



Conference Overview

Event Focus

An estimated 80 percent of health is determined by factors outside of the healthcare system. Improving population health depends on networks that extend beyond the clinic walls. This new era demands new approaches. Join us as we connect to transform communities to improve health and wellbeing.

Target Audience

Stakeholders in health and wellness, including community, health care and business leaders, program staff and others interested in improving community health.

Objectives

1. Showcase successful and diverse collaborations that improve population health for all.
2. Explore nontraditional innovative approaches to mobilize and transform communities.
3. Discuss strategies to create a sustainable culture of health: Shifting values; changing policy, systems and the environment; creating new narratives; and demonstrating impact.
4. Strengthen attendees' professional skills and networks to enhance their success in facing real-world challenges.

Planning Committee Members

Andriana Abariotes

Executive Director, Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Teresa Ambroz, MPH, RD, LD

Manager, Population Health & Communications Strategy
Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

Kenneth Bence, MHA, MBA

Director of Public Health
Medica State Public Programs

Candace Hoversten

Wellness Program Coordinator
Hutchinson Health, partnering with Heart of Hutch

Thomas Kottke, MD, MSPH

Medical Director of Population Health
HealthPartners

Rebecca Lindberg, MPH, RD

Director, Population Health
Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

Jolene Bell Makowesky

Professional Education Specialist
Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

Susan Masemer, MS

Manager of LiveWell Fitness Center
Penny George Institute for Health & Healing

Pamela Mink, PhD, MPH

Managing Scientist
Allina Health

Stephanie Molliconi, MPH

Senior Program Manager
The Center for Prevention at
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

Cindy Winters

Heart of New Ulm Project Manager
Hearts Beat Back: Heart of New Ulm Project

Travis Wojciechowski

Community Evaluation Coordinator
Office of Statewide Health Improvement
Minnesota Department of Health

Eva Kovacs Zewdie, MBA

Manager of Professional Education
Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

Ellie Zuehlke

Director, Community Benefit & Engagement
Allina Health

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Agenda at a Glance

Monday, November 16

- 7:00 am** Registration, breakfast and exhibits
- 7:45** Welcome and introductions
- 8:00** Keynote: Zubin Damania, MD, founder of Turntable Health
- 9:30** Break and exhibits
- 10:00** Panel: Public health and health care working together successfully
- 11:30** Lunch, exhibits and networking session
- 1:00 pm** Breakout session 1
- 2:10** Breakout session 2
- 3:10** Break and exhibits
- 3:30** Keynote: Mick Cornett, Oklahoma City mayor
- 4:45** Adjournment

Tuesday, November 17

- 7:15 am** Registration, breakfast and exhibits
- 8:00** Welcome and introductions
- 8:10** Keynote: Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH, built-environment thought leader
- 9:30** Break and exhibits
- 10:00** Panel: Building an environment that propels health
- 11:30** Lunch, exhibits and networking session
- 1:00 pm** Breakout session 3
- 2:10** Breakout session 4
- 3:10** Break and exhibits
- 3:30** Keynote: Timothy J. McKinney, CEO, United Global Outreach, Inc.
- 4:45** Adjournment

Continuing Education Credits

MNBN: This activity has been designed to meet the Minnesota Board of Nursing continuing education requirements for up to 14.75 hours of continuing education credit. Nurses are responsible for determining whether this activity meets the requirements for acceptable continuing education.

Other: Individuals representing other professional disciplines may submit course materials to their respective professional associations for up to 12.25 hours of continuing education credit.



Full Agenda — Monday, November 16

7:00 am **Registration, breakfast and exhibits**

7:45 **Welcome and introductions**

8:00 **Keynote presentation: *Healthcare, Remixed.***

Zubin Damania, MD, Founder Turntable Health, Las Vegas, NV

Dr. Damania delves into the ethical challenges of delivering compassionate health care in our severely dysfunctional medical system, while proposing collaborative ways to revitalize it. He examines, through humor and storytelling, the hope that the future of medicine is a bright one provided that all of us work together for the common goal.

9:30 **Break and exhibits**

10:00 **Panel: *Public Health and Health Care Working Together Successfully***

Moderator: Penny A. Wheeler, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Allina Health

Panelists:

- Lowell Johnson, MPA, Director, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Joan Pennington, MBA, System Director Community Health, HealthEast Care System
- Deanna (DeDee) Varner, Manager, Community Relations, HealthPartners

There has never been a better time to leverage the strengths and resources of health care and public health in an effort to improve community health. However, even with similar community health agendas and goals, multi-sector partnerships can present challenges. The Center for Community Health—a voluntary collaboration to improve health in the Twin Cities seven county metropolitan area—brings together public health agencies, health plans, hospitals and health systems with the mission to improve the health of the community by engaging across sectors and serving as a catalyst to align the community health assessment process and the development of action plans to impact priority issues and increase organizational effectiveness.

