

**2026 Utah Public Health Conference Agenda
Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

**Breakfast and Registration
8:30am - 9:30am**

**Opening Session
Nalini Padmanabhan, de Beaumont Foundation
Navigating the Present and Future of Public Health Communications
9:30am - 10:45am**

**Posters, Exhibitors, Networking
10:45am - 11:15am**

**Breakout Session 1
11:15am - 12:15pm**

Rethinking the American Workday to Address Chronic Disease in the 21st Century Presenter: Tycen Flygare, Utah State University	From Dippers to Drones: The Evolution of Mosquito Abatement in Utah County Presenter: Jason Bird, Utah County Health Department	Flexibility, Agility, and Pivoting: Building Hope and Opportunity in an Evolving Public Health Landscape Presenter: UPHA Academic Section	Transforming Health Through Community Collaboration: The Power of Community Care Hubs Presenters: Katrina Seipp-Lewington, Trei Herd, Dave Cook, Comagine Health		From Resistance to Readiness: Motivational Interviewing Strategies for Vaccine Communication During Utah's Measles Outbreak Presenter: Aaron Hunt, Utah State University	Lightning Round: Health Equity *The Impact of Disability Status on Sexual and Reproductive Health Experiences among Women *Tools for Helping Older Adults With Health Questions *Building Community Champions: A Model for Community-Led Cancer Prevention in the Mountain West *The UHEART Online Hub: Empowering Utahns to Make Health Decisions in a Changing Environment *From assessment to action: Fostering inclusive workplaces with the Disability Training Policy Toolkit	Communication Track: Communicating about Public Health: Tested Messages, Strategies, and Tools Presenter: Nalini Padmanabhan, de Beaumont Foundation
Supporting and Optimizing the Workforce through the Science of Happiness Presenter: Michele Bildner, Utah Valley University	Environmental Contaminants and Oral Health Inequities: A One Health Perspective on Prevention and Policy Presenter: Edmond Appiah, Drexel University						

**Lunch
12:15pm - 1:15pm**

**Breakout Session 2
1:15pm - 2:15pm**

NourishHealth: Affordable, Culturally Inspired Nutrition Education to Improve Diet Quality and Reduce Food Insecurity Presenter: Palak Gupta, Missy White USU Extension	Rapid Resilience: A Prevention Science Approach to Quick Climate Resilience Presenter: Mamta Chaudhari, Caroline Moreno, Emily Paskett, Salt Lake County Health Department	Local Uses of the Utah Healthy Places Index (HPI) Panelists: Sarah Hodson, Chloe Roghaar, Rehana Baksh, DHHS; Carrie Bennett, Utah County Health Department; Tabitha Allred, Summit County Health Department	People or Numbers? Understanding our "Why" While Working to Make Measurable Change Presenter: Meghan Balough, DHHS	Walking session *no CHES credits	Here We Are Now, Entertain Us! Engagement Strategies for Effective Meetings Presenter: Sarah Davis, Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center	Lightning Round: Student Research *Health Coaches' Perspectives on Implementation and Impact of the Prevention Plus Wellness Program *Unequal Plates: Gender Gaps and Food Security in Rural Malawi *Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences in Alaska Associations with Adult Physical and Mental Health *Association of Household Biomass Fuel Use and High Blood Pressure Among Women in Rural Bangladesh *College Students Perceptions of Genetic Risk, Family History, and Prevention of Breast Cancer	Communication Track Reels That Serve - Editing Short Videos That Stick Presenters: UDOT Social Media Team
NourishSmart: Empowering Youth to Reduce Food Waste and Promote Sustainable Food Systems Presenter: Palak Gupta, Kelsey Romney, USU Extension	From Framework to Practice: Tailored ICS Training for Public Health Departments Presenters: Michelle Seage, Kimberly Shoaf, University of Utah		Hands Off My Data! Protecting Personal Data in Utah Public Health Presenter: Sam Andersen, DHHS				

