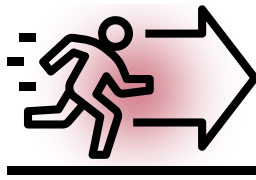


2024 Annual Report

Center for Metrics and Evaluation



At a Glance

Overview	Mission, Vision, & Values	Partners & Projects	Our Impact	Looking Ahead
				

Overview

The Center for Metrics and Evaluation (**CME**) offers a full suite of data, research and evaluation services including proposal development, project management and research communications. As program evaluation partner to community-based organizations, healthcare systems, school districts and funders, **CME** works to identify, develop, and share stories in evidence-based ways that position organizations for continued growth and success.

CME functions to align faculty expertise across UNMC College of Public Health departments in order to provide evaluation consultation, technical assistance, quality improvement and other support to public health initiatives.

WHAT ISSUES ARE WE ADDRESSING?	WHAT SOLUTIONS ARE WE PROVIDING?
Nebraska's Public Health Infrastructure and Data Modernization needs and challenges	Supportive collaboration with Nebraska DHHS + NALHD to understand the needs and functional expectations of State level Public Health entities
Traditional barriers to University - Community partnership and engagement	Community-Based Program Evaluation (CBPE)
Limited access to program evaluation services for organizations, institutions and funded research and intervention projects across Nebraska	Technical Training and Assistance (TTA)
Misperceptions around the role and importance of evaluation in promoting public health	Education and communications campaigns

Who We Are



National Advisory Committee

K. Bain - Executive Director, Community Capacity Development

Wendi Cross, Ph.D. - Director, Implementation, Dissemination, Evaluation and Analyses (IDEA), University of Rochester Medical Center

Shadiin Garcia, Ph.D. - Executive Director, Native Women Lead

Resche Hines, Ph.D. - CEO, Trivium BI

Karen Jackson, Ph.D. - President-Elect, American Evaluation Association

Charity Menefee - Director, Division of Public Health, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Brittany M. Moore - VP, Philanthropy and Community Impact, Wells Fargo

Philip Polakoff, MD - CEO, A Healthier WE

Keshia Pollack Porter, Ph.D. - Bloomberg Centennial Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins University

Veronica Womack, Ph.D. - Director, Rural Studies Institute, Georgia College



Mission, Vision, and Values

Our Mission

CME's mission is to leverage UNMC's world-renowned faculty, staff and students to improve public health infrastructure and applications through data, research and evaluation science.

Our Vision

We envision the Healthiest people & places worldwide. CME operationalizes evaluation by centering the values, needs and histories of community in the language of Public Health expertise.

To get there, CME will collaboratively and relentlessly seek new and creative solutions to the most challenging problems in public health while working to prevent them from happening in the first place.

Our Values

CME will strategically identify and incentivize faculty and community-level leadership and involvement in data, research, and evaluation initiatives that support the mission and vision of UNMC College of Public Health by prioritizing the following values:

- **Knowledge** – We believe high-quality education, research, and partnerships are key to discovering public health solutions that work.
- **Collaboration** – We believe working together with communities in Nebraska, across the country, and around the world is powerful.
- **Innovation** – We believe that constantly seeking new and creative approaches raises the bar for public health and best practices.

CME Strategic Priorities

1. **Support** public health Infrastructure and data modernization in Nebraska
2. **Infuse** public health expertise into program evaluation methodology
3. **Strengthen** UNMC College of Public Health faculty grant proposals
4. **Leverage** collaborative data models as an alternative to reactionary grant writing
5. **Provide** CPH students with viable pathways to professional careers in evaluation
6. **Offer** accreditation support for CPH departments and units
7. **Improve** community health promotion in Omaha and across Nebraska through Community Based Participatory Evaluation
8. **Establish** UNMC as a national leader in data, research and evaluation across public health, medicine, and education

Executive Summary

As CME's inaugural year, 2024 was an action-packed blur of new connections, emerging opportunities, planning and reflection. As the College of Public Health's newest Center, CME represents a multi-year effort to consolidate and leverage UNMC's existing data, research and evaluation resources to support the College's mission of collaboratively and relentlessly seeking new and creative solutions to the most challenging problems in public health while working to prevent them from happening in the first place.

The culmination of years of planning and resource allocation by leadership within the College of Public Health, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD), CME formally began January 1, 2024 with the hire of CME's founding director, Brian Carey Sims. Over the next 12 months, Dr. Sims (a new Nebraskan) embarked on a learning journey designed to understand the many layers and elements of public health evaluation assets and opportunities on campus, in Omaha, across the State, and throughout the country.

In the span of one year, this journey has led to collaborative partnerships, funded research, and theoretical and applied public health evaluation work supporting some of the world's most promising leaders across medicine, education, criminal justice, agriculture, and behavioral health.

Academic Administration

Dr. Sims met with faculty members, administrators, and students across UNMC and the broader University of Nebraska system to learn and understand its myriad cultures and histories, including the Center for Reducing Health Disparities, the Office of Public Health Practice, the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), Nebraska Extension, CityMatCH, the Buffet Early Child Education Institute, the Buffet Cancer Institute, the College of Medicine's Nebraska Collaborative for Violence Intervention and Prevention (NeCVIP), and the College of Public Health's Office of Teaching and Learning.

