



PUBLIC HEALTH LAW CENTER: WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOUR SHIP WORK

WHO ARE WE?



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Programs**



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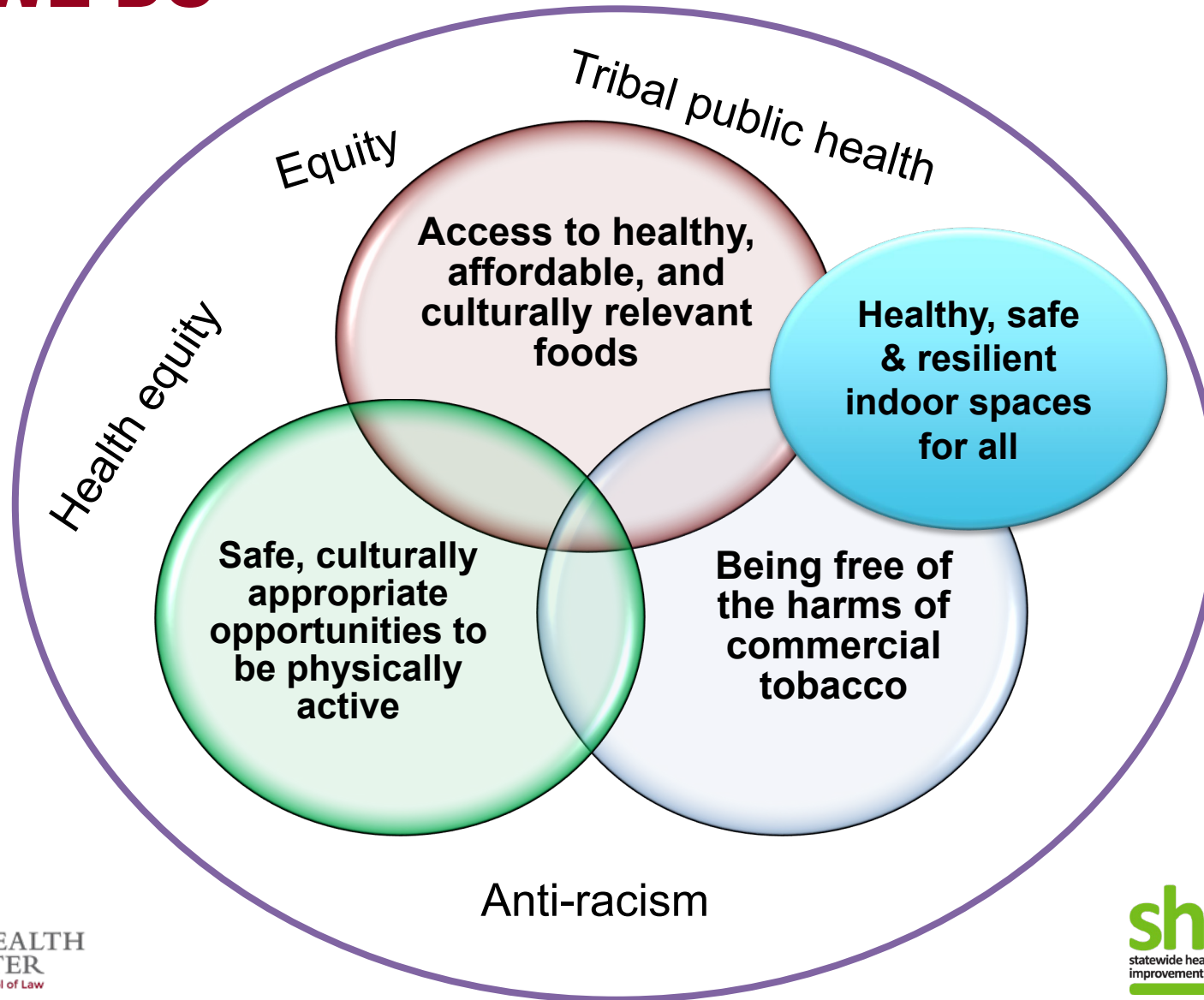
Safia Abdinur, Policy Analyst



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WHAT WE DO



TODAY'S WEBINAR

- Re/introduce the Public Health Law Center (PHLC)
- Quick refresher on what "PSE" change work means
- How PHLC can support you and your SHIP work



TIME FOR A QUICK POLL!

SHIP PSE WORK AREAS

Context areas:

- MN Eats
- MN Moves
- MN Well-being
- MN Commercial Tobacco

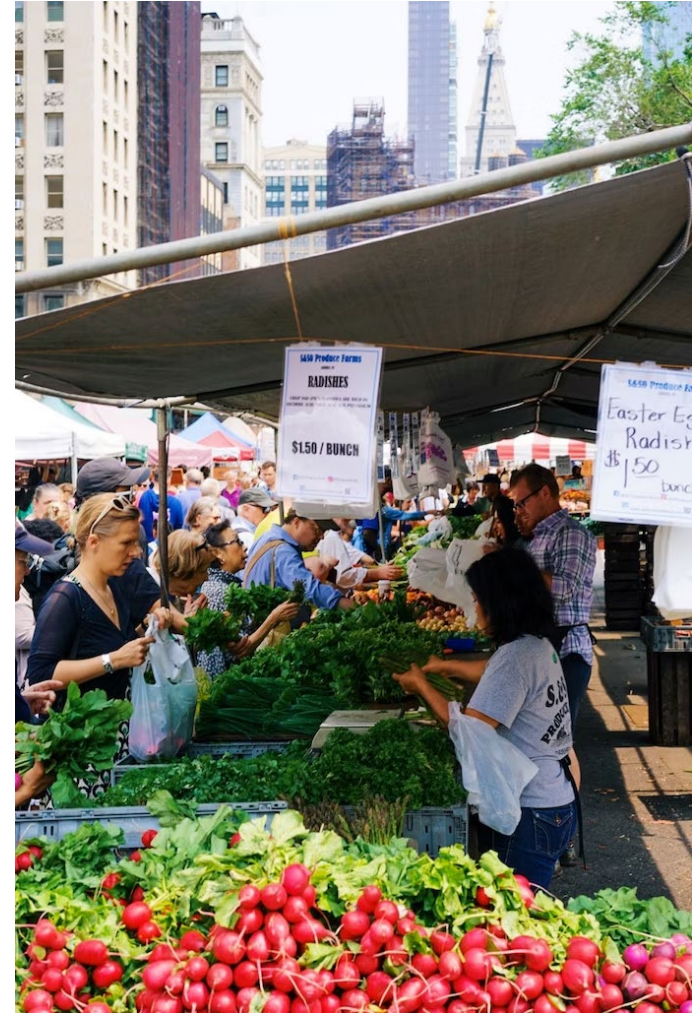
Settings:

- Worksite
- Schools
- Healthcare settings
- Early childhood education/child care
- Community



WHY DO POLICIES, SYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTS MATTER FOR HEALTH?

- **Policies, systems, and environments (PSE)** encourage, discourage or drive decisions and behaviors of people and organizations.
- OSHII's PSE work aims to support and advance sustainable changes in policies, systems and environments that will help Minnesota achieve equitable health outcomes for everyone.



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WHAT IS POLICY?

Policies: laws, ordinances, resolutions, mandates, regulations, organizational guidelines, rules, or practices. They are:

- in writing
- people and organizations are expected to follow
- enforceable beyond relying on social and cultural norms

Practices: Unwritten policies, such as deeply rooted customs or consistently followed patterns of behavior or activity. They

- set expectations that people and organizations will follow them
- typically are enforced through social and cultural norms

For OSHII work, people and organizations should translate practices into written policies as much as possible.



