



Goodhue County  
**Health and Human Services**

**Public Health Division**  
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**DATE:** May 12, 2022  
**TO:** Goodhue County Board  
**FROM:** Nina Arneson, GCHHS Director  
**RE:** Out of State Travel Request

**BACKGROUND:**

Minnesota Department of Health encourages local Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grantees to attend the National Conference on Tobacco or Health in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 28-30, 2022. Our local SHIP initiative is Live Well Goodhue County.

Lodging, flight, registration, meals, and staff time would all be covered by the SHIP grant and would be about \$1800 total (depending on flight) for Gina Johnson, Live Well Goodhue County Coordinator. Registration deadline is June 5.

Gina Johnson previously attended this conference in Texas in 2017 and Megan Roschen and David Anderson attended it when it was in Minneapolis in 2019. The National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH) is one of the largest, long-standing gatherings for top United States tobacco control professionals. The convening attracts a diversity of public health professionals and is convened by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) with other stakeholders.

The breakout sessions at this conference are applicable not only to tobacco work but as general public health professional development such as equity, the 10 essential services, policy change, public education campaigns and engaging youth. Participants will explore practical ways to improve tobacco control programs and activities such as those which can be funded by our SHIP grant. Our Live Well Goodhue County staff continue to hear from school resource officers and school nurses that resources are needed to address tobacco use including vaping and e-cigarettes.

Gina Johnson will only attend the conference if the SHIP grant covers all the costs of the conference, travel, hotel, meals and staff time.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The GCHHS Department recommends approval of this request.

