

FEBRUARY 2024

## 2023 YEAR AT A GLANCE

Confluence Public Health Alliance (Confluence) celebrates two years as an alliance between the Association of Montana Public Health Officials (AMPHO), Montana Environmental Health Association (MEHA) and Montana Public Health Association (MPHA).

AMPHO, MEHA, and MPHA have a combined membership of 44 local and tribal health departments, nearly 100 registered sanitarians, and over 200 public health professionals. The four boards of directors are comprised of 34 members representing much of the diversity in communities throughout Montana.

Our alliance solidified in notable ways during 2023, including serving as the lead public health advocacy organization during the Montana Legislative Session, launching a shared website, and adopting our unified strategic plan and mission.

In 2024, our focus is on strengthening Confluence's foundation by developing relationships that build support for our members and cultivating resources that allow us to do relevant work well now and into the future. **Thank you for your membership and support!**

**We unite environmental and public health professionals and amplify their impact on the health of all Montanans. Together we are a voice for health.**



### Connected the Workforce

- Brought together 20-30 frontier, small and medium local health departments twice monthly for AMPHO Small County Calls. Through leadership by the AMPHO Board of Directors, Small County Calls respond to the unique needs local health leaders face in protecting the health of rural communities.
- Managed Connected Community, a peer-to-peer online network that connects more than 600 users within more than 25 unique topic-based 'communities'. In 2023, 13 new communities were created.
- Hosted the statewide public and environmental health conference, Confluence 2023: Coming Together to Learn, Lead, and Speak for Health, (formerly the joint MPHA/ MEHA Conference) which connected nearly 250 professionals with professional development, networking opportunities, as well as policy and advocacy skill-building.

### Developed Leaders

- Mentored nine new public health directors through the AMPHO Lead Local Mentorship Program.
- Provided scholarships to 19 individuals, practitioners and students, in attending the Confluence Conference. Scholarships were made possible by support from Montana Healthcare Foundation and the Public Health and Safety Division.

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## Developed Leaders

- Led a Leadership Forum at DPHHS Summer Institute focused on building healthy teams and strategic partnerships (Public Health 3.0). Over 50 public health professionals attended in-person.
- Sent 15 professionals to national conferences: American Public Health Association and National Environmental Health Association.

## Unified for Change

- Defended the foundational pillars of public health during the 2023 Montana Legislative Session: clean air, healthy environment, and communities safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.
  - Tracked over 70 bills and actively strategized and/ or testified on 56 bills.
  - *2023 Legislative Summary Report*: [www.confluencepha.org/policy-advocacy](http://www.confluencepha.org/policy-advocacy)
  - Recruited local health leaders and professionals, friends of public health, and local elected officials to share the impact of their work and the needs of their communities.
  - Brought 68 local health professionals together for a virtual legislative recap.
- Worked year-round with the multiple coalitions and partner organizations to support community health priorities including tobacco prevention, home visiting, behavioral health prevention, and protecting the most vulnerable from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Confluence is recognized nationally as a unique and effective advocacy approach to public health advocacy.
  - Served as one of three state-level public health associations at a small national convening focused on strengthening public health advocacy.
  - Presented nationally on state policy and advocacy efforts during two Network for Public Health Law webinars.

## Strengthened Professional Member Associations - AMPHO, MEHA and MPHA

Confluence originated in 2022 with the functional purpose of streamlining operations to unlock opportunities for AMPHO, MEHA and MPHA as well as members and the workforce.

- Adopted a unified strategic plan, mission and vision!
- Grew the consolidated budget by 455 percent.
- Launched a shared website: [www.confluencepha.org](http://www.confluencepha.org).
- Began disseminating unified, monthly communications to members of AMPHO, MEHA and MPHA.
- Solidified a staff of two full-time employees supported by several contractors and temporary positions.
- AMPHO, MEHA and MPHA Boards of Directors meet monthly and Confluence Board meets bimonthly.
- Established Joint Committees between the four organizations that meet bimonthly: Resource Development, Communications, Finance and Governance, Risk and Legal.
- Joint Policy and Advocacy Committee meets weekly during a legislative session and monthly during the legislative interim.

[www.confluencepha.org](http://www.confluencepha.org)

Join us in learning, leading and speaking for health.  
Become a member, support our work and connect with us!