**2026 Utah Public Health Conference Agenda
Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

**UPHA Annual Business Meeting (UPHA members only)
7:30am - 9:15am**

**Breakfast and Registration
8:30am - 9:30am**

**Opening Session
Jamuna Jones, University of Utah Resiliency Center
Personal and Professional Well-Being: Remembering Ourselves While Caring for Others
9:30am - 10:30am**

**Posters, Exhibitors, Networking
10:30am - 10:45am**

**Breakout Session 1
10:45am - 11:45am**

Strengthening Youth Resilience Through Connection: Utah's CHAT Campaign and Promoting Positive Childhood Experiences Presenter: Nathan Malan, DHHS	Decentralizing Clinical Trials - Building on the Foundations of the Past for a Healthier and More Equitable Future Presenters: Colleen Marshall, Kristen Jones, Clinical Research Connection	Utah's HPV Vaccine Journey: Celebrating Progress and Charting the Path Ahead Presenters: Shannon England-Rice, Kayla Rypien, DHHS	Tribal Consultation: from Policy to Action Presenters: Alex Merrill, Jeremy Taylor, DHHS	UPHA: Our Past, Present, and Future	Partnership Power Mapping: Building Bridges Across Sectors Presenters: Alysia Ducuara, Emma Andreasen, Megan Larsen, Get Healthy Utah	Lightning Round: Data *Expanded Targeted cCMV Testing *Strengthening Statewide Overdose Readiness Through Updated Response Framework *Food Insecurity in Utah *Mapping Hypertension: Using the HPI to Inform Rural Public Health Action *Uninsurance Associates with Unmet Financial, Medical, and Social Needs among Young Adults with Cancer	Building a Better Boat: the Future of Utah's Public Health System Panelists: Melissa Dimond, Janae Duncan, DHHS, LHD presenters TBD
Chatbot vs. Human: How Conversations Compare in Loneliness Reduction and Heart Rate Variability Presenter: Emily Grover, University of Utah Student	Raising Awareness and Improving Outcomes for Chronic Kidney Disease Presenter: Pam Chapman, DHHS; Dave Cook, Comagine; Navina Forsythe, UHIN	Life Skills Rx: From Collaboration to Application in School-Based Prevention Presenter: Mekel Jones, Utah County Health Department	Health Perspectives from People Experiencing Homelessness 2025: Summary of Findings Tyler Riedesel, DHHS				

**Lunch and Awards
11:45am - 1:00pm**

**Posters, Exhibitors, Networking
1:00pm - 1:30pm**

*Agenda continues below

**Breakout Session 2
1:30pm - 2:30pm**

<p>Paso a Paso: A Campus-Community Partnership for the Design, Implementation and Evaluation of a Cultural and Linguistic Responsive Diabetes Prevention Program for Hispanic Populations Presenter: Teresa Molina, University Neighborhood Partners; Maribel Cedillo, University of Utah; Gabriela Portugal; Alliance Community Services</p>	<p>Same Team: A Consortium Model for Disease Surveillance Presenter: Katie Zimmerman, DHHS</p>	<p>Fueling Change: Using Nutrition Landscape Assessments to Define Community Priorities Presenter: Katerina Boliger, DHHS</p>	<p>Creating safe play for Utah's children – improvements we can make today so they can live and play for many tomorrows Presenters: Stephanie Stokes, Michelle Jamison, Primary Children's Hospital</p>	<p>Book Club: Reproduction on the Reservation: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Colonialism in the Long Twentieth Century by, Brianna Theobald</p>	<p>Lessons Learned from Creating a Widely Adapted High School Nutrition Curriculum Presenter: Madeleine French, University of Utah</p>	<p>Lightning Round: Mental Health and Substance Use *Utah Suicides by Job Type *Mental Health and Fatal Overdose in Utah *Spatial Separation of Populations, Ethnic Enclaves, and Cognitive and Mental Health Outcomes among Older Adults *Safe Firearm Storage Initiative</p>	<p>From Principles to Action: Advancing Community Collaboration for Public Health Impact Panelists: Heather Williamson, Brandy Westwood, Jennie Hill, University of Utah</p>
<p>Finding Meaning in Evaluation Practice: Engaging Participants Early to Make Sure You Got it Right Presenters: Macie Swensen, Camille Roundy, DHHS</p>	<p>Accelerating Public Health Data Modernization: Utah's AI-Powered Strategy Presenter: Nicole Yerkes, DHHS</p>	<p>Early Childcare Policy in Transition: Current Landscape and Future Sustainability Presenter: Mary Kathryn Curcio Stoddard, Cheryl Saunders, DHHS</p>	<p>Reclaiming Real Childhood: Addressing the Developmental Harms of Youth Technology Use and Launching a USU Extension Pilot Program Presenter: Aaron Hunt, Utah State University</p>		<p>How the New Dietary Guidelines for Americans Could Impact Public Health in Utah Presenter: Madeleine French, University of Utah</p>		

