The Power of Partnerships: Working Together for a Healthy Connecticut

The 2013 Annual Meeting & Conference of the Connecticut Public Health Association

Friday, October 25, 2013
8:00AM to 4:00PM
Coco Key Convention Center
3580 East Main St.
Waterbury, CT 06705
A Message from the President

Welcome to the 2013 CPHA Annual Meeting and Conference!

Once again, CPHA is proud to offer public health professionals an exciting educational conference with exceptional speakers. This year, we circle back to take a fresh look at partnerships in public health. While public health practice has always involved working collectively across different sectors to bring about positive health outcomes, today’s dual challenge of addressing increasingly complex public health issues with declining resources makes strategic use partnerships more important than ever.

There has probably never been an easy time to practice public health, and I suspect we will look back historically at this period following the “Great Recession” as particularly challenging. Years of cutbacks in public health funding have driven us to take a hard look at the sustainability and effectiveness of our programming and services. Inventive new approaches -- such as Community Transformation Grants, Healthy Homes initiatives, and collaborations between local health and hospitals to assess community health needs – are marshaling new collaborations around the state to improve population health. Today’s conference focuses on the latest methods and strategies to help you forge new partnerships and, perhaps, rekindle old relationships!

While we are on the topic of relationships, you should find even more time on the agenda this year for networking with colleagues from around the state. To help us all see the “big picture” in partnerships, we are pleased and honored this year to welcome Dr. Judith Monroe of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as our keynote speaker. Dr. Monroe has dedicated her public health career to promoting collaboration between organizations, agencies and people to improve the public health infrastructure.

I want to take a moment to recognize CPHA and our outstanding accomplishments over the past 12 months. We launched a new online membership system which has greatly enhanced our internal management systems. We hosted our annual Legislative Breakfast at the LOB in March, and an exciting Public Health Awards Night at the elegant Wadsworth Mansion in April. Our Advocacy Committee was a partner in a number of legislative successes, from gun control to banning the use of tanning salons by minors. CPHA’s Mentoring Organization Registry was featured in an article in “The Nation’s Health” and CPHA was the recipient of a grant to help support a successful half-day workshop on collaborative community health needs assessments.

I encourage you to spend some time visiting with our sponsors, exhibitors and student posters. Also, a warm thank you to those who sponsored students, and to SCSU for providing funding to send over 20 public health students today. Finally, please take a moment to introduce yourself to at least one new colleague. Remember, this is our day to celebrate public health partnerships in Connecticut!

Best wishes for a great conference,

Kathi Traugh, MPH
CPHA President
2013 Connecticut Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Conference

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Joan Segal, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Kathi Traugh, Yale School of Public Health

Carolyn Wysocki, Central Connecticut Health District Board of Health
Conference Goals and Objectives

Goal: To provide public health practitioners and agencies with the tools and skills needed to forge meaningful partnerships and collaborations to strengthen and improve public health in Connecticut.

Objectives:
- To examine the role of partnerships in public health in the context of changes in the economic, political and social environment
- To identify best practices and strategies to encourage collaboration with a variety of non-traditional partners in order to improve the delivery of public health services and programs
- To increase practitioners’ knowledge and skills in key areas of practice, including media relations, coalition development, student mentoring and public health policy development
- To provide opportunities for networking, dialogue and the exchange of ideas between members of the public health community

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Business Meeting Agenda

12:10PM | Lunch Seating & Serving
1:05PM | Lunch and Business Meeting
Kathi Traugh, President, CPHA
- Accept CPHA Committee Reports
- Accept Treasurer’s Report
- CPHA Election Results

Schedule of Events

8:00AM | Registration/Exhibitors
8:30AM | President’s Welcome Message
Kathi Traugh, President, CPHA
Anjuli Bodyk, Program Chair
8:35AM | Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Jewell Mullen, MD, MPH, MPH,
CT Commissioner of Public Health
8:40AM | Morning Keynote Address
Judith A. Monroe, MD, FAAFP,
Deputy Director for State, Tribal,
Local and Territorial Support at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
9:35AM | Break
9:45AM | Morning Breakout Session 1
Coalition Building 101 (Connecticut)
- Renee D. Coleman-Mitchell (Moderator),
  Section Chief, Connecticut Department of Public Health
- Cindy Barry, MA, Senior Program Coordinator,
  Ledge Light Health District
• Robert L. Miller, MPH, RS, Director of Health, Eastern Highlands Health District
• Susan Starkey, MS, MPH, RD, Director of Health, Northeast District Health Department
• Robert Rubbo, MPH, RS, Director of Health, Torrington Area Health District
• Thad D. King, MPH, RS, Local Director of Health, Chatham Health District

Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness (Woodbury)
• Elaine Abrams, RN, MPH (Moderator), Community Health Coordinator, Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County
• Ken Kellogg, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, St. Vincent’s Medical Services
• Charles K. Brown, Jr., MPH, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Directors of Health

Partnering to Advance Public Health Policy (Room DEF)
• Elizabeth Myung Sook Krause, ScM (Moderator), Vice President of Policy & Communications, Connecticut Health Foundation
• Jesse White-Fresé, MA, LPC, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers
• Jay Sicklick, Deputy Director, Center for Children’s Advocacy
• Alyssa Norwood, JD, MPH, Health Program Associate for Advocacy and Membership Services, Connecticut Association of Directors of Health

Public Health – Hospital Collaboration (Room DEF)
• Sharon Mierzwa, MPH, RD (Moderator), Project Director, Connecticut Association of Directors of Health
• Michele Sharp, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Connecticut Hospital Association
• Mary Franco, President, Norwalk Hospital Foundation
• Thad D. King, MPH, RS, Local Director of Health, Chatham Health District
• Tim Callahan, Director of Health, Norwalk Department of Health
• Catherine Rees, MPH, Manager of Community Benefit, Middlesex Hospital

Maintaining Environmental Health Partnerships (Woodbury)
• Kimberly Ploszaj (Moderator), Epidemiologist, Connecticut Department of Public Health
• Owen Quinn, New Opportunities, Inc.
• Rachel DiVenere, Public Health Educator, Waterbury Department of Public Health

12:10PM| Lunch

1:05PM| Business Meeting

1:20PM| Student Poster Session/Exhibitors/Networking

1:45PM| Afternoon Breakout Session 1

Partnersing with the CT Health Insurance Exchange (Woodbury)
• Kathi Traugh, MPH (Moderator), Assistant Director of the CT-RI Public Health Training Center, Yale School of Public Health
• Kevin J. Counihan, Chief Executive Director, Connecticut’s Health Insurance Exchange
• Vitoria Veltri, JD, LLM, Connecticut Healthcare Advocate
• Russell J. Munson, MD, FAAFP, Chief Medical Officer, HealthyCT

Health Impact Assessments (Connecticut)
• Colleen O’Connor, MPH (Moderator), Special Assistant to the Health Director, New Haven Health Department
• Kara Blankner, MPH, Manager, Health Impact Project
• Mike Gurecka, Director of Business Development – Energy Services, New Opportunities, Inc.
• Margaret Round, Senior Environmental Analyst, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Campus Partnerships (Room DEF)

- Elaine O'Keefe, MSPH (Moderator), Executive Director of the Office of Public Health Practice, Yale School of Public Health
- Stanton H. Wolfe, DDS, MPH, Director of Education and Training, UCEDD
- Mary Ann Booss, MPH, RN, CHES, Public Health Practice Manager, Yale School of Public Health
- Peggy Gallup, RN, MPH, PhD, Professor, Southern Connecticut State University

2:45PM | Break
2:55PM | Afternoon Breakout Session 2

Working with the Media 101 (Room DEF)

- Diana Lejardi, MPH, CHES (Moderator), Risk Communication Coordinator, Connecticut Department of Public Health
- Christopher DeFrancesco, Communications Officer, University of Connecticut Health Center
- Arielle Levin-Becker, Reporter, The Connecticut Mirror

CABOH – Succession Planning (Connecticut)

- Carolyn Wysocki, MA, MHSA (Moderator), Central Connecticut Health District Board of Health
- David Skoczulek, MPH, Director of Business Development and Community Relations, Ambulance Service of Manchester and Aetna Ambulance of Hartford
- Dave Kilbon, Chair, Farmington Valley Health District Board of Health
- Brandon Robertson, MPA, Town Manager, Town of Avon, CT

Student Mentoring (Woodbury)