Community Partnership

In 2024 CME worked with community partners in 5 States, developing funding proposals, providing technical training and assistance, collecting and analyzing data, and implementing dissemination plans for non-profit organizations engaged in public health pr

- Down North Foundation
- Helping Education
- Omaha Pathways Community Hub
- Punch For Pounds
- Young New Yorkers
- YOUNiversal Education Services



Partners & Projects

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Infrastructure Grant

After decades of underfunding, too many health departments lack the resources to deliver basic services. State and local health departments have lost 15% of their workforce over the last decade.* The Public Health Infrastructure Grant is designed to turn this trend around. This groundbreaking, flexible model lets health department recipients invest in the people, services, and systems that can address their communities' most pressing needs. CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) is a groundbreaking investment supporting critical public health infrastructure needs across the United States. One hundred and seven health departments and three national public health partners received funding through this 5-year grant (12/1/2022 - 11/30/2027). CME provides ongoing data, research and evaluation support to the ongoing "three-legged stool" partnership between the Nebraska DHHS, NALHD, and UNMC College of Public Health.



In early 2024 CME collaborated with the CPH Office for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Public Health Practice to develop a Program Evaluation Module Series, a series of digital education resources for public health practitioners across Nebraska designed to increase evaluation capacity at local levels. Our team developed five individual modules, each focusing on a critical aspect of program evaluation planning designed to provide resources to support evaluation efforts.

This module series was developed with funding through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (#NU90TP922166).

For Benefit Balance Sheet (FBBS) Down North Foundation

The **For-Benefit Balance Sheet** is an assessment tool designed to provide business leaders and external funding partners with an accurate fingerprint of a for-profit company's value and impact in financial, social and cultural terms. The FBBS initiative represents partnership between CME, the Down North Foundation, and a growing network of for-benefit enterprises positively impacting public health across multiple sectors.



Department of Justice / Bureau Justice Administration Newark Community Solutions Pre-trial Assessment and Supportive Services (NCS-PASS)

This project's overarching goal is to expand pre-trial programming delivered within the systems-change framework and establish a universal screening and case management program available to all individuals released pre-trial from the Essex County Correctional Facility (ECCF). Through NCS-PASS, defendants, including those with substance use disorders, interested in receiving pre-trial community support will be able to opt into a pre-release assessment followed by community-based case management and coordination with defense counsel. At the systems level, NCS-PASS will expedite linkages to existing diversion initiatives within Essex County, NJ. Through committee meetings and community outreach, the project integrates the voices of all stakeholders and utilize lessons learned to inform program development and relationships.

A green rectangular box containing the text 'Newark Community Solutions' in white, with a white horizontal line underneath.

Department of Justice / Office of Justice Programs City of Greensboro Violence Intervention & Prevention Project for School Age Children



Through established partnerships with local organizations (i.e. Freedom Fighters Initiative, Punch4Pounds, Cross the Street Tutorial Program) invested in youth education throughout the triad, UNMC has the capacity to implement programming in the greater Greensboro area; including facility space to conduct classes and events. CME will identify, train, and place undergraduate students as mentors for elementary, middle and/or high school students in the greater Greensboro area. Furthermore, CME will work with faculty 1 members to collect assessment and research data on program outcomes and prepare external funding applications to secure funds for long-term program implementation of THREADS in the Guilford County Schools system.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Healthcare Behavioral Threat Assessment Management (HcBTAM)

The College of Public Health's Center for Preparedness and Emergency Response Solutions and the Association of Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Professionals (AHEPP) recently secured FEMA funding to develop Healthcare Behavioral Threat Assessment Management (HcBTAM) Teams in Nebraska. CME will provide data, research and evaluation support to monitor metrics and success, assure quality, and disseminate findings.



Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) University of Rochester Medicine Recovery Center of Excellence



The University of Rochester Medicine Recovery Center of Excellence was established in 2019 as one of three Rural Centers of Excellence (RCOE) on substance use disorder (SUD) in the United States. It is funded by the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), an initiative of the Health Resources and Services Administration that aims to reduce morbidity and mortality related to SUD, including opioid use disorder (OUD), in rural areas. The UR Medicine Recovery Center of Excellence is supported by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) as part of an award of \$3.33M in the current year with 0% financed with non-governmental sources. CME provides research communications and social and digital media dissemination support to the HRSA RCORP RCOE team.

New York Urban League Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund

Young New Yorkers

Young New Yorkers (YNY) strives to redirect youth from the criminal justice system, reducing recidivism by nurturing self-confidence through artistic expression and valuable work experiences. YNY offers meaningful diversion alternatives through Trauma-Informed Restorative Arts Diversion programs, combating systemic over-incarceration in Black and Brown communities. CME provides Evaluation Framework/Tool Development, Data Collection and Analysis, Impact Measurement and Research Communications to Young New Yorkers leadership.