EXAMPLES OF POLICY CHANGE

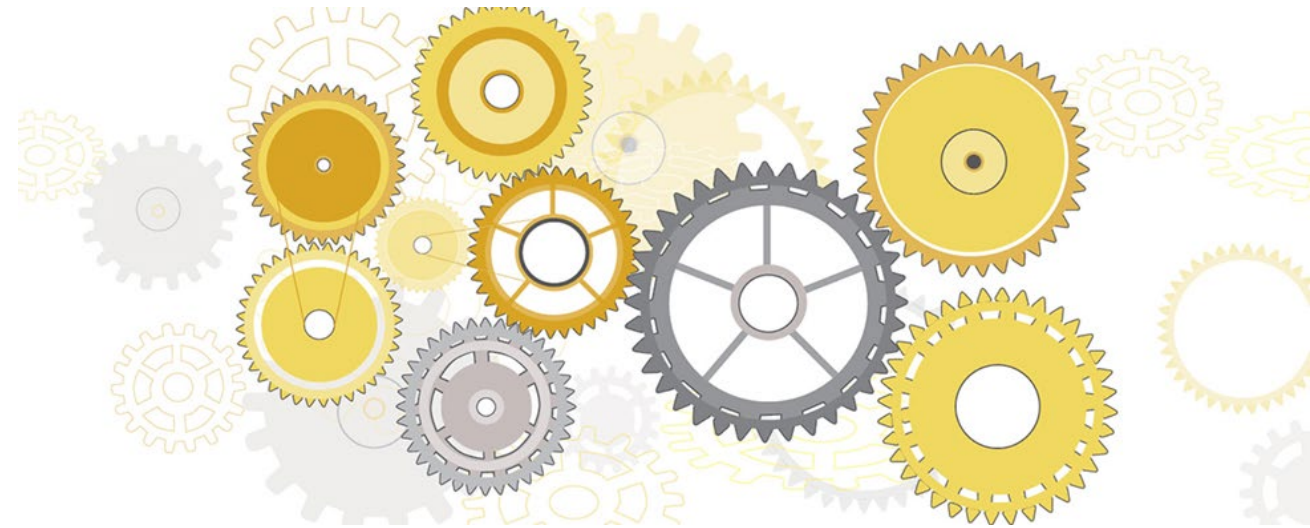
MN Eats: an HR policy limiting availability of sugary drinks and unhealthy snacks or requiring healthy food options be made available in vending machines

MN Moves: school district allows usage of their recreational/sports facilities after hours to community to promote physical activity for residents

MN Well-being: anti-bullying policy to promote a safe and respectful school environment

WHAT IS SYSTEMS?

Processes, procedures, relationships, and power structures in a community or organization; the way organizations and communities operate or do their work.



EXAMPLES OF SYSTEMS CHANGE

MN Eats: manager periodically meets with vending machine vendor to ensure healthy food products are being provided

MN Moves: community works with local organizations to implement community engagement plan on how to improve equitable access to active transportation and safe physical activity opportunities

MN Well-being: school district establishes mental health support systems including access to counseling, peer support and other services

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENT?

Settings and spaces within which organizations operate, and within which people live, work, study, play, and pray

Can be tangible (physical structures, “the built environment”)

Or intangible (for example, having cultural, social, or economic dynamics)



EXAMPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

MN Eats: healthy food and beverage options are prominently and easily at hand in cafeteria and vending machines

MN Moves: worksite has designated spaces for physical activity breaks and mindfulness breaks for employees

