

## Restructuring Power and Authority between Institutions and Community to Address Health Disparities

### Background:

Following the 2020 murder of George Floyd by police, Minneapolis, MN has faced a social reckoning in response to disparities of race, gender, citizen status, religion and language. Social and public health services are points of interaction with the community, however staff are unprepared for the mistrust and resentment felt by many towards their institutions. With support from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), Open Path Resources (OPR) and the Islamic Civic Society of America (ICSA), have developed a community-engagement model that helps to restructure the “expert” and “service” orientation of public health systems by promoting civic skills and empowering community to gain control of critical aspects of the healthcare relationship.

### Content:

In this session OPR will share the ideas, development process, and progress of our community-led engagement strategies. The session will highlight the critical role of community-based organizations in restructuring power and authority between institutions and community, and will focus on how to engender trust-development, the most essential attribute of the model. The session will further demonstrate how an East African and broader Muslim immigrant community, when in right relationship with the region’s public institutions, can more effectively address health disparities.

### Instructional Method:

OPR and ICSA will present on their approach in lecture and Q&A format, and subsequently facilitate large and small groups to apply learnings to their own public health settings to promote effective engagement with RIM communities.