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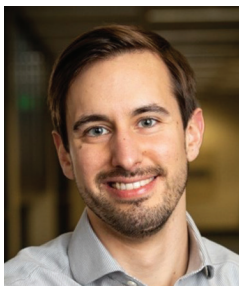
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A MESSAGE FROM THE HUP DIRECTOR



2020 was a transformative year for the partnership. HUP rose to the challenge of moving our offerings to an entirely remote environment, and in January

2021 we celebrated the retirement of HUP's founding director Kathie Doty, after more than 15 years of leading the partnership.

The number of projects catalyzed by HUP in 2020 increased from 2019, showing that the partnership's innovative approach to developing connections remains as strong as ever. This report highlights a number of these connections as well as policy impacts from previous projects, but does not come close to fully celebrating the 26 University units and 16 county departments that chose to engage and innovate during this fundamentally challenging year.

RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC & SUPPORTING DISPARITY REDUCTION

HUP quickly transitioned to a remote environment, developing a suite of webinars and

educational opportunities to provide county staff a unique opportunity to engage with faculty on real-time issues impacting all of us, personally and professionally. Many of HUP's remote offerings focused on racial justice, economic challenges, and the pandemic response.

LOOKING FORWARD WITH NEW LEADERSHIP

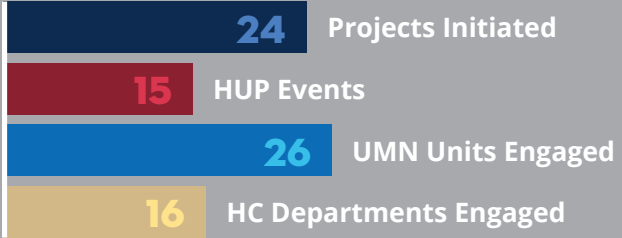
In 2021 HUP will expand efforts to reach out to county staff and new professors who either do not know about the partnership or who have not had the opportunity to engage. HUP will also grow capacity to support collaboration outcomes that directly lead to program or policy improvements. These efforts will be guided with an eye towards supporting county and university strategic priorities including disparity reduction, and climate change.

In partnership,

Scott Vargo,
HUP Director

YEAR AT A GLANCE

2020 IN NUMBERS



Explore recent HUP projects and events at hup.umn.edu/projects-and-impacts

HUP LEADERSHIP TEAM

HENNEPIN COUNTY

- Commissioner Marion Greene**
Chair, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
- David Hough**
County Administrator
- Jodi Wentland**
Assistant County Administrator, Human Services
- Lisa Cerney**
Assistant County Administrator, Public Works
- Chela Guzman-Wiegert**
Assistant County Administrator, Disparity Reduction
- Alisa Salewski**
Chief Innovation Officer, Center of Innovation and Excellence

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

- Robert McMaster**
Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
- Mos Kaveh**
Dean, College of Science and Engineering
- Laura Bloomberg**
Dean, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- Tom Fisher**
Director, Metropolitan Design Center
- Andy Furco**
Associate Vice President, Office for Public Engagement
- Ed Goetz**
Director, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs

DEPARTMENTS ENGAGED

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Carlson School of Management (Work and Organizations), Center for Spirituality and Healing, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, College of Design (Minnesota Design Center), College of Education and Human Development (Family Social Science; Institute of Child Development; Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development; Social Work), College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (G.E.M.S[®]; Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center), College of Liberal Arts (Sociology), College of Science and Engineering (Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering; Industrial and Systems Engineering; Mechanical Engineering), Extension (Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Youth Development; Community Development), Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Institute for Health Informatics, Institute on the Environment, Law School, Medical School (Department of Pediatrics), Office for Public Engagement, School of Public Health (Environmental Health; Health Policy & Management), Student Affairs.

HENNEPIN COUNTY

Center of Innovation and Excellence, Community Corrections & Rehabilitation, Community Works, County Attorney's Office, Environment and Energy, Facility Services, Hennepin Health, Human Services, Information Technology, Library, NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, Public Health, Purchasing and Contract Services, Resident & Real Estate Services, Sheriff's Office, Transportation Planning.

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATES

The Leadership Team provides strategic guidance to the HUP program. The team is made up of senior leadership from Hennepin County and the University of Minnesota. Three new members joined the HUP leadership team in early 2021: Hennepin County Commissioner and Board Chair **Marion Greene**, newly appointed Assistant County Administrator over Disparity Reduction **Chela Guzman-Wiegert**, and Assistant County Administrator over Human Services **Jodi Wentland**.

HUP WEBINARS

CONNECTING DURING THE PANDEMIC

When pandemic restrictions were implemented in March, HUP began offering its Brown Bag presentation series via Zoom. Sixteen presenters provided Hennepin County employees an opportunity to consider the many nuanced effects that COVID-19 has on our work, community, and personal lives. More than 400 staff joined the webinars, which are available online.



