



Environmental Public Health Summit

October 24, 2024

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel

7:30 - 8:00 Sign-in / Exhibitors / Light Breakfast

8:05 - 8:20 Opening Remarks

Lizzie Rhodes, Nebraska EHA President

Susan Bockrath, NALHD Executive Director

Kim Carlton, MPH, REHS/RS

NEHA Region IV Vice President

Retail Food Program Manager, MN Dept of Health



Kim is the manager of the Retail Food Program at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Prior to joining MDA, she supervised the Partnership and Workforce Development Unit at the Minnesota Department of Health. She has also worked at the local level as a food inspector in the Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. She serves as the Region 4 Vice President of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), representing North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. Kim holds an MPH from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and a BA from Gustavus Adolphus College. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, reading, and dabbling in various creative endeavors.

8:20 - 9:20 Keynote

**Empowering and Protecting Our Communities by Effectively
Communicating Environmental Public Health Risks**



CDR Anna Khan, MA, REHS/RS

President of National Environmental Health Association

Board of Directors

Associate Director for Communication

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center
for Environmental Health, Division of Environmental Health
Science and Practice

CDR Anna Khan is President of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) board and the Director for Communication in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice. She is responsible for coordinating, collaborating, and managing communication activities. Her work supports global emergency management capacity development across the world. She has worked with 39 countries on environmental health activities, including food, water, and emergency preparedness and response priorities. This involves partnerships with the international ministries of health, the Department of Defense, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

9:20 - 10:20 Environmental Exposure to Lead in Nebraska



Brian Coyle, MPH

Health Program Manager
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Nebraska Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Brian Coyle has worked for almost 17 years in public health in Nebraska and has served as the Health Program Manager for the Nebraska Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (NeCLPPP) for two and a half years. His experience and expertise include CDC grant planning and management, fostering key partnerships at the state and local levels to complete strategic objectives, and aligning local interventions to ensure Nebraska children and families are safe from lead exposures.



Katie Schultis, MPH

Epidemiology and Environmental Health Lead
Three Rivers Public Health Department

Katie has worked at Three Rivers Health Department in Fremont for two years. As the Epidemiology and Environmental Health Lead, she oversees disease surveillance, childhood lead poisoning case management, environmental health programs, and more. Katie graduated with a Master of Public Health with a focus in Epidemiology from Fort Hayes State University in 2021. She is a licensed Lead-Based Paint Inspector, Lead Hazard Risk Assessor, and Elevated Blood Lead Investigator.



Katie Mulligan, Provisional REHS

Planning Section Manager
Two Rivers Public Health Department

Katie Mulligan is the Planning Section Manager. In this position, she oversees the Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness team, Communications, efforts toward accreditation, and community health planning. Katie started at Two Rivers in 2017 as a Health Educator and has also worked as an Emergency Response Coordinator. Prior to working at the health department, she earned her bachelor's in biochemistry from Hastings College. Katie states, "The goal of public health is to help every person no matter the circumstances. I believe that access to care can change people's lives and that every person deserves a chance at mental and physical health." Katie enjoys being out in the community and working with partners to ensure everyone can access quality care.



Kendra Lauruhn

Lead Abatement Risk Assessor
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Coordinator
Panhandle Public Health District

Kendra Lauruhn has worked at Panhandle Public Health District for nearly 10 years. She works in several areas of the health department including disease surveillance, environmental health, project director for HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Capacity Building Grant and is the dental hygienist for the dental health program. Kendra is the childhood lead poisoning prevention program coordinator and is a licensed lead abatement risk assessor for Nebraska.



Andrew Nalow

Health Industrial Hygiene Specialist
DHHS Nebraska Office of Environmental Health Hazards
& Indoor Air

Andrew has been with DHHS Nebraska for about five years. Before working for the State, he was a home inspector and performed home inspections for clients during real estate transactions. Andrew has completed over 500 home inspections and became ASHI certified. After starting his role with DHHS, Andrew obtained the risk assessor State license and has been assisting health departments and families across Nebraska with EBLL investigations and leading education and outreach. He also assists businesses and individuals in finding training and obtaining their State licenses in the lead abatement and consulting industries.



