



**MPHA Breakfast Forum  
May 6, 2022**

**Local and Global—What can we learn from each other about challenges in a coordinated global response?**

Registration and Breakfast	7:45am
Welcome	8:00am
Elizabeth Moe	
Moderator Remarks	8:05am
Ken Bence	
Introduction of Panelists	8:10am
Ken Bence	
Opening Commentary	8:15am
Michelle Heerey Murugi Mutiga Halkeno Tura	
Panelist Discussion	8:30am
Breakout Rooms	8:45am
Panelist Q&A	9:00am
Summary Remarks	9:20am
Ken Bence	
Closing Remarks	9:25am
Elizabeth Moe	

## Panelist Bios

**Michelle Heerey** is Executive Director of WellShare Interational. Driven by a vision of a world in which all people and communities have equal opportunities to live a life they love, Michelle Heerey provides a rare diversity of sectoral, geographic and organizational experience, having led partnerships with federal government agencies, universities, large non-profits and local community-based organizations for change both locally here in Minnesota and in over 25 countries around the world.



**Dr. Murugi Mutiga** holds a Master's in Public Health degree and a PhD in Community Nutrition from the University of Minnesota. She has a wealth of experience in both academia, teaching health and nutrition courses as well as training future Community Health Workers but also within various communities throughout Minnesota, including the founding of the Kenyan Women in Minnesota organization. She has partnered with community-based organizations to address nutrition inequities within the school district in Brooklyn Park. Dr. Mutiga will be leading the newly formed Community Engagement Team which will work between Public Health & Environment and Community Services Departments. Dr. Mutiga and this team will be responsible for developing and implementing the community engagement program that will expand access to county services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery to directly address community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through a health equity lens.

**Dr. Halkeno Tura** has over 16 years of professional experience managing public health programs in the US and abroad. He is a researcher, and his research works are published in academic peer-reviewed journals, such as *Social Science and Medicine*, *Global Public Health*, and *BioMed Central*, to list a few. He has also worked as an independent research consultant for local and international organizations. Dr. Tura designed, implemented, and evaluated community-based public health programs throughout his professional career and has successfully managed multi-million US government, private, and foundation grants. He has extensive experience in implementing and managing health equity initiatives, 7144health equity impact assessment, and mobilizing stakeholders to work together to address social determinants of health. In the last four years, he held positions as Director of Refugee Health Programs, Deputy Director for local Public Health in Iowa, and currently, as the Director for Center for Health Equity with Minnesota Department of Health. Dr. Tura holds a Master of Art (MA) in Public Health Education, Master of Public Health (MPH) in Nutrition, and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from the University of Iowa, and he is also Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).



## Moderator Bio



**Kenneth Bence, MHA, MBA** is the Director of Research, Analysis and Policy for the Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (ARRM), a non-profit association of nearly 200 providers, businesses and advocates dedicated to leading the advancement of home and community-based services supporting people living with disabilities. In this role, he is responsible for creating and maintaining data systems that support ARRM's legislative agenda and advocacy efforts on behalf of its members. With over 30 years of experience in healthcare and related sectors, he has worked with managed care organizations, state and local public health departments, coalitions, community health improvement partnerships, and non-profit foundations. He has served on several Boards of Directors for non-profit organizations, and is a past president of the Minnesota Public Health Association. Finally, with over 20 years as a paid-on-call firefighter and current Battalion Chief with the Golden Valley Fire Department, he brings a unique public safety perspective to his work.