**Posters, Exhibitors, Networking
2:30pm - 2:45pm**

**Breakout Session 3
2:45pm - 3:15pm**

<p>Improving Digital Health Equity: Characteristics of Health Apps Serving Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing and Blind/Low-Vision Individuals Presenter: Sarah Hall, Kayla Zayas, Tasha Anderson, Becca Greenhalgh, Brigham Young University</p>	<p>Crafting Change in the Uintah Basin: An Overview of a Community-Based Health Education Program and Evaluation Results Presenter: Cara Murray, Cris Meier, Utah State University Extension</p>	<p>Program Past, Present, Future of Naloxone Access in Utah: Operational Lessons from a Statewide Overdose Prevention Program Presenter: Carla Arancibia, DHHS</p>			<p>A Bolder Way Forward for Utah Presenters: Amy Anderson, Utah Women & Leadership Project; Erika Lindley, University of Utah Healthcare; Audrey Jiricko, Stephanie Stokes, Intermountain Healthcare</p>	<p>Belonging, Culture, and Identity: Shaping the Emotional Well-Being of New Generations Presenter: Sandra Uribe De la Fuente, I am Bienestar</p>	<p>Applying the CDC Science Impact Framework: Describing and Implementing the Framework to Demonstrate the Value of the Utah Public Health Infrastructure Presenters: Camille Roundy, Macie Swensen, DHHS</p>
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**Poster, Exhibitors, Networking
3:15pm - 3:30pm**

**Closing Session
The Past, Present, and Future of Public Health
a conversation with:
Angela Dunn, Dorothy Adams, Heather Borski, Sarah Woolsey, Sharon Talboys, and Teresa Garrett
3:30pm - 4:30pm**

* Poster session below							

Wednesday, March 25th Poster Session					
Poster Title					Poster Author
Association Between Body Shape Index and Depression among Young Adults Aged 18-30 Years in the USA					Tinsae Abeya Geleta
The Role of Community Flourishing in Promoting College Student Flourishing and Mental Health					Steven Ko
Barriers and Facilitators of Tuberculosis Treatment Among Pastoralist Populations in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review					Pablo Troop
Prevalence of Advanced Hepatic Fibrosis and Steatosis in an Underserved Hispanic Population					Christopher Danford
Building Bridges: Enhancing Social Connection Among Housed and Unhoused Women Through a Community Integration Pilot Program					Séphora Giraud-Carrier
The Past, Present, and Future of Online Surveys: Developing Feasible and Effective Strategies for Ensuring Trustworthy and Actionable Data					Ida Tovar
Bridging the Gap: Transforming Maternal Healthcare for Rural Utah's Future with FQHC-Driven Solutions					Benedicta Kwakye-Andoh
Pediatric Malnutrition Screening in Developing Countries					Kimberlee Creech
Virtual Community Engagement to Increase Access and Impact Across the Healthcare Landscape					Brandy Westwood
From Assessment to Action: A Data-Driven and Community-Led Approach to Developing a Community Health Improvement Plan					Nancy Porter
Beyond Insured vs. Uninsured: How Insurance Adequacy Shapes Mental Health Among Working-Age U.S. Adults					Tania Akter
Genomic Epidemiology of a Developing Measles Outbreak					Abbey Marye
Perceptions of ACEs and Their Impact on Health Outcomes in Alaska					Jyles Datoon