Epidemiology (EPI), Environmental Health (EH), Laboratory Services, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP). Participants will gain insight into the challenges and successes of a multidisciplinary public health team working in unison during an emergent zoonotic threat. The session will walk attendees through Tulare County's real-time activation, coordination, surveillance, communication, and resource mobilization strategies, emphasizing resilience, adaptability, and innovation in public health response and practice.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Annette Burgos, Tulare County Public Health
Lisa Seliskar, Tulare County Public Health
Jessica Kulow, Tulare County Public Health

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HFA offers a continuum of services to optimize Medicaid reimbursement through federal claiming. A critical focus of HFA's work is to increase understanding of how these Medicaid claiming options align with the everyday work of public health.

HFA's contract work in California includes extensive hands-on technical assistance and support to counties, cities, and school districts for Medicaid Administrative Claiming, Targeted Case Management, and CalAIM.

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About Innovaccer

Innovaccer empowers California public sector agencies to deliver whole-person care by unifying fragmented data and enabling coordinated care across clinical and community organizations. Our robust solutions span Social Health Information Exchange (SHIE)/ Community Information Exchange (CIE), case management, public health analytics, population health, and interoperability. Innovaccer's AI-powered, FHIR-enabled platform supports state and county government agencies improve oversight, enhance programmatic efficiency, and drive actionable insights that promote better community health outcomes.

Rated #1 by KLAS, Innovaccer is trusted by organizations like San Mateo County Health, Alameda County and Sacramento County Department of Health Services.

Awards and Recognitions



For more information, please visit [innovaccer.com](https://www.innovaccer.com)

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- ✓ Access data for Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans
- ✓ Improve public health outcomes
- ✓ Participate in the Data Exchange Framework (DxF)

To learn more about Manifest MedEx, California's largest nonprofit qualified health information organization (QHIO), please visit us at manifestmedex.org or contact us at info@manifestmedex.org.



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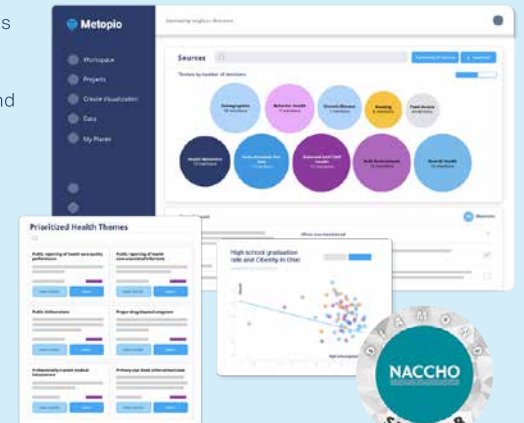
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The flexibility of the platform allowed us to use our staff's time more efficiently, which made a significant difference in how we approached public health planning and provided our partners with the customized analysis they needed."
COMMUNITY HEALTH DIRECTOR

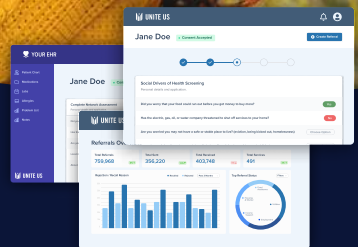


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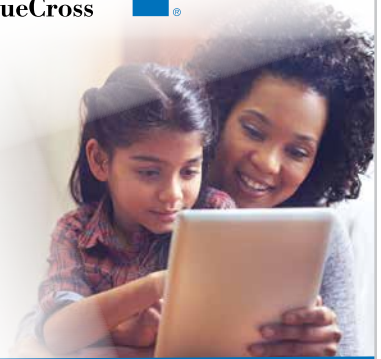
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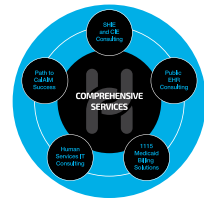
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