Naudia McCracken, MPH

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Supervisor
Douglas County Health Department

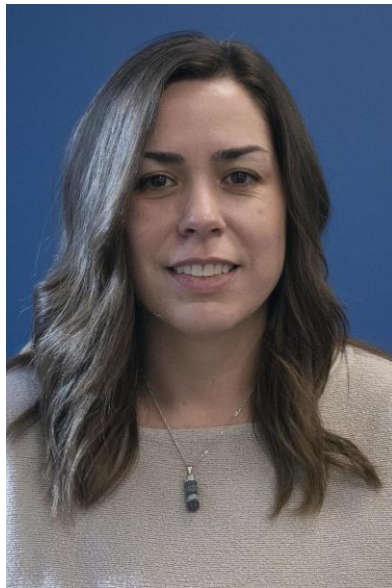
Naudia McCracken has worked in the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at the Douglas County Health Department in Omaha, Nebraska, for the last 9 and a 1/2 years. She is responsible for blood lead surveillance, lead risk assessments and inspections, and outreach in the nation's largest residential superfund site. Naudia has an MPH in Biostatistics from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is originally from Guyana, South America, and now lives in Omaha with her husband and two little girls. She is passionate about raising awareness about the dangers of lead poisoning, not only from lead-based paint and contaminated soil but also the numerous overlooked sources affecting health in her community.

9:20 - 10:20 Nebraska Public Drinking Water and Groundwater Programs Update



Laura Nagengast, MPH
Source Water Protection Extension Educator
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Laura is the Source Water Protection Extension Educator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Health (Administration and Policy) from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. In her current role, Laura collaborates with others (communities, businesses, organizations, etc.) to increase awareness and education on water quality issues in Nebraska and their impact on human health. She works to serve as the link between science and the community's understanding of the health impacts related to the consumption of contaminated water.



Laura Johnson
Drinking Water and Groundwater Division Administrator
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

Laura Johnson is the Drinking Water and Groundwater Division Administrator for the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. She oversees the Public Drinking Water and Groundwater Programs and assists with the Department's Emergency Response and GIS activities. Since joining NDEE in 2012, she has worked in various water quality programs, from coordinating the state's assessment and remediation of surface water bodies to developing the Bazile Groundwater Management Area Plan for the protection of Drinking Water. She has years of experience working with partner agencies and the public on both voluntary and regulatory water quality programs. Laura has a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Economics with a minor in Water Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is a graduate of the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy and is trained in Lean Six Sigma Process Improvement and Risk Communication.

10:20 - 10:40 Break / Exhibitor Hall

10:40 - 11:30 Environmental Justice and Supporting Vulnerable Populations in the Heartland



Jeffrey Severin, MUP
Senior Program Manager
Heartland Environmental Justice Center

Jeff grew up in rural Northeast Kansas where he developed an appreciation for the outdoors and the connections that exist between people and the environmental systems that support us. After a few years exploring Kansas landscapes and waterways as an environmental educator, Jeff spent the next 17 years of his career at The University of Kansas, first managing the campus recycling program, then helping develop and leading the KU Center for Sustainability. Jeff joined the Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University in 2021, incorporating principles of environmental justice and inclusion into projects focused on developing the water workforce, reducing exposure to toxins, and addressing household hazardous waste. He now serves as Senior Program Manager of the Heartland Environmental Justice Center. Jeff's commitment to environmental justice work is rooted in his personal belief that a thriving future for generations starts with ensuring a safe, diverse, inclusive environment for all people today. Jeff has lived in Lawrence, KS, since attending the University of Kansas, where he graduated with a BA in Environmental Studies and later a Master of Urban Planning with a focus on environmental planning.



Deborah Solie
Project Associate
Center for Rural Affairs
Heartland Environmental Justice Center

Deborah Solie is a Project Associate at the Center for Rural Affairs, where she applies her extensive background in agriculture and community development. Growing up in Stillwater, Oklahoma, with roots in rural Nebraska, Deborah was inspired by her family's farming background. She pursued a degree in agricultural communications and worked in higher education, fundraising, and community recovery following a disaster. She has collaborated with state and federal agencies, mobilizing resources to rebuild and strengthen communities against future environmental challenges. Her passion for rural communities and agriculture drives her current work at the Center, where she helps support farmers, small businesses, and rural communities. Beyond her professional endeavors, Deborah remains an ardent advocate for environmental sustainability, recognizing the intricate balance between agriculture and ecological stewardship.

