

Public Health Leaders Summit

2026



Clayton, NY | Oct 14th - Oct 16th



Finding True North: Navigating
Public Health Through Change



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2026

12:00 PM - REGISTRATION OPEN

1:00 - 1:15 PM - CONFERENCE KICK-OFF OPENING REMARKS

CHERYL DONALD, MBA, MA, LMFT - DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AT THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1:15 - 2:15 PM - BEYOND INVESTMENT: SUSTAINING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY

Explore how local health departments can apply Mission Essential Function (MEF) tools to support long-term capacity and future public health system planning

KESHANA OWENS-CODY, MS - DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MOLLY FLEMING, MPH - LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT LIAISON, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MEREDITH PATTERSON, MPH, CPH - SENIOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND REGIONAL OFFICE LIAISON, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2:15 - 3:45 PM - TRANSFORMING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

Local health department leaders will share approaches to workforce sustainability, with a focus on recruitment, retention, and the impact of Public Health Infrastructure Grant investments. Panelists will discuss lessons learned, promising practices, and strategies for strengthening the local public health workforce.

JILL BURLEY, RN, BSN - DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LIVINGSTON COUNTY

JENNIE SUTCLIFFE, MSC - PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR, TOMPKINS COUNTY WHOLE HEALTH

EVE WALTER, PHD - PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR, ULSTER COUNTY





WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2026

3:45 - 4:15 PM - HOTEL CHECK-IN AND BREAK

6:00 PM- DINNER AND COHORT 2 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

**6:30 PM - WHO'S IN THE ROOM? AN INTRODUCTION TO
COHORT 2 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM AND NYSACHO'S PAST
BOARD DIRECTORS**

MARY FRAN WACHUNAS, CPH - SPECIAL PROJECT EXECUTIVE, NYSACHO

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2026

7:45 AM - REGISTRATION OPEN

**7:45 - 8:45 AM - RISE & ADVISE: LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS
WITH NYSACHO'S PAST BOARD DIRECTORS**

Connect with members of NYSACHO's Past Directors Council for informal conversation, mentoring, and reflections from experienced public health leaders.

LAWRENCE EISENSTEIN, MD, MPH, FACP - VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH, CATHOLIC HEALTH

FRANK KRUPPA, MPA, MPH - ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & PARTNER INTEGRATION, CAYUGA HEALTH

SUSAN FRANKO, PHD - PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

DANIEL STAPLETON, MBA - PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO, FORMER PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR, NIAGARA COUNTY

MARY FRAN WACHUNAS, CPH - SPECIAL PROJECT EXECUTIVE, NYSACHO





THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2026

8:45 - 9:00 AM - CONFERENCE OPENING REMARKS

STEPHEN JENNINGS, MS - PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR, JEFFERSON COUNTY

TYLER SHAW, MHA - PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR, ALLEGANY COUNTY

9:00 - 10:45 AM - CHANGE MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PART I

Explore the Bridges Transition Model to better understand how people experience change, common reactions to uncertainty, and practical strategies for leading yourself and others through organizational transition.

JOHN ZACHARY - SENIOR FACILITATOR AND MANAGER AT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

10:45 - 11:00 AM - BREAK & VISIT EXHIBITORS

11:00 - 12:30 PM - CHANGE MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PART II

Apply tools framework to real-world change scenarios and explore approaches for leading change initiatives through structured change management practices.

JOHN ZACHARY - SENIOR FACILITATOR AND MANAGER AT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

12:30 - 1:30 PM - LUNCH, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SOLUTIONS PRESENTATION

Grab lunch and return to the meeting space by **1:00pm** for the presentation





THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2026

1:00 - 3:30 PM - CHANGE MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PART III

Strengthen communication strategies for change initiatives through interactive activities and explore frameworks to build resilience and leadership effectiveness in complex, rapidly changing environments.

JOHN ZACHARY - SENIOR FACILITATOR AND MANAGER AT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

3:30 - 3:45 PM - BREAK & VISIT EXHIBITORS

3:45 - 4:15 PM - CHANGE MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PART IV

Reflect on key lessons from the day, identify practical applications for your organization, and develop a personal commitment to action for leading change more effectively.

JOHN ZACHARY - SENIOR FACILITATOR AND MANAGER AT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

6:00 PM - DINNER & VISIT EXHIBITORS

6:45 PM - BEATS & BINGO: A PUBLIC HEALTH REMIX

Enjoy an evening of music, networking, and friendly competition as attendees play Music Bingo for a chance to win prizes. A fun and relaxed way to connect with colleagues and celebrate the Summit. 🎵🏆

SARA BOERENKO, LCSW, MPH - DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY MENTAL HYGIENE SERVICES, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

KEITH BROWN, MPH - PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR, SCHENECTADY COUNTY





FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 2026

7:30 AM - BREAKFAST

8:00 AM - REGISTRATION OPEN

8:30 - 9:30 AM - WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

REAL-WORLD PUBLIC HEALTH SCENARIOS

Participants will work through public health scenarios drawn from NYSACHO membership, with facilitation support from current and former public health leaders.

FRANK KRUPPA, MPA, MPH - ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & PARTNER INTEGRATION, CAYUGA HEALTH

SUSAN FRANKO, PHD - PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

DANIEL STAPLETON, MBA - PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO, FORMER PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR, NIAGARA COUNTY

MARY FRAN WACHUNAS, CPH - SPECIAL PROJECT EXECUTIVE, NYSACHO

**9:30 - 10:45 AM - FINDING TRUE NORTH: A CONVERSATION
ON THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEW YORK STATE**

Reflections on state and local partnerships, building trust, workforce challenges, and the priorities shaping the future of public health in New York State.

COMMISSIONER JAMES V. MCDONALD, MD, MPH - COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

10:45 - 10:50 AM- CLOSING REMARKS & GIVEAWAY

10:50 - 11:15 AM - CHECK OUT OF HOTEL & GRAB LUNCH

11:15 - 12:30 PM - NYSACHO MEMBERSHIP MEETING





VISIT OUR EVENT PAGE

FOR SPEAKER BIOS, OUR EXHIBITOR
DIRECTORY, & OTHER EVENT MATERIALS

SCAN ME



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



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