



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

July 23, 2013

Dear Community Stakeholder:

Thank you for your continuing interest and participation in Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) discussions regarding health equity and how health equity can be better addressed in Minnesota community health improvement efforts. In August, MDH is seeking community stakeholder participation in a state wide process to develop a Minnesota Food Charter. MDH will host a community stakeholder meeting facilitated by Healthy Eating program staff that will be designed to gather your input on what is needed to ensure that all people in Minnesota have access to safe, affordable and healthy food.

The meeting will take place on **August 6, 2013, from 9 AM until 12 PM at The Neighborhood House at the Wellstone Center, Saint Paul, MN.** Registration is at 8:30 AM.

The Minnesota Food Charter is an important state-level public health effort that is designed to enhance the local community health work of the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), by establishing a multi-faceted blueprint that expands access to healthy food where people live, work, learn, and play. Food Charter planning sessions are designed to encourage an on-going broad-based public conversation about the food we want available in our communities. The information collected during the conversations will lay the foundation for a state charter that will express a clear and compelling vision for how all Minnesotans can access healthy, safe, affordable food while enjoying the economic benefits of healthier, stronger, communities. Your participation in this meeting will help MDH ensure the voices of those communities with the greatest health disparities are heard during the Food Charter development process.

In addition to your attendance, we encourage you to bring one additional community representative, community member, or colleague to join this meeting.

To confirm your attendance, please contact Angela Pope, with the Office of Statewide Health Improvement Initiatives, at (651) 201-5438 or by email at angela.pope@state.mn.us. **Please RSVP by Friday, August 2, 2013.** Confirmed attendees will receive a meeting agenda via email. For stakeholders outside of the metro area, please contact Angela to discuss additional arrangements for travel.

For questions or more details, contact Tim Jenkins at (651) 201-5965 or by email at tim.jenkins@state.mn.us.

Thank you in advance for your commitment and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle L. Larson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" and last name "Larson" clearly legible.

Michelle Larson, MPA
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