10:40 - 11:30 Using Technology to Improve Efficiency and Data Sharing



Russell Hadan, REHS, M.S.
Supervisor of Air Quality & Sanitation
Control/Engineering
Douglas County Health Department

Russell Hadan received his master's degree in Biology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He works as an Environmental Supervisor at the Douglas County Health Department in Omaha, Nebraska. Russ began his career in the automotive field as a transmission rebuilder, then found his Environmental passion working at Midwest Laboratories in Omaha. He then spent 15 years working at DCHD in the Air Quality department, progressing to a Supervisor role in the Sanitary Engineering/Sanitation/ and Air Quality department at DCHD. Russ has worked at DCHD for 21 years of his professional career. Russell's passions include racing cars, college football, fishing, good beer, and great people.



Jon Ruff, REHS
Environmental Health Specialist II
Douglas County Health Department

Jon has been employed at the Douglas County Health Department for 25 years. He has worked in the sanitary engineering section for 25 years and the sanitation section for 12 years. His daily responsibilities include regulating swimming pools, septic systems, wells, medical waste, landfills, meth labs, environmental assessments, nuisance complaints, sanitary surveys, mosquito trapping, and infestations. Additionally, He has conducted fit testing for health department employees and indoor air quality assessments. Jon's hobbies include fishing, pickleball, and spending time outside.

11:30 - 12:15 How to Navigate the Legislative Process



Eric Gerrard, JD
Partner and Lobbyist
American Communications Group

Eric is a partner and a registered lobbyist for ACG, Inc. He provides state-level lobbying for all clients while also utilizing his legal expertise on compliance issues, election law, and legislation relating to political subdivisions. Eric was born in Norfolk, NE, and raised in Lincoln. After completing his undergraduate degree in Advertising at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Eric received his law degree at the University of San Diego School of Law. Upon graduation, he returned to Lincoln to practice law. It was at that time he connected with ACG, Inc. and took a strong interest in the Nebraska Unicameral and the public policy side of the law. He is active in the community and serves on numerous non-profit boards.

12:15 - 1:15 Lunch + NEHA Business Meeting

1:15 - 3:15

**Drought and Health Toolkit Workshop -
Tools and Messaging You Can Use**



Jesse Bell, Ph.D.

Claire M. Hubbard Professor of Water, Climate and Health
Director, Water, Climate and Health Program, UNMC
Director, Water, Climate and Health, Daugherty Water for Food
Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

Dr. Jesse E. Bell is the Claire M. Hubbard Professor of Water, Climate, and Health in the Department of Environmental, Agricultural, and Occupational Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the School of Natural Resources within the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is the director of the Water, Climate and Health Program at UNMC and the director of Water, Climate and Health at the University of Nebraska's Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute. The mission of these programs is to develop interdisciplinary research,

education and collaborative solutions to public health challenges associated with environmental issues in Nebraska and around the world. As the director since inception, he has helped grow these programs to over 20 faculty, staff, and students. His expertise and research are focused on understanding the influence that changes in the environment and climate have on natural and human processes.



Christine Allmon

Project Manager II

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Christine is an experienced professional with a diverse background in grant management, program development, and administrative coordination. Prior to joining the Global Center for Health Security in April 2023, she served as a Grant Manager for the College of Information Science & Technology at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO), where she was instrumental in analyzing the college's research portfolio and

implementing strategies to facilitate research and development growth. Christine is currently finishing her thesis for her Master's degree in Public Administration at UNO's College of Public Affairs. Her combination of academic and professional experiences has equipped her with strong analytical skills, financial acumen, and a deep understanding of research and development processes.

1:15 - 2:15

Cottage Food Updates



Cindy Brison, MS, RDN
Extension Educator
Nebraska Extension in Douglas and Sarpy
Counties

Cindy has worked for Nebraska Extension for 28 years as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, teaching food, nutrition, and health classes. Her specialty is food safety. Cindy coordinates all food safety training for Nebraska Extension personnel and the UNL Cottage Food Training classes. She has 16 years of experience in the food service industry before switching to education.