Join us in an engaging conversation to:

- Understand how to structure partnerships to be most effective.
- Discuss common challenges (e.g. information sharing, competition, speaking a common language, trust, assessment alignment, resource sharing, etc.) with collaborations and examples of how to successfully overcome these challenges.
- Discover organizational benefits of being involved in a successful collaboration.

11:30 **Lunch, exhibits and networking session**

1:00 pm **Breakout session 1**

A. *Thrive Allen County*

David C. Toland, MPA, CPM, Executive Director, Thrive Allen County

Rural settings are famously challenging environments for community-wide health initiatives. One successful rural health initiative is Thrive Allen County, a Kansas-based coalition that focuses on wellness, healthcare access and the built environment in its quest to improve the county's health ranking from the bottom tenth of Kansas counties. The Thrive coalition has mobilized a countywide force to build trails, recruit providers, and address social determinants of poverty in a county of 13,000 located in the poorest region of Kansas. Thrive executive director David Toland will discuss the strategies their coalition has developed to meaningfully change the culture—and the health--of this long-struggling rural

To register, visit www.connecting15.com



community and the lessons their experience holds for communities across rural America.

To register, visit www.connecting15.com



C. *Can You Hear Me Now? Communicating to Bridge Healthcare & Public Health*
Stephanie Devitt, MPP, Principal SDK Communications

The health care system is exploring new methods to understand the needs of, and better care for, whole patient populations' health to manage costs and improve outcomes. Public health professionals are skilled at forging new partnerships and leading community change for better health — capabilities essential to healthcare's goals. To achieve the full benefits of these efforts, the health care and public health sectors must build strong working relationships and shared language along a new narrative that blends the two perspectives.

Drawing on Minnesota case studies, as well as insights gathered through interviews, polling and focus groups, this session will detail a process of bridging health care and public health cultural divides. Participants will receive practical solutions for mapping stakeholders, creating a communications plan and case for change, and the role of data in establishing a common language.

C. *Building the Case for Collaborative Networks*

Jamie Bain, MPH, Health & Nutrition Extension Educator, and Noelle Harden, Extension Educator in Health & Nutrition, University of Minnesota Extension

This workshop will provide the “key ingredients” to effective collaboration in handling complex problems, such as food systems change. Fun and engaging activities for building cross-sector relationships and discussion regarding generating collective action among diverse stakeholders will illustrate how food systems based collaborative efforts have created successful action-oriented community engagement. Examples will be provided from the Metro Food Access Network (MFAN), several food networks in northwestern Minnesota, as well as the Minnesota Food Charter — a document created through extensive public engagement that outlines the future of food in Minnesota where residents live, work, and play.

D. *A Peer Education Approach to Teen Pregnancy*

Jamie Grilz and Caitlin O’Fallon, Education and Outreach Department, Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota

Come learn best practices to address teen pregnancy prevention from Planned Parenthood Minnesota North Dakota South Dakota’s (PPMNS) Teen Council sex ed peer education program. The Teen Council program empowers teens, putting them into the driver’s seat, to educate their peers on reproductive and sexual health issues. Research indicates that peer educators make a lasting impact in their communities. When students see a peer presenting about social situations and pressures with confidence and knowledge, they listen.

This highly interactive workshop will include games and activities that are typical of the Teen Council experience and will be led by teen co-presenters. Participants will come away with an overview of successful peer education programming and highlight Teen Council’s approach to pregnancy prevention. Teen Council members will be available for Q&A about what makes this program so powerful and a youth perspective on teen pregnancy prevention.

2:00 **Transition to next breakout session**



2:10

Breakout session 2

E. *Thrive Allen County*

David C. Toland, MPA, CPM, Executive Director, Thrive Allen County

Repeat from breakout session 1.

F. *Can You Hear Me Now? Communicating to Bridge Healthcare and Public Health*

Stephanie Devitt, MPP Principal SDK Communications

Repeat from breakout session 1.