- Pamela Kilbey-Fox, MPH (Moderator), Graduate Program in Public Health, University of Connecticut
- Cyndi Billian Stern, MA, MPH (Moderator), Billian Stern Consulting, LLC
- Laurel Holmes, MSW, Director of the Office of Community Health, Outreach & Partnerships, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital
- Linda Bergonzi-King, MPH, Distance Education Specialist, Yale-New Haven Center for Healthcare Solutions
- Renee D. Coleman-Mitchell, Section Chief, Connecticut Department of Public Health
- Shane Lockwood, RS, MPH, Director of Health, Plainville-Southington Regional Health District
- Katie Zito, MPH, Vice President of Government Affairs, Magellan Health Services
- Mario Garcia, MD, MPH, Director of Health, City of New Haven

Keynote Speaker Biography

Judith A. Monroe, MD, FAAFP
Deputy Director for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Judith A. Monroe, MD, FAAFP, is the deputy director for state, tribal, local, and territorial support efforts at CDC. In her role, she focuses on establishing a systems approach that supports integration and collaboration among public health professionals and translating science to practice to increase the capacity and performance of public health agencies. To strengthen relationships and communication with health officers, Dr. Monroe has instituted a biannual orientation for and established direct communication channels with all US health officers. Under her leadership, several national initiatives have been implemented. She conceptualized the National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health in which multidisciplinary teams consisting healthcare, public health, and local leaders apply their training to a community health improvement project. The National Public Health Improvement Initiative delivers powerful improvements in efficiency and effectiveness within its grantee agencies and supports national accreditation.

Before her current role, Dr. Monroe served as Indiana State Health Commissioner from 2005 to 2010, focusing on health promotion and prevention, preparedness, preventing medical errors, and quality improvement. Partnering with Purdue University, she led the Indiana Public Health System Quality Improvement Project, designed to increase local public health capacity, improve infrastructure, and strengthen overall public health system performance. She has also served as president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), chaired the ASTHO Preparedness Policy Committee, and was vice president of the Board of Directors for the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Dr. Monroe received her undergraduate degree from Eastern Kentucky University and medical degree from the University of Maryland. She completed her residency in family medicine at the University of Cincinnati. After residency, she
fulfilled a four-year National Health Service Corps commitment practicing medicine in rural Appalachia where her work was recognized on a national documentary by former Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop. She also served as a faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine at Indiana University and directed the Family Medicine Residency Program and Primary Care Center at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

Dr. Monroe’s expertise, reputation, and experience has resulted in her being sought out to serve on numerous strategic committees across CDC and nationally. She chairs several national committees addressing the intersection of healthcare and public health and was recently appointed to the Institute of Medicine’s Roundtable on Population Health.

Morning Breakout Session 1
Objectives and Biographies

Coalition Building 101
- Identify strategies in coalition building
- Assess the needs of communities through community coalitions
- Become familiar with different tools/methods to engage and sustain coalitions

Renee D. Coleman-Mitchell (Moderator)  
Section Chief, Connecticut Department of Public Health

Renee D. Coleman-Mitchell is Section Chief for the Community Health and Prevention Section at the Department of Public Health (DPH). She currently serves as the Department of Public Health’s representative on the CT Public Health Association Board, the Child Poverty Council, and the CT Medicaid Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of CT Public Health Program teaching Maternal and Child Health. She has her Bachelor’s Degree from Connecticut College and her Master’s Degree from Yale School of Public Health. Ms. Coleman-Mitchell currently resides in Bloomfield with her family and is a committee member on the Bloomfield Town Committee.

Cindy Barry, MA  
Senior Program Coordinator, Ledge Light Health District

Cindy is a Senior Program Coordinator with Ledge Light Health District where she has coordinated a variety of cardiovascular disease and obesity prevention programs. Through Ledge Light’s ACHIEVE New London initiative, coalition members worked with the City of New London to construct its first designated bike lane, expand its farmers’ market, add nutrition and emergency 9-1-1 curricula in its schools, and establish an ordinance that prohibits smoking in city parks. Cindy received her Master’s Degree in Education from the Southern Oregon State University and currently serves on the CT Food System Alliance, New London Food Policy Council, the Advisory Board of FRESH New London, and the Field of Greens Farmers’ Market.