Baylen Whitehead, BSND
Cottage Food Specialist
Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Baylen Whitehead has a B.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. She started her career at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) as a Food Sanitarian in 2023. In August 2024, Baylen accepted the newly created Cottage Food Specialist position at NDA. As the Cottage Food Specialist, she maintains Nebraska's cottage food registry and provides guidance for cottage food producers in Nebraska.

2:15 - 3:15

Indoor Air Quality / Healthy Homes



Kyle Morton

Environmental Health Specialist II
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

Kyle has worked in Air Quality regulation and compliance for over ten years. As an Environmental Health Specialist with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, he has primarily specialized in indoor air quality issues such as Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes inspections. Prior to this, he worked at the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy in air quality permitting, air emissions source testing, and environmental compliance inspection roles.



Eliza Newkirk

Environmental Health Specialist II
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

As an Environmental Health Specialist with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Eliza serves as the Environmental Public Health Division's Lead-Safe Lincoln Coordinator where her work focuses on mitigating lead poisoning risks for children. In this role, Eliza collaborates with experts from the Health Department, City of Lincoln's Urban Development Department, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities-Water, and various community partners to coordinate a comprehensive response to childhood lead poisoning. Prior to this, Eliza spent time teaching AP Chemistry in Nablus, Palestine, studying the connection between human health and sustainable housing in Kampala, Uganda, and bringing rural communities together to address

environmental concerns in Northeastern Nebraska through AmeriCorps. She is a licensed Lead Abatement Risk Assessor and Elevated Blood Lead Investigator.

3:15 - 3:30

Break / Exhibitor Hall

3:30 - 4:30

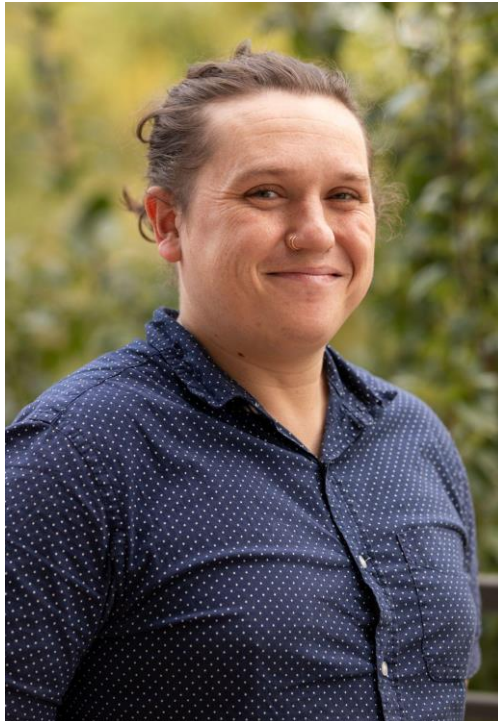
Closing Session

**ONE RED: Opportunity for Nebraska:
Reducing Emissions and Decarbonizing**

Sam Fleagle, MS

Environmental Specialist II

Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy



Sam Fleagle is a state wastewater inspector in the NPDES Compliance and Enforcement section of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. Sam was invited to be on the team to spearhead NDEE's ONE RED (Opportunity for Nebraska: Reducing Emissions and Decarbonizing), which secured the largest federal grant in the history of the state. He received his bachelor of science in geology from the University of Minnesota and completed his master's in geology & energy transition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before his role at the NDEE, he worked in materials testing and environmental consulting. Sam would also like to shout out his cat, Shrimpy.

Anna Oetting, MS

Sustainability Specialist

City of Lincoln, Office of the Mayor



Anna Oetting currently serves as the Sustainability Specialist with the City of Lincoln. Her work focuses on implementing Lincoln's Local Food System Plan and assisting in developing and tracking sustainability programs associated with the City's Climate Action Plan. Previously, she worked as a Sustainability Program Assistant with the Office of Sustainability at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she earned her Master's Degree in Natural Resources. Anna's background is in environmental education, fisheries, and wildlife resources.