G. *Promoting Community Organizing as a Discipline*

Kate Hess Pace, Community Organizer, ISAIAH

This presentation will focus on emerging partnerships between public health and community organizing to address health equity in communities. Over the last six years a growing collaboration of the two fields has led to a new body of work that puts community leadership at the center of the addressing health disparities. This session shares the successes as well as the opportunities for growth, and tips to building these relationships.

H. *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: Using Data as a Call to Action*

Stephanie Johnson, MSSW, Associate Researcher/Community Coach, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

Marna Canterbury, MS, RD, Director of Community Health, Lakeview Health, HealthPartners

We know that much of what influences our health happens outside of the doctor's office — in our schools, workplaces and neighborhoods. Community health improvement takes people working together from diverse sectors to create long-term change. This session will focus on how you have an important role in creating a culture of health in your local community. In this session, you'll be introduced to the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps data, tools and coaching support to create cultures of health where you live, learn, work and play. Participants will also have an opportunity to engage in a Q&A period with the presenter, reflect on what they've learned, consider the implications for communities, and identify next steps.

3:10

Break and exhibits

3:30

Keynote presentation: This City is Going on a Diet

Mick Cornett, Oklahoma City Mayor

When Oklahoma City appeared on a magazine's list of the nation's most obese cities, Mayor Mick Cornett decided to do something about it. He put the entire city on a diet and challenged residents to lose 1 million pounds. Then Oklahoma City decided to rethink urban environment and design a city that promotes healthy, active lifestyles.

4:45

Adjournment



Full Agenda — Tuesday, November 17

7:15 am **Registration, breakfast and exhibits**

8:00 **Welcome and introductions**

8:10 **Keynote presentation: *We Are What We Eat, and What We Build*
Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH**

Humanity faces grave challenges in terms of environment, economy and health. Natural resources are becoming increasingly costly. Since the mid-century the carbon dioxide level of the planet has climbed from 300 ppm to 400 ppm leading to more energy and moisture in the atmosphere, and thereby requiring more resilient places to live and work. Medical care costs will continue to escalate, not just because of population aging and new technology, but because of escalating rates of obesity and diabetes. Society needs solutions that solve problems across many challenges. Humans need places, especially green places — homes, buildings, public areas — that bring comfort and foster health at a personal and population level. The presentation will identify ways that support personal and community health will benefit by decreasing fossil fuel use and increasing healthy physical activity, access to daylight, healthy food and air.

9:30 **Break and exhibits**

10:00 **Panel: *Building an Environment that Propels Health*
Moderator: Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH
Panelists:**

- Thomas Fisher, Dayton Hudson Land Grant Chair in Urban Design and Director of the Metropolitan Design Center at the University of Minnesota
- Shawntera M. Hardy, Deputy Chief of Staff to Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith
- Kim Norton, State Representative - Minnesota
- Charles A. Zelle, Transportation Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation

This distinguished group of panelists have unique perspectives on the partnerships and initiatives necessary to create an environment that supports health. Learn what challenges and motivating factors brought each of these individuals to the table to help improve health when health was not the driving purpose. Learn how their various partnerships have evolved, are being maintained and what additional opportunities are on the horizon.

11:30 **Lunch, exhibits and networking session**

1:00 pm **Breakout session 3**

**A. *Expanding the Boundaries: Health Equity and Public Health Practice*
Jeanne F. Ayers, RN, MPH, Assistant Commissioner of Health,
Minnesota Department of Health**

The emphasis of this session is on identifying core practices necessary to assure the conditions in which all people can be healthy. Participants will develop an expanded understanding of health, will recognize the roots of health disparities including structural inequities and structural racism and will identify elements of an emerging health equity practice. They will be introduced to a framework for action including use of a health in all policies approach and strategies to strengthen communities to create their own healthy futures.



B. *Better Shelf for Better Health: A Partnership Approach*

Marna Canterbury, MS, RD, Director of Community Health, Lakeview Health, HealthPartners, and Liz Riley, MA, Director of Programs, Valley Outreach

This session will describe Better Shelf for Better Health, an innovative partnership between Valley Outreach food shelf and PowerUp (HealthPartners/Lakeview Hospital). The partnership evolved from a shared goal to promote better food choices at the food shelf and has become a model project for other shelves throughout the region. Better Shelf for Better Health applied principles of food marketing and behavioral economics to make fruits, vegetables and whole grains more plentiful, accessible, visible and positively promoted at the food shelf. The project transforms food shelf systems, merchandizing, inventory, purchasing and communications to donors and volunteers. The project demonstrates increased in fruits and vegetables for clients while also being a cost sustainable approach for the shelf and replicable in other food shelves as well. Participants will be provided with a project overview, results and practical tips and guidance to create change in their local food shelves or other food environments.

C. *Creating a Culture of Health: Leveraging Community Development Investing*
Andriana Abariotes, Executive Director, Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Laura Zabel, Executive Director, Springboard for the Arts

What matters most when it comes to producing good health? Research shows that socioeconomic and environmental factors account for about half of what determines our health outcomes. These factors include not only income and education, but the characteristics of the neighborhoods in which we live — such as access to quality housing, grocery stores that carry fresh produce, safe places to exercise, and good schools and jobs.

Learn from community development practitioners who are investing in emerging cross-sector partnerships and projects that are improving community health in Minnesota. This session will utilize a combination of presentation, small group discussion and examples to illustrate how the fields of public health, health care and community development are working together to address social determinants of health for families and individuals while improving overall community health.

D. *A Systematic Approach to Population Health Measurement and Surveillance*

Dimpho Orionzi, Research Associate, Division of Applied Research, Allina Health
Joan Pennington, MBA, System Director, Community Health, HealthEast Care System

Across sectors, there is strong desire to collaborate on population health measurement, to share data, agree on definitions and metrics, and address social determinants of health. This presentation highlights local efforts to develop a measurement and surveillance infrastructure and aims to foster cross sector collaboration.

We will describe the approach, experiences, successes and challenges across public health and health care to address population health measurement, and discuss the potential for meaningful collaboration. We will also engage in a dialogue about overcoming barriers and ways to continue to advance this work.



E. *Head Start Health Advisory Groups as Catalysts for Collaborative Change*
Jamie Bonczyk, MA, Director of Health and Nutrition, PICA Head Start
Katie Rojas-Jahn, Advocacy and Health Policy Coordinator, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota

Sarah Wovcha, JD, MPH, Executive Director, Children's Dental Services

The federal Head Start program, now in its 50th year, mandates that all grantees establish a Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC), composed of family members, staff, health professionals and community partners. The Health Advisory Committee serving Parents in Community Action, Inc. (PICA) meets to address and respond to health trends impacting Head Start children living in Hennepin County. The PICA HSAC brings together a diverse network of partners with shared interests to create cross collaboration ensuring that the members of the committee understand and respect the contribution from each member to address health inequities in Hennepin County.

2:00 **Transition to next breakout session**

2:10 **Breakout session 4**

F. *Expanding the Boundaries: Health Equity and Public Health Practice*

Jeanne F. Ayers, RN, MPH, Assistant Commissioner of Health, Minnesota Department of Health

Same as breakout session 3

G. *And the Beat Goes On: sustaining the Hearts Beat Back: Heart of New Ulm Project*

Moderator: Cindy Winters, Heart of New Ulm (HONU) Project Manager

Panelists:

- Jeff Bertrang, New Ulm Schools District 88 Superintendent
- Jennifer Maurer, Wellness Program Specialist and Community Engagement Coordinator, New Ulm Medical Center
- Karen Moritz, Executive Director, Brown County Public Health
- Andrea Shaneman, Director, New Ulm Chamber of Commerce

The Heart of New Ulm project started out as a ten year demonstration project to eliminate heart attacks in the 56073 zip code. As the project nears the ten year mark, New Ulm residents are determined to keep the project going beyond the initial funding period by creating a community owned and driven initiative. Members of the newly formed Heart of New Ulm Leadership Team will talk about the steps they are taking to sustain the project and create the community ownership needed to sustain the momentum and keep New Ulm residents healthy. This is a challenge many communities and coalitions struggle with once the funding for a specific project ends. Come be a part of the conversation and share your insights and experiences.



H. *Culturally Responsive Programming for Underserved Communities*

Nicole MartinRogers, MPP, PhD, Senior Research Manager, Wilder Research, Vivian Anugwom, MS, CHES, Research Coordinator, Allina Health, and Noya Woodrich, President/CEO, Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches

This session will review the results of qualitative studies conducted with American Indians in Minnesota over the last several years that illustrate the pervasive negative experiences this community has with health care providers and the extent to which this impacts their ability to access and fully utilize prenatal and other non-emergency health care. We will also summarize the literature and original research findings from key informant interviews with providers who serve American Indian moms and babies on the topics of causes of and preventative strategies for American Indian infant mortality.