MARCH

Building Capacity with Black Women Project: Midpoint Reflections

Dr. Shana Riddick, Researcher, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs



MAY

The Citizen Healthcare Project

Professor Tai Mendenhall, Family Social Science, College of Education and Human Development



JUNE

Planning for a Post-Pandemic World

Professor Tom Fisher and Virajita Singh, College of Design



JUNE

COVID-19 and Incarcerated Populations

Professor Rebecca Shlafer, Medical School and School of Public Health



JULY

Immigration in a Global Pandemic

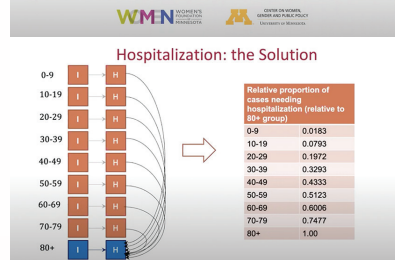
Professor Linus Chan, Law School



JULY

Sniffing out the Value of Anaerobic Digestion

Jeff Standish, Institute on the Environment, Professor Bo Hu, CFANS, and John Jaimez, Hennepin County Environment and Energy



HUP Webinars
watch at [youtube.com/universityhennepin](https://www.youtube.com/universityhennepin)

Surfacing whiteness

- Whiteness as exclusion
- Value of whiteness
- Invisibility of whiteness
- Durability of whiteness



When the World Feels Like a Scary Place: Why Parents and Those Who Support Them Matter Now more than Ever
Abi Gewirtz, Ph.D.



AUGUST

City of White Supremacy

Professor Ed Goetz and PhD Candidate Rashad Williams, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs



AUGUST

Mathematical Modeling of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Minnesota

Professors Eva Enns and Kumi Smith, School of Public Health



SEPTEMBER

Parenting in this Scary World

Professor Abigail Gewirtz, Family Social Science, College of Education and Human Development



NOVEMBER

Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota

Professor Christina Ewig, Humphrey School of Public Affairs and Gloria Perez, Women's Foundation of MN



"The most valuable part of the presentation was the brilliance of the presenters! I greatly appreciated the information shared and the opportunity to ask questions." - HUP Webinar attendee

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM EVALUATION PARTNERSHIPS

SUPPORTING WORK TO SERVE RESIDENTS

Humphrey School graduate students in Dr. **Weston Merrick's** Program Evaluation course partnered with Purchasing and Contract Services Director **Yvonne Forsythe** to examine Hennepin County's workforce entry program, and with Hennepin County Library's **Kia Vang** to examine the cultural education programming offered by county libraries. These evaluation proposals will support efforts to further align county programs with the needs of the community.

"We need to ensure [the workforce entry] program is serving those in the community most in need. The work done by the students assisted us in preparing for future policy recommendations."

- Yvonne Forsythe, Purchasing and Contract Services Director

SUPPORTING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Graduate students in Professor **John LaVelle's** Principles and Methods of Evaluation course partnered with Center of Innovation & Excellence (CIE) Director **Alisa Salewski** to develop evaluation proposals for CIE's new remote working environment and the Innovation and Improvement Cohort.

"[These proposals] help shape our thinking about the employee experience and development of our staff, and help move us towards being more efficient and effective"

- Alisa Salewski, Hennepin County Chief Innovation Officer



Thirdwavephoto, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

EVALUATING ZEBRA MUSSEL SUPPRESSION AND CONTROL

Since 2017, Hennepin County has provided funding for zebra mussel research conducted by The University of Minnesota's Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. Professor **Nick Phelps** and Dr. **Diane Waller** released a progress report in July 2020 on their study to control this invasive species which has significant negative impacts on Minnesota's environment and lake-based economic and leisure activities.

After applying a low-concentration of copper sulfate in a bay of Lake Minnetonka in 2019, researchers found the density of zebra mussels was greatly reduced. The team will continue to monitor the long-term impacts of the treatment to determine if the treatment could be used statewide to combat the impacts of the invasive species and improve the health of Minnesota's lakes.

Learn more at www.maisrc.umn.edu/news/zm-findings



UMN CENSUS OUTREACH AND CALL CENTER SUPPORT

Hennepin County supported the University's 2020 Census outreach efforts, ensuring that students who had left campus as a result of the pandemic were still counted. UMN students reached out to their peers through phone banks and Hennepin County provided funding for one student to work with Off-Campus Housing Director **Kendre Touroni** to develop an innovative social media outreach campaign.

"Since most students left campus in March because of the pandemic, our partnership with HUP allowed us to get students to complete the census who most likely would not have."

- Jean Heyer, Communication and Engagement Services

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



2020 SUMMER OF EngageMnt

In the summer of 2020, seven students connected with Hennepin County by way of remote volunteering opportunities developed as a part of the Office of Public Engagement's Summer of EngageMnt. Throughout the summer, the students logged more than 100 hours with Hennepin County, including at NorthPoint Health and Wellness, where they assisted in the evaluation and reconsideration of data handling during the pandemic.

