

April 14th, 2021

The killing of Daunte Wright on Sunday, April 11, by a Brooklyn Center police officer reignites and expands many feelings - anger, grief, trauma - among our Minnesota community. Now more than ever, it's critical that we support and protect our community members who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color.

While racism has been ever present in the fabric of our country, those with the most privilege are finally beginning to recognize it. The CDC Director [Dr. Rochelle Walensky recently declared racism a serious threat to public health](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0408-racism-health.html). The impacts of systemic racism are as broad and complex as the field of public health. This requires us as public health educators to do what we do best and look beyond treatment, and towards prevention and upstream solutions.

While we work to dismantle the systems of oppression that continue to prevent our communities from living free of disparities, there are short/medium term needs that require action: [food security](https://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/), [opioid addiction recovery](https://mn.gov/dhs/opioids/), [mental health](https://namimn.org/), [health care](https://hca-mn.org/), [housing](https://www.ppl-inc.org/), and [environmental justice](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/mpca-and-environmental-justice). We as an organization are committed to embodying and promoting diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-rascist principles, and invite you to engage with us and the membership around these critical topics. Please feel free to reach out to any of the board members listed below if you would like to talk through your experience during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

MN SOPHE Board of Directors