



NEW MAINERS
PUBLIC HEALTH
INITIATIVE

Celebrating the 7th National Public Health Week April 4 - 9, 2022

With Community Learning and Dialog Events



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Day 1 – April 4, 2022
Virtual

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Keynote: History of National Public Health Week

by Dr. Nirav D. Shah

9:45 AM – 11:30 AM

Racism: A Public Health Crisis

Guest Speakers:
Dr. Mohamed Ali

Day 2 – April 5, 2022
Virtual

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
**Public Health Workforce –
Essential to our Future**

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Qaali Hussein

Day 3 – April 6, 2022
Virtual

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
**Community: Collaboration and
Resilience**

Guest Speakers:
Abdikadir Negeye and Amira Adawe

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
**Women's Health –
Skin Lightening**

Guest Speaker:
Amira Adawe

Day 4 – April 7, 2022
Virtual

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
**Accessibility:
Closing Health Equity Gap**

Guest Speaker:
Ian Yaffe

Day 5 – April 8, 2022
In-Person

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
**Men's Health
World Health Day:
Health is a Human Right**

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Reshid Shankol

Day 6 – April 9, 2022
Virtual

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM
**Aspiration Youth Program
Mental Health: Redefining the
Meaning of Public Health**

Guest Speaker:
Muna Muday, MPH

Monday, April 4, 2022



Nirav D. Shah, M.D., J.D., Maine Center for Disease Control Director. Dr. Shah is an American epidemiologist, economist and attorney. He received both a Juris Doctor and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Chicago and worked as an economist and epidemiologist at the Cambodian Ministry of Health.



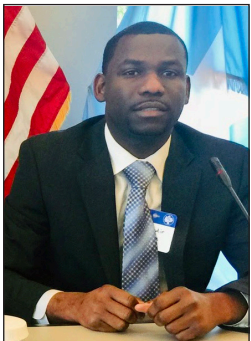
Mohamed Ali, MS, MPH, is a clinical instructor, Department of Health Systems and Population, at the University of Washington. Not many people can say they've received an award from President Barack Obama, but Mohamed can. Mohamed Ali is a well-rounded public health professional with twenty years of experience in biological sciences applied microbiology/parasitological studies, immunology, public health programs, research, and community engagement. He is a visionary, champion working constantly to understand intricate cultural-political issues and find solutions. Mohamed is a co-founder of the Somali Health Board and Hope Academy.

Tuesday, April 5, 2022



Dr. Qaali Hussein is the Founder and CEO of Defiance Academy, the Professional Development and Leadership Training platform for those ready to defy the status quo! She is the mother of six, trauma surgeon, and a big believer in the power of people to be the change they want to see in the world.

Wednesday, April 6, 2022



Abdikadir Negeye was born in Somalia and had lived in two refugee camps in Kenya before resettling in the United States in 2006. Two years after moving to Lewiston, he co-founded a non-profit organization, Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services where he serves as HR director and assistant director. Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services is an organization that educates and assists immigrant and refugee youth and their families and promotes a pathway toward citizenship and community engagement. He has 8 years of experience in senior management and twelve years with the same non-profit organization. Abdikadir is also a development director of the non-profit, Sustainable Livelihoods Relief Organization (SLRO), whose purpose is to improve economic advancement and youth leadership development for immigrants by creating and supporting sustainable livelihoods.



Amira Adawe has more than 15 years history of working in public health including local, state, and community-based public health programs, research, and policy. She is the Founder and Executive Director of The Beautywell Project. BW is a non-profit organization that aims to combat skin-lightening and chemical exposures as well as address other environmental impacts as well as improve community health literacy in Minnesota, Nationwide. She is also an adjunct Instructor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Amira previously managed the Minnesota Children's Cabinet of Governor Mark Dayton, where she worked on early childhood in all policies and systems using an equity lens. She is a public health researcher and her research interests include women and children's health in the areas of access to health care, skin-lightening practices, and chemical exposures. Amira is the host of the Beauty-Wellness Talk Podcast.

Thursday, April 7, 2022



Ian Yaffe is the first director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Population Health Equity at the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Central to Yaffe's work is addressing the COVID-19-related health disparities and advancement of health equity among underserved populations at higher risk. This includes racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities. Yaffe also serves in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve as a chief boatswain's mate. He holds a master of public administration degree from the University of Washington and a bachelor of arts from Bowdoin College.

Friday, April 8, 2022



Reshid Shankol, MD, MPH is a licensed social worker and physician from Ethiopia. He pursued his education in the United States, he volunteered at the Trinity Jubilee Center in Lewiston. He continues to volunteer his skills and experience, currently serving as public health consultant at L/A taskforce toward prevention of Covid 19 infection in new Mainers. In addition to his medical degree, he has a Master's in Public Health from Purdue University in 2017. He is passionate about ensuring that all people have access to care that is timely, of high quality, and culturally appropriate.

Saturday, April 9, 2022



Muna Muday is a Somali-American who grew up in a refugee camp in Kenya before coming to the United States, it is this experience that inspired her to become involved in working with vulnerable communities and marginalized populations. She was selected to participate in the My City Academy leadership training and New Americans Advisory Council by the Mayor's Office of New Americans in her city, where she helps communities understand and access government services. She is also a humanitarian advocate at ONE Campaign and Save the Children Network organizations, where she campaigns for preventable diseases, extreme poverty, and early childhood development and serves as the youngest Board of Directors at the Nashville International Center for Empowerment. In 2015 she received the distinguished leadership award at the annual African Heritage Festival for her record of outstanding community service initiatives and civic engagement for the enrichment of the African community.