



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Kent County Health Department Hosts Local Leaders and National Speaker  
to Activate Community Conversation About Policy Change**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – Our health and wellbeing is impacted by everything else. Everything you see around you every day plays some role in your health. Housing issues, air quality, criminal justice, transportation and access to healthy food are just a few of the determinants of health. It is simply impossible to tackle health matters without taking these and other factors into consideration.

Now the Kent County Health Department is inviting local leaders to sit down and hear about a collective strategy to focus those conversations that is growing in popularity nationally. Health in All Policies asks local, state and federal governments to consider issues through a “health lens” whenever policy matters are considered. Health in All Policies emphasizes the need to collaborate across both public and private sectors to achieve common health goals.

On Tuesday August 15, the Kent County Health Department will host “Tools for Better Health” a community convening at GVSU’s L.V. Eberhard Center located at 301 Fulton W. Grand Rapids, MI. The event begins at 1:30 and will feature keynote speaker Julia Caplan. Caplan is the project lead for the Health in All Policies Task Force, a collaborative effort between the Public Health Institute, the California Department of Public Health and the California Strategic Growth Council. This project represents the first formal use of a Health in All Policies approach by a US state government.

The event will also highlight local collaboratives working to assess and improve opportunities for people to reach their full health potential.

“Health in All Policies is the next logical step in population health,” says Adam London, Administrative Health Officer with the Kent County Health Department. “Public health agencies and our many partners need to work with individuals who are in the positions of creating policies to serve, protect and promote a healthy community for all. We are excited to begin that conversation with the leaders of this community, we look forward to embracing an even wider array of partners.”

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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An action plan for next steps in the Health in All Policies movement is being developed by the Kent County Health Department and interested partners and stakeholders. The goal is to institutionalize a Health in All Policies approach throughout Kent County Government and to encourage similar actions among community leaders and organizations.

MEDIA NOTE: Julia Caplan and Adam London will be available for one on one interviews prior to the event beginning at 12:30.

Please call Steve Kelso to schedule an interview and arrange for a parking pass in the L.V Eberhard lot.

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