



## #HealthierMO

Transforming the Future of Public Health in Missouri

### Energetic Session Engages Stakeholders

On March 1<sup>st</sup> more than 100 public health stakeholders gathered in Columbia to discuss ideas for moving the #HealthierMO initiative forward. Facilitated by Dr. Eric Ambrecht, attendees discussed the structure and process for selecting an Advisory Council. “Diversity”, “experience”, and “commitment” were words stakeholders used. They said they wanted people with public health experience who will think about what is best for public health, but they also want a fresh perspective and a balance of “thinkers and doers.” The initiative’s Steering Committee is now working to integrate Stakeholder input into a clear description of Advisory Council candidate qualifications. More information can be found at [HealthierMO.org](http://HealthierMO.org).

During the Convening Session, attendees also discussed top public health system challenges and priority health issues, based on a list of 12 topics identified by Missourians during pre-event surveys. Three of the top challenges identified in the surveys included funding, leadership, and workforce development. After small group and large group discussions, attendees voted digitally on which challenges they considered to be top reasons for public health system transformation. Of the 85 attendees who participated in the vote, 76% identified “stable and increased funding,” and 51% identified “unified voice focused on priority issues.” Those two items were removed from the list and attendees voted again on the remaining items. This time “higher quality and more consistent operations” received 46% of the vote. The Evaluation Team is currently working to compile all the data from the Convening Session, and a full report will be made available.

In a follow up survey, attendees said the Convening Session was a “good experience.” “Great day collaborating and discussing the issues.” “The Convening Session was enlightening, positive and helped me understand the future of Public Health needs to be examined.” “Great session!” “A very positive day!”

A brief summary of the Convening, with resources and materials, has been posted on the initiative’s website at [HealthierMO.org/convening.html](http://HealthierMO.org/convening.html). To find out more about the initiative, and how you can get involved, visit [HealthierMO.org](http://HealthierMO.org) or Facebook [@HealthierMO](https://www.facebook.com/HealthierMO).

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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](http://www.HealthierMO.org).