

**Community Health Services Advisory Committee
Proposed Appointment – February 2017**

Maria Sundaram

Ward 4

Race/Ethnicity: Other

Employer: U of MN School of Public Health

Occupation: Graduate Research Assistant

Why are you interested in serving on a board or committee?

I am a public health professional with six years of experience in public health and a renewed interest in being involved in policy at my community level. I would love to give back to the community that I live in, using the expertise I already have.

What skills/training or experience do you possess for the committee(s) for which you seek appointment?

I received a master of science in public health degree in 2011 from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Since then, I have worked in local and international environments, including as a short-term consultant for the World Health Organization in Geneva and a technical assistance for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Swaziland. I also spent nearly three years working on a large-scale community research student on the effectiveness of influenza vaccine in rural Wisconsin before coming to Minnesota for a PhD in Environmental Health. Since arriving in Minnesota, I've assisted HCMC in improving employee flu vaccination rates and helped with the investigation of a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in Minnesota turkeys. I'm a small-town Wisconsin native with a strong belief that you should use your abilities to help others. I would love this opportunity to support my new, adopted community in St. Paul.