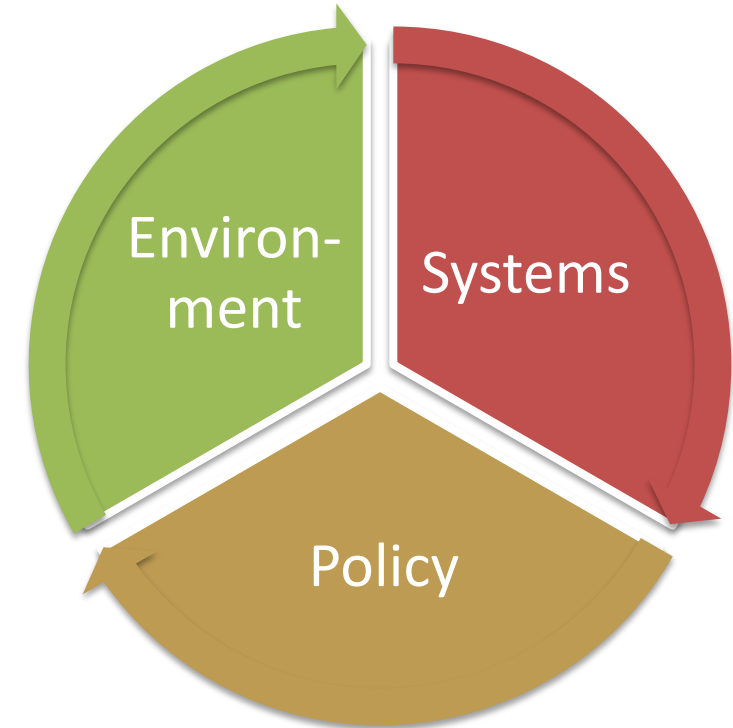
MN Well-being: hospitals and clinics create welcoming environment with signs in different languages for all patients, employees and visitors

POLICIES, SYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTS WORK TOGETHER

Systems: Food shelf connects with local farmers/farmers market/grocery store to get leftover produce or glean; works with clients to identify types of produce to prioritize

Environment: Healthy foods are displayed in ways that make them easy to see, appealing, signs are used

Policy: Food shelf will provide healthy foods to clients and limit or eliminate unhealthy food donations



FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Level Setting on Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change (5/31/22): <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/webinar/mn-level-setting-policy-systems-and-environment-change>
- PSE Change Work and Program Work to Improve Health—Synergies and Differences Webinar (6/29/22): <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/webinar/mn-pse-change-work-and-program-work-improve-health-synergies-and-differences>

LEGAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- ✓ Legal Research
- ✓ Policy Development, Implementation, Defense
- ✓ Publications
- ✓ Trainings
- ✗ Direct Representation
- ✗ Lobby

What is legal technical assistance?

Law can present both barriers and opportunities for public health initiatives. Local, state, federal, and Tribal laws can impact public health policy development in many ways – both expected and unexpected. The Public Health Law Center provides tailored legal technical assistance that can make the difference between success and failure in using law and policy to improve public health across a community. The Public Health Law Center is a nationally recognized legal technical assistance provider, specializing in tobacco control, healthy eating, and active living policy development, with a focus on promoting health equity.



<https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/Legal-Technical-Assistance-2017.pdf>

MN MOVES TA EXAMPLE—PARK PLANNING

Parks and open space planning elevates opportunities for movement, community connection, and green space.

Defining "access"

- who is in the community
- whether park and open space is available
- how community members experience that park/open space
- consider accessibility, affordability, and acceptability



MN EATS TA EXAMPLE

Produce Prescription Program (Veggie Rx)

- PSE approaches to support and implement Veggie Rx programs
- Develop a resource with the example policies and programs

Breastfeeding

- Fact sheet on state and federal laws pertaining to breastfeeding



MN WELL-BEING TA EXAMPLE

Trauma-Informed Policies Resources



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) PROCESS

- Reach out
 - to your Community Specialist
 - email us directly (publichealthlawcenter@mitchellhamline.edu)
 - (and loop in your CS)
- Initial phone call/zoom meeting
- Response:
 - Phone call/zoom meeting
 - Email
 - Memo
 - Other—a training, a presentation...?



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“Y’all are too accessible as lawyers!”

QUESTIONS?

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