



Healthy Brain & Aging Policy Event

Strengthening Minnesota's Rural & Tribal Community Infrastructure

Wilder Foundation, Wednesday, August 13, 2025

AGENDA

8:30 AM: Breakfast/Refreshments (Pow Wow Grounds)

9:00 AM: Welcoming & Opening Remarks

Rick Smith, M.Ed., Elder in Residence, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team (MK-MDT)

- Opening Ceremony: Jerry Dearly and Hoka Hey Singers and Native American Community Clinic (NACC) Men's Drum Group
- Kimelyn Knight, Director of Aging Services, Wilder Foundation
- Kristen Jacklin, Ph.D., Executive Director, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team
- Robert Freeman, M.A., Vice President Public Policy, Alzheimer's Association – MD-ND Chapter
- Robbin Frazier, BSBA, Associate Director of Equity & Community Engagement, Northstar Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program and the Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation, Alter Dementia Friendly Minnesota Program Leader
- Peter Crawford, M.D., Ph.D., Vice Dean for Research, University of Minnesota School of Medicine

9:30 AM: Presentations

- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD): A Primer
 - Micah Maeda, B.S., Community Engagement Manager, Alzheimer's Association – MD-ND Chapter
- Overview of Aging & Dementia in Minnesota
 - Reneé Kidney, Ph.D., M.P.H., Epidemiologist, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
 - Patty Takawira, M.P.H. Manager, Aging & Healthy Communities Unit, MDH
- Healthy Aging & Dementia in Minnesota American Indian and Rural Communities
 - Genelle R.S. Lamont, Ph.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor, MK-MDT
 - Josh Fergen, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, MK-MDT

AGENDA

10:45 AM: Break

11:00 AM: Minnesota Aging & Dementia Activities and Best Practices Panel

Moderator: Shawn McMahon, M.D., Rural Advisor, MK-MDT

- Heather Pender, B.A., B.S., Aging Program Director, Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging
- Maren Levad, B.F.A., M.A.T., Dementia Friendly Initiatives Program Manager, Trellis
- Christina Garrison-Diehn, Ph.D., L.P., Integrated Behavioral Health Manager, Minneapolis Indian Health Board
- Stephen Shuman, D.D.S., M.S., Professor and Director Oral Health Services for Older Adults Program, University of Minnesota School of Dentistry

12:00 PM: Lunch (Pow Wow Grounds)

12:45 PM: Community Impact

- January Johnson, BSW, MK-MDT Community Based Researcher for Red Lake Nation
- Kirsten Cruikshank, MSW, MK-MDT Community Based Researcher for NE Minnesota
- Karen Bedeau, B.A., LPN, Dementia Educator/Outreach Advocate, Northwoods Caregivers

1:15 PM: Community Conversations with Policymakers

Lead Moderator: Josh Fergen, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, MK-MDT

- Healthcare & Public Health
- Caregiver Support
- Dental Health
- Workforce
- Research
- Legal Resources

2:30 PM: Policymaker Thoughts

Chi Miigwech! Pidamaya! Many thanks to our organizers!

2:45 PM: Wrap-up and Adjourn



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