"I was doing work that directly impacted my community, and current events that were taking place. I felt like I was making a difference." - UMN Student Volunteer

HENNEPIN COUNTY IT OPERATING MODEL

MBA graduate students in the Carlson Consulting Enterprise examined the Hennepin County IT Department's service-delivery model and provided suggestions for organizational changes which are under consideration by Hennepin County IT.



GRAND CHALLENGES, PHASE 2

IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING DISPARITIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

Professors **Michelle Phelps** (Sociology), **Rebecca Shlafer** (Medical School), and **Kevin Reitz** (Law School) teamed with **Renee Van Siclen** (CIE) and **Peter Bodurtha** and Dr. **Tyler Winkleman** (Hennepin Healthcare) on a two-year research project exploring the relationships between community supervision, health, and well-being. The goal of this research is to better align the county's services with the needs of those involved with the corrections and community rehabilitation process. Doing so has the potential to improve access to health services for residents on probation and reduce health disparities.

The university researchers are in the process of analyzing the project data, and team members already report greater connections and data-sharing between the criminal justice and health care sectors, and valuable educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Ultimately, this research will inform ongoing efforts to make health and supervision practices more just and equitable.



MEASURING SOCIAL SAFETY NET USAGE DURING COVID-19

School of Public Health Professor **Janette Dill** partnered with Hennepin County's Human Services Data and Analytics Manager **Ryan Borowicz** to examine the social safety net services needed to support and protect vulnerable low-income individuals and households during the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. This ongoing study will assess the economic impact of social distancing policies on low-income households with the goal of additional collaboration with Hennepin County and attaining external grant funding.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE COURSES FOR COUNTY STAFF

Working with five UMN faculty, HUP identified opportunities for 13 county staff to enroll in graduate-level courses as non-degree students. County staff were able to utilize Hennepin County tuition reimbursement dollars to cover course fees. County staff gained valuable knowledge they can use in their work.

2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR COURSES

College of Education and Human Development

- Principles and Methods of Evaluation – *Professor John LaVelle*

Humphrey School of Public Affairs

- City of White Supremacy – *Professor Ed Goetz*
- Introduction to Policy Analysis – *Professor Greg Lindsey*
- State & Local Public Finance – *Professor Jerry Zhao*
- Civic Participation in Public Affairs – *Professor Kathy Quick*

“[This course was] extremely beneficial. Not only did [it] result in a report for Hennepin County, I also gained valuable knowledge that can be implemented daily in my role and in my division.” – County staff member enrolled in Principles & Methods of Evaluation

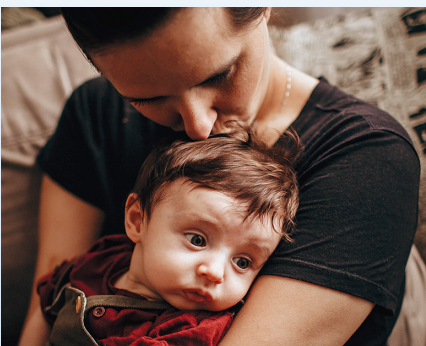
HENNEPIN-UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GRANT 2020 IMPACTS

ADVANCING THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN

After HUP’s 2017 Fall Mixer on Child Wellbeing, the HUP Leadership Team awarded a \$40,000 grant to a collaborative project between Drs. **Traci LaLiberte** and **Kristine Piescher** (Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare) and Professor **Jeffrey Waid** (Social Work), and Hennepin County’s Child Well-being area. The project aimed to identify the factors associated with the recurrence of child maltreatment so that the county could adopt policies and practices that produce better outcomes for children who enter foster care or child protection.

In 2020, project leads shared the impacts of their work with the Leadership Team. These impacts include the adoption of new information-sharing and decision-making frameworks, and changing the assessment process to better meet the needs of children and families. The lead researchers noted that the collaboration between the university, county, and community was critical to the research process, which required integrating data from a variety of sources.

Learn more at <https://z.umn.edu/child-wellbeing>



BUILDING HEALTHY CHILDREN AND STRONG FAMILIES

After HUP’s 2018 Fall Mixer on Disparities in Education, the HUP Leadership Team awarded a \$40,000 grant to a collaborative project between Dr. **Jennifer Hall-Lande** (Institute on Community Integration), and **Karen Adamson** and **Meagan Schrafft** (Hennepin County Public Health). The goal of the project was to inform efforts for successful early intervention and follow-up services so that Hennepin County children are born healthy, stay healthy, and develop to their fullest potential.

In 2020, the research team provided an overview of key project successes to the HUP Leadership Team. By bringing together multiple actors from Minneapolis Public Schools to the Hennepin County Library, the team was able to generate multiple valuable impacts. These include: a more refined understanding of which families need additional assistance in connecting to services, a promising pilot with Parent Connectors to increase access to county services, and the provision of “developmental milestone books” to hundreds of at-risk families.

Read more at <https://z.umn.edu/earlyintervention>

HUP

HENNEPIN-UNIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIP

connecting where it counts