Allina Health is testing an approach called LifeCourse that supports patients and families in the last two to three years of life by employing lay healthcare workers called care guides. Care guides empower patients and families to identify what matters related to their care and to take an active role in decision making. LifeCourse is ensuring that it is culturally sensitive for African-Americans, Latinos, Russians, and Somalis by involving communities in shaping the approach. This presentation will provide examples of strategies used to strengthen the late-life supportive care approach for several racial and ethnic groups.

I. *Utilizing Business Strategies for Community Impact*

Bill Barberg, President and Founder of Insightformation

Communities across the country are investing precious time and resources in doing analysis, identifying needs, and developing Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs). Unfortunately, nearly all of those communities are finding it very difficult to enable the needed collaboration to implement those plans and achieve the desired improvements. This session focuses on using techniques that have proven to be valuable for implementing multi-faceted strategies in the business world (such as the use of strategy maps, processes to improve alignment, measurement and monitoring techniques) to improve collaborative implementation and outcomes. Examples from small, medium and large communities will be showcased to demonstrate the value and impact of using these strategy management techniques to streamline and enhance collaboration, alignment and execution.

J. *Leadership is an Activity: Concern to Action in Your Community*

Seth Bate, Kansas Leadership Institute

Leadership is an activity. In order to make progress on daunting community health issues, you need to get active, and you need to mobilize other people to get active with you. This fast-moving session provides a conceptual framework for the activity of civic leadership. What does it look like, and how does it lead to progress? The session also identifies what is necessary for leadership development to truly change someone. Stop wasting your time with training that doesn't transform. Finally, identify how you will act. Specifically consider ways to harness leadership development to get you and others acting. You will leave with your first intervention identified and a dashboard to help you manage your progress.

3:10

Break and exhibits

To register, visit www.connecting15.com



3:30 **Keynote presentation: *It's About Geography: A Place-Based Community Transformation Effort***

Timothy J. McKinney, CEO, United Global Outreach, Inc.

Located just miles from “the happiest place on earth,” the community of Bithlo, FL resembles parts of Appalachia. Bithlo is an isolated, semi-rural area where poverty has been the norm for nearly 80 years. Most of Bithlo’s 8,200 residents live in dilapidated housing; their drinking water is contaminated with heavy metals. Literacy rates are low, jobs are scarce, and social needs abound. There has been no grocery store, barbershop, library, swimming pool, or place to earn GED.

United Global Outreach (UGO) is a small 501c3 entity whose goal is to “transform forgotten communities into places in which we would all want to live.” UGO’s role as a community catalyst in Bithlo has garnered the support of nearly 70 community, faith, business, education and government partners including anchor institution Florida Hospital.

The Bithlo Transformation Effort is a unique, building-on-existing-assets model that has received national recognition as a model for “place-based” community improvement.

4:45 **Adjournment**



Keynote Faculty Monday, November 16



Zubin Damania, MD
 Founder Turntable Health

Dr. Zubin Damania is an internist and founder of Turntable Health, an innovative healthcare startup that's part of an ambitious urban revitalization movement spearheaded by Zappos.com CEO Tony Hsieh. During a 10-year hospitalist career at Stanford, Damania won clinical teaching awards while simultaneously maintaining a shadow career performing stand-up comedy for medical audiences worldwide. His videos, created under the pseudonym ZDoggMD, have gone epidemically viral, educating patients and providers while mercilessly satirizing our dysfunctional healthcare system.

In Las Vegas, Damania is making the leap from satire to actionable change by implementing an innovative model of healthcare delivery that promotes wellness at both the individual and community level. Turntable Health, a membership model, team-based primary care ecosystem, is a ground-up effort to get healthcare right...for everyone.



Mick Cornett
 Mayor of Oklahoma City

One of *Newsweek's* "five most innovative mayors in the country," Mick Cornett is Oklahoma City's first four-term mayor. He currently serves as vice president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and becomes president of the national organization in 2016. He has been honored as the No. 2 Mayor in the World by London-based World Mayors, "Public Official of the Year" by *Governing* magazine and received awards for his work in urban design, walkability, parks, sports and the arts.

Internationally known for putting Oklahoma City "on a diet," his TED Talk on the topic has been viewed by more than 1.4 million people worldwide. He is the writer/director of the critically acclaimed documentary, "Oklahoma City: The Boom, The Bust and The Bomb."



