



#HealthierMO

Transforming the Future of Public Health in Missouri

Missouri Professional Organizations Unite around Public Health Transformation

One of the deliverables for the first phase of the #HealthierMO initiative is to align Missouri's largest public health professional organizations so there is a single, unified voice representing public health. During their second meeting on February 8, 2018, this Professional Organizations Group reaffirmed their commitment to work better together to transform the future of public health in Missouri. The group developed the vision statement: "United for public health". It adopted the mission statement: "Leading public health system alignment through: collaboration, communication, workforce development, and advocacy."

The group identified the top challenges facing Missouri's public health system as communication, collaboration, funding, advocacy, workforce development, and strong leadership. They recognized that change will depend on their ability to lead others to break out of silos and engage collaboratively within the larger public health system. They also agreed on the need to communicate better and to unite all public health system voices in advocacy around key public health issues. As one participant said, "We are stronger together than we are individually."

While the group has not yet identified a specific framework for aligning their organizations, they agree success depends on their willingness to collaborate.

"Our organizations aren't being asked to give up our individuality or our identity," stated one participant. "We are just being asked to agree on and support overall priorities and goals to improve the future of public health in Missouri."

Representatives of the group plan to meet again in March to outline short-term, intermediate, and long-term goals to move toward their vision.

The Professional Organizations Group is hosted by the #HealthierMO initiative to transform the future of public health in Missouri. To learn more about the group and other components of the #HealthierMO initiative, visit HealthierMO.org or Facebook [@HealthierMO](https://www.facebook.com/HealthierMO).

The Missouri Public Health Association is leading the #HealthierMO initiative in partnership with Support KC. Funding for the first phase of this multi-year initiative was provided by the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. To learn more, visit www.HealthierMO.org.