

**HM2020 Policy Strategy Team:**

**Incorporating Health Considerations in Policy Development**

**Healthy Minnesota Partnership 2013 Work Plan**

**Charge:**

***Promote and advocate for the incorporation of health considerations in the development of private and public policy.*** Explore the research and promote the consideration and incorporation of health effects in public and private policies (also known as “health in all policies” or HiAP) in Minnesota.

**Background:**

According to the National Association of County and City Health Officials:

*Health in all policies (HiAP) is an innovative, systems change approach to the processes through which policies are created and implemented. HiAP involves a consideration of the health impacts of policies at all stages of the policymaking process, thereby ensuring that policy decisions result in positive health effects or do not contribute to the degradation of health status.*<sup>1</sup>

Policies, private as well as public, can have powerful intended as well as unintended effects on health. Minnesota has already made strides in turning attention to the potential that policies have for influencing health behaviors, through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP).<sup>2</sup> Across the state, communities are implementing policies that promote healthier school lunch programs, encourage fruit and vegetable consumption, and lead to the development of bicycle paths and pedestrian-friendly sidewalks.

Policies in many additional sectors, however, such as manufacturing, marketing, international trade, transportation, education, corrections, agriculture, employment and economic development also can have profound impacts on health. Policy decisions such as those in education, employment and the environment influence the opportunity people have to be healthy by shaping the everyday life circumstances of individuals, families and communities. The health in all policies approach emphasizes that the health costs and benefits of every policy should be considered in the course of policy development.

**Activities may include:**

- Explore research and develop strategies for promoting and advocating for health in all policies, paying particular attention to the policies that affect the people and communities who experience the greatest health disparities.

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<sup>1</sup> National Association of County and City Health Officials, <http://www.naccho.org/toolbox/program.cfm?id=32>

<sup>2</sup> Statewide Health Improvement Program, <http://www.health.state.mn.us/ship/>

- Identify strategic opportunities to add a health lens to public policy and program development in Minnesota.
- Bring information about health in all policies approaches to Partnership members.
- Develop tools for Partnership organizations to have conversations in their own organizations about incorporating health considerations in their own policies.

***Possible performance measure:***

- By 2014, health is considered and promoted in the development of at least one new public policy in a sector other than public health or health care (e.g., through a health impact assessment).

**Membership:**

Representatives of the Healthy Minnesota Partnership and staff from HMP organizations.

**Meeting Schedule:**

TBD