

Dr. MayKao Y. Hang

Dr. MayKao Y. Hang is the President and CEO of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving lives in the Greater St. Paul, MN community and beyond through research, direct service and community building.

Wilder provides services that build hope and resiliency for children and families through mental health, education, housing, social adjustment, early childhood, and aging programs. The organization builds community capacity through leadership development programs, community initiatives, and collaborations that bring people together to solve complex social challenges.¹ Wilder Research has reported that immigrants and refugees are at higher risk for developing mental health problems, compared to their native counterparts, due to previous trauma and/or the stress of migration and resettlement; such as war, violence, poverty, and acculturation.² Their Southeast Asian Services (SAS) program, which combines western mental health with traditional healing methods to provide culturally appropriate mental health services for the large and growing population of Hmong, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and other Southeast Asian residents in St. Paul.³ Additionally, the Center for Social Healing and Wellness is an intentional, therapeutic community designed to respond to the many barriers and unmet cultural and service needs of these communities.⁴

MayKao has extensive experience in the public and the non-profit sectors, serving low income and disadvantaged populations. She is committed to achieving an equitable society where everyone can prosper. She believes in harnessing and building social and civic capital to change the world. MayKao has a BA degree in Psychology from Brown University, a MA degree in Social Policy and Distributive Justice from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and a Doctorate in Public Administration from Hamline University. She is Deputy Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, a Trustee and Chair of the Grants & Community Initiatives Committee of Minnesota Philanthropy Partners, Co-Chair of Itasca Project's Socio-economic Disparities Work Group, an alliance of cross-sector CEO's committed to reducing employment disparities, and an Advisory Member of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Dr. Hang has been recognized with numerous awards including the Community Champion 40 & Forward Award, the Humphrey Public Leadership Award, the Ann Bancroft Award, the Ultimate Hmong Woman Award, and the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans Leadership Award.



¹ <http://www.wilder.org/Programs-Services/Pages/default.aspx>

² [http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Publications/Studies/Immigrant and Refugee Mental Health - Best Practices in Meeting the Needs of Immigrants and Refugees/Immigrant and Refugee Mental Health - Best Practices in Meeting the Needs of Immigrants and Refugees, Snapshot.pdf](http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Publications/Studies/Immigrant%20and%20Refugee%20Mental%20Health%20-%20Best%20Practices%20in%20Meeting%20the%20Needs%20of%20Immigrants%20and%20Refugees/Immigrant%20and%20Refugee%20Mental%20Health%20-%20Best%20Practices%20in%20Meeting%20the%20Needs%20of%20Immigrants%20and%20Refugees,%20Snapshot.pdf)

³ <http://www.wilder.org/Programs-Services/Southeast-Asian-Services/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴ <http://www.wilder.org/Programs-Services/Southeast-Asian-Services/Pages/center-for-social-healing.aspx>