Keynote Faculty Tuesday, November 17



Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH
Built-Environment
Thought-Leader

Dr. Richard Joseph Jackson is a professor at the Fielding School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles. A pediatrician, he has served in many leadership positions with the California Health Department, including State Health Officer. For nine years he was director of the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health and received the Presidential Distinguished Service award. In October 2011, he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Jackson was instrumental in the creation of state and national laws to reduce risks from pesticides, especially to farm workers and to children. While at CDC he established major environmental public health programs and instituted the federal effort to "biomonitor" chemical levels in the U.S. population. He has received numerous lifetime achievement and other awards from organizations such as the Breast Cancer Fund, Public Health Law Association, and American Public Health Association.

Jackson lectures and speaks on many issues, particularly those related to built environment and health. He has co-authored the books: *Urban Sprawl and Public Health*, *Making Healthy Places*, and *Designing Healthy Communities*, for which he hosted a four-hour PBS series. He is an elected honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects as well as the American Institute of Architects.



Timothy J. McKinney
CEO
United Global Outreach, Inc.

Timothy McKinney is an advocate, collaborator, community-builder and servant leader. McKinney leads the Bithlo Transformation Effort – a grassroots effort to undo more than 80 years of generational poverty and neglect in a town once known as "The Nightmare before Christmas."

Since 2010, McKinney and United Global Outreach (UGO), a 501c3 entity, have enlisted the support of 6,700+ volunteers and 65 community, faith, and business partners (including Florida Hospital). UGO focuses on nine areas of need identified by Bithlo residents: Education, environment, housing, health care, transportation, basic needs, sense of community, advocacy, and economic opportunity.

The Bithlo Transformation Effort is recognized as a national model in place-based community health improvement and population health by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Public Health blog, and McKinney was recognized as one of Orlando's 50 Most Powerful People. UGO is currently working to expand the transformation model to other Central Florida communities.



Event Location and Accommodations

Online Registration

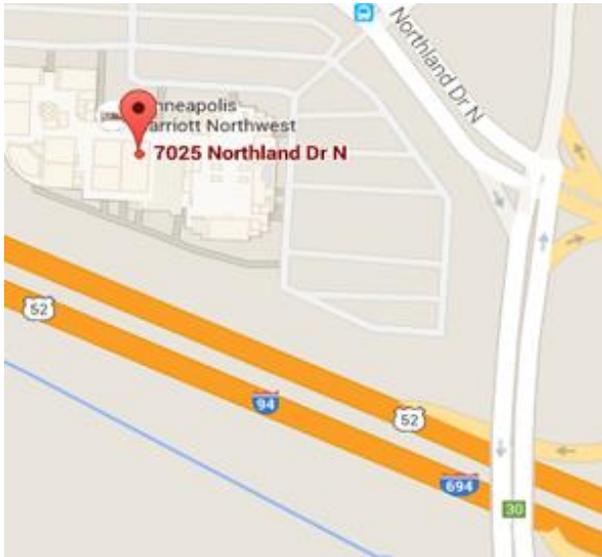
Registration is now open! All registrations will be done online with payments made by bank or credit card. For information and to register visit <http://www.connecting15.com>

Tuition

Early bird discount
\$275 individual registration (ends 9/30)
\$295 general registration (starts 10/1)

Location

7025 Northland Drive North
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55428
(Off the intersection of I-694 and Boone Ave. N.)
Phone: (763) 536-8300



Parking

Complimentary on-site parking is available.

Questions

Please email james@stagetimeproductions.com or call 651-214-2498.

Accommodation

Minneapolis Marriott Northwest is an all-suite hotel offering participants of the Connecting 2015 Conference the special group rate of \$159 (plus tax) per night for the nights of November 15-17, 2015. The rate is guaranteed until Wednesday, October 22, 2015. Reservations can be made online using this link: [Hotel RSVP Website](#)

To reserve by phone, please call (763) 536-8300 and reference "2015 Connecting Conference" to receive the group rate.

Breakout Room Seating Policy

Conference registration guarantees access to a choice of breakout sessions at different times throughout the conference schedule. However, conference registration does not guarantee a seat in any of the individual breakout sessions. Breakout rooms are assigned in advance of the conference. The safety of conference attendees is always a primary concern, and may include closing a room if attendance exceeds the room capacity. We encourage early arrival to the breakout sessions to help ensure that a seat is available.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Substitutions are accepted at any time. For cancellations received by Monday, November 9, a \$50 processing fee will be retained and the tuition balance refunded. Notices after this date will not receive a refund. To complete your cancellation or substitution please call 651-214-2498 or email james@stagetimeproductions.com. In the unlikely event the program is cancelled, MHIF is not responsible for airfare, hotel or other costs incurred by participants.

To register, visit www.connecting15.com