Robert L. Miller, MPH, RS  
Director of Health, Eastern Highlands Health District

Robert Miller’s professional experience includes 26 years in the field of local governmental public health. A registered sanitarian (RS) by training, Robert later earned his MPH from the University of Connecticut and was ultimately appointed Director of Health for the Eastern Highlands Health District. Under Robert’s leadership the District has undergone significant growth, expanding from three to ten member towns, currently serving a total population of over 80,000. The Health District is credited with a number of accomplishments including an agency managed, award-winning employee wellness program targeting local public sector employers; the creation of a long-standing community coalition, and the development of the resources and linkages necessary to assure the community is prepared for any public health emergency.

Susan Starkey, MS, MPH, RD  
Director of Health, Northeast District Health Department

Sue is a registered dietitian and an epidemiologist with over 20 years of experience in health care and public health. As Director of Health for the Northeast District Health Department (NDHD), Sue is responsible for the delivery of public health services to over 85,000 residents in 12 northeastern Connecticut towns. NDHD was selected as a national ACHIEVE community by the CDC in 2009 and was recently featured in “Creating Healthy Communities: Success Stories from ACHIEVE,” published by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors in June 2011. Sue earned her B.S. and MPH at the University of Massachusetts and her M.S. in nutrition from Boston University.
Robert Rubbo, MPH, RS  
**Director of Health, Torrington Area Health District**

Robert is the newly appointed Director of Health for the Torrington Area Health District. Robert received his Bachelor of Science in Public Health in 1996 from Southern Connecticut State University. He received his Master of Public Health with a specialization in Health Education in 2002 from Southern Connecticut State University. Robert has 17+ years of experience in the field of Public Health. Robert started his career with the Torrington Area Health District in 1996 as a Sanitarian and was promoted in 2002 to Deputy Director of Health. Robert is an active member of CADH, CEHA, NEHA, and NACCHO. He is currently enrolled in the Survive and Thrive Program for new local health officials sponsored by NACCHO and CADH.

Thad D. King, MPH, RS  
**Local Director of Health, Chatham Health District**

Thad is the Local Director of Health for the Chatham Health District that serves seven towns in Connecticut with 72,000 residents, and was a catalyst in its formation in 2002. Thad has worked for 21 years building services at the municipal level to address environmental and chronic disease issues. He has worked with numerous community partners and the State Department of Public Health to implement prevention programs such as wastewater permitting, food safety, radon testing and mitigation, obesity and nutrition awareness, smoking cessation, and emergency preparedness. He is a member of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, co-chair of its Enterprise Operations Committee, and a member of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association.

**Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness**

- Describe the importance of developing partnerships prior to emergency events
- Discuss three key dimensions of engaging partnerships during emergency response: communication, collaboration, and coordination
- Provide examples of effective partnerships and how they have resulted in synergistic impacts to response and recovery

Elaine Abrams, RN, MPH (Moderator)  
**Community Health Coordinator, Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County**

Elaine Abrams serves as CPHA President-elect. She is also the Community Health Coordinator at Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County. A Registered Nurse and a Certified Health Education Specialist with over 20 years of public health nursing, community health and health promotion experience, she is graduate of University of Connecticut Graduate Program in Public Health. Elaine has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in health education as is a health writer. She also currently serves as chair of the CPHA Communications Committee and co-chair of CPHA Membership Committee.

Ken Kellogg  
**Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, St. Vincent’s Medical Services**

A licensed paramedic, Ken has 25 years of experience in the Emergency Medical Services field, where he has served in numerous leadership roles. He currently serves as the Emergency Medical Services Coordinator for St. Vincent’s Medical Services, where he also sits on the Emergency Preparedness Committee and has significant responsibilities in the hospital’s emergency management activities. Ken has served on the Connecticut Region 1 Emergency Support Function 8 subcommittee since its inception and as the ESF-8 Hospital chair of the Regional Emergency Planning Team since 2010. Over the last 7 years, Ken has also served in public health emergency preparedness roles for local health departments, which he continues on a consultant basis.

Charles K. Brown, Jr., MPH  
**Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Directors of Health**

As Executive Director of CADH, Charles oversees the operation and administration of all CADH programs and services, including health equity, emergency preparedness, and advocacy and policy initiatives. Prior to joining the staff at CADH, Charles served in the United States Air Force for eight years as an Aircraft Mechanic during the Persian Gulf War. He also worked in