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) School Mental Health Grants YOUiversal Education Services (YES)



YOUiversal Education Services (YES) supports youth-focused organizations and the communities they serve, and offers practical solutions to overcome the endless challenges and barriers to providing high-quality intersectional programming and interventions. A culturally responsive school mental health initiative was developed through a collaborative process with mental health professionals and a cross-section of community stakeholders. The curriculum was delivered by a team of facilitators trained and supervised by YES. CME provides data, research and evaluation services along with technical training and assistance (curriculum development and implementation) to YOUiversal Education Services for their Urban Pathways Charter School project in Pittsburgh, PA.

IFC Health

IFC (Individuals, Families, and Communities) Health is a men's support and advocacy program with a mission to **support Black men's physical, mental and emotional journey through family-related legal challenges to promote individual, family and community health**. This support has three dimensions: *Group Support, Advocacy, and Research & Policy*.

- **Group Support** - IFC Health participants support each other through group activities, outings, and peer mentoring
- **Advocacy** - IFC Health participants, staff, and partners advocate for individual participants and their families during their intersections with the justice system.
- **Research & Policy** - IFC Health conducts research to influence policy through evidence-based recommendations to legislators, agencies, and social service providers.



The IFC Health model includes evidence-based behavioral, emotional, legal and financial support components. The men's support component is designed to wholistically support Black men on their journey through family-related legal challenges. This wholistic support includes evidence-based physical, emotional, behavioral, legal and financial aid components. The advocacy component focuses on representing men and providing resources for family-related legal challenges in all intersections with family law systems and/or institutions including (but not limited to) family court, divorce court, law enforcement (including DCFS and DOE), legal counsel, mediation, child support, elder care and employment affairs.

SEMILLA - University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus

SEMILLA is funded by The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Science Education Partnership Award, led by P.I. Dr. Maribel Campos Rivera. SEMILLA pairs “what happened to you” experiences with STEM training that allows children to externalize their life experiences in locations identified by them to be a safe space- building a network engaged in the use of scientific inquiry to promote individual and community agency. As the lead organization of a collaborative network of learning partners, CME will synthesize data trends and lessons from across Caribbean REACH Virtual Center project activities in the form of generalizable knowledge and specific actionable, evidence-based recommendations for funding partners, business leaders, and public health professionals.



Our Impact

11

Communities
Served

In 2024 CME provided data, research and evaluation support for communities from Nebraska to New York. Our Community - Based Program Evaluation (CBPE) framework is inspired by the Human Justice movement, an evidence-based approach to public health practice that has been implemented in the U.S. and internationally.

In 2024 CME provided evaluation support for over \$9M in funded research through research projects from the Centers for Disease Control, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, U.S. Department of Justice, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), New York Urban League and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

\$9M

Funded
Research

14,507

Miles
Traveled

CME supported funding proposals through collaborations with LINGO; Young New Yorkers; the Omaha Pathways Community Hub; CyncHealth; Helping Education; AgriSafe; the Down North Foundation; IFC Health; Punch4Pounds; Newark Community Solutions; and North Omaha Area Health (NOAH).

Key Performance Indicators

1 Community
Partners



2 Evaluation
Funding



3 Faculty
Trainings



4 Publications



5 Affiliated
Faculty



Looking Ahead

Student Involvement

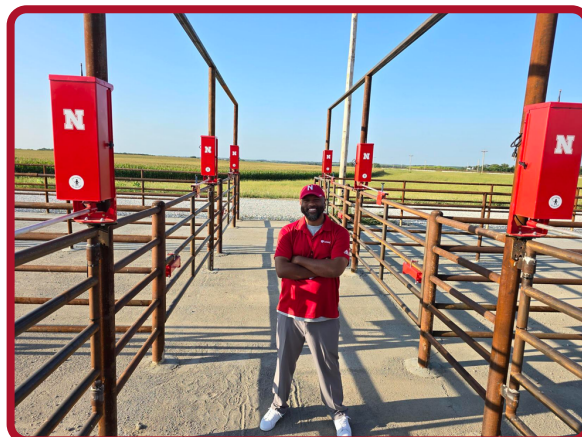
- MPH and PhD students will engage in CME activities ranging from Applied Practices Experiences to Capstones and more.

Evaluation Direct Marketing

- Drug companies market their products directly to consumers. CME will market its evaluation products (e.g. proposal development, data collection / analysis, evaluation planning and implementation; dissemination planning) to funders as well as universities / organizations interested in applying for specific funding opportunities.

Fee for Service CHAs and CHIPs

- In 2025 CME will coordinate fee-for-service support of local Nebraska communities engaged in Community Health Assessments and Community Health Implementation Plans.



References & Resources

- Public Health Infrastructure Grant | <https://www.cdc.gov/infrastructure-phig/about/index.html>
- Copenhague Office of Public Health Practice | <https://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/services/ophp/index.html>
- Copenhague Center for Preparedness and Emergency Response | <https://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/centers/cpers/>
- The ABC's of Evaluation | <https://www.youtube.com.mcas.ms/playlist?list=PL0P1jydekSEgrE0lowsxK80j6eE3juJzW>

Contact Us

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