

**PROPOSAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION AND THE CUBAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION,
CHAPTER OF VILLA CLARA.**

The Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA) represented by Aggie L. Cook, RN, MPH and the Cuban Public Health Association, Chapter of Villa Clara (SOCUSAP-VC) represented by its president Marilyn Hernández Gómez, M Dr., MSc. activate the present document the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), subject to the following terms and articles.

WHEREAS

MPHA is an organization where public health workers from multiple disciplines, sectors, and communities come together around shared values, goals, and priorities. The MPHA mission is “to create a healthier Minnesota through effective public health practice and engaged citizens.” The diversity of MPHA contributes to our vision of being an “active, credible and independent voice for public health in Minnesota.” This is the first international agreement for our independent association of professionals.

MPHA has the opportunity to frame the policy issues, present science-based information and data, and recommend solutions. Fueled by individual and collective passion, energy, and talents, MPHA works in several ways: offers public and professional education opportunities; links with and mentors new public health professionals; consults with Minnesota Department of Health, University of Minnesota School of Public Health (SPH), and other public, private and non-profit agencies; forms or joins coalitions, partnerships and collaboratives; and develops and advocates for policy positions at local, state and national levels.

WHEREAS

SOCUSAP-VC is an exclusively multidisciplinary scientific association, integrated by professionals and technicians with a profile or devoted to the Health Sciences or to the Public Health Management. It has as its main purpose to contribute to materialize the required transformations for the constant improvement of the quality of Public Health in Cuba where the health cares are universal and free. The ways to reach that purpose are on the one hand the development of scientific and researching activities in function of the emerging problem from the social practice, directed to the human capital that carries the Public Health work in the country, mainly in the American continent and with the common international organizations.

WHEREAS

MPHA and SOCUSAP-VC recognize the constant need of wide contacts and the collaboration work with the non-government sector, or the civil society, with the purpose of improving the health and quality of life of the people in the state of Minnesota (United States of America) and the province of Villa Clara (Cuba).

Taking into account the necessity of closer and more systematic collaboration between MPHA and SOCUSAP-VC on matters related to the health and willing to improve that cooperation, both organizations agree to this MOU to develop joint initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of the people from the state of Minnesota (United States) and from the province of Villa Clara (Cuba).

Article 1: Purpose of the MOU

The objective of this memorandum is to establish the terms and general conditions by which MPHA and SOCUSAP-VC will work to develop joint initiatives.

Article 2: Scope of the Objectives

To reach the objective of the present memorandum, the parties will carry out activities that can support the missions shared by both organizations.

1. Analysis of the subject matters of Public Health, between them:
 - Experiences related to the social determinants of health.
 - Health in natural and human disasters: prevention and mitigation.
 - Integration on the health service networks.
 - Essential functions of Public Health.
 - Organization of health services.
 - Evaluation of the sanitary technologies.
 - Marketing of health products and services.

2. Exchange of knowledge and experiences about the public health policies, strategies and programs in the United States and Cuba. They can include efforts for:
 - Formation of human resources
 - Public policies, strategies and programs that have contributed to support Cuban programs of reproductive health, human resources formation on this area of knowledge.
 - Local solution to global problems
 - Health community and inter-sector participation
 - Analysis of community health as a tool at the Primary Health Care
 - Development of integrated nets of health services
 - Universal Health Coverage
 - Implementation of the strategies of Primary Health Care

3. Bilateral participation in events
 - Members of SOCUSAP-VC in annual meetings of MPHA
 - MPHA will attempt to assure a representation, at least annually, in meetings of SOCUSAP-VC
 - Other meetings of interest will be developed for their members
 - A potential annual event for scientific exchange between Villa Clara and Minnesota

- Workshops with experts from both countries on topics of mutual interest

4. Exchange of literature and publications

- Donations of MPHA to SOCUSAP-VC of updated bibliography on Public Health and Health Management
- Elaboration of materials in collaboration
- Scientific publications on public health magazines in both nations

5. Negotiations for the signing of an agreement of collaboration between the Medical University of Villa Clara and the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing of the University of Minnesota

Article 3: Supplementary Agreements

For each specific program agreed to in the spirit of this memorandum of understanding that includes the transfer of funds or other resources, MPHA and SOCUSAP-VC will sign a complementary agreement that will refer to this memorandum of understanding. The supplementary agreement must include the responsibilities of each part, duration of the agreement, a detailed budget indicating the indirect costs, financing, payment mechanisms, evaluation and presentation of reports.

Article 4: MPHA Commitments

MPHA will provide assistance according to its principles and philosophy, subjected to disposition of resources and according to its strategy priorities, through its specialized experts, services and installations.

Article 5: SOCUSAP-VC Commitments

SOCUSAP-VC will provide technical scientific assistance, with arrangements of its norms and regulations, according to its strategic priorities and subjected to disposition of resources, through its specialized experts, services and installations.

Article 6: Exclusion of Working Relationships

The selected staff by each part will keep the subordination and working relationship to the institution to which each belongs, keeping all the rights and duties on it established. There will not be any working relationship between the parts or the staff that each of them use for carrying out the object of the present document.

Article 7: Financial Responsibilities

This memorandum does involve neither obligations nor financial commitments from the signing organizations

Both parts will look for through different ways, financing sources for the achievement of the proposed objectives.

Article 8: Norms of Behavior

Both parts manifest their commitment of keeping high ethical standards and observe the ethic policies and guidelines.

Article 9: Spreading of the Information

The parts can make available the information derived from the cooperation under this agreement to the national scientific community through any means that they agree

Article 10: Force Majeure

None of the parts will be responsible of the obligations that emerge from this memorandum of understanding with which they are unable to fulfill completely or partially for reasons of force majeure, including wars, natural disasters, civil disasters or any other cause out of the control of the parties.

Article 11: Solution of Conflicts

MPHA and SOCUSAP-VC will make their best efforts to solve friendly any argument, controversy or claim that emerges from, or related with this MOU.

Article 12: Coming into Effect, Modification and Termination

- a) This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of the last signature by all the parties and will be effective for 3 years and it will be extended for the same period on interest of the parts. All the activities must be completed before the final date.
- b) This MOU can be modified or enlarged by a written agreement of both parts. Besides, any of the parts can be rescinded through a written notification 60 days before.
- c) The assumed obligations by the parties under this Memorandum of Understanding will extend beyond its expiration or termination, whenever it could be necessary for the attention to matters related to its staff, compliance of the contractual commitment that have been carried out, if necessary.

Article 13: Points of Contact

- a) The Cuban Society of Public Health, Chapter of Villa Clara names MSc. Dr. Marilyn Hernández Gómez, as the point of contact for matters related to this MOU.
- b) The Minnesota Public Health Association names Dr. John Oswald as the point of contact for matters related to this MOU.

As proof of our willingness to negotiate, the representatives accordingly authorized sign this MOU on two (2) copies with the same content, dates and places as indicated. .

BY THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Aggie L. Cook, RN, MPH
President of the Minnesota Public Health Association

Place:

Date:

BY THE CUBAN SOCIETY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, VILLA CLARA

MSc. Dra. Marilyn Hernández Gómez
President of the Cuban Society of Public Health, Villa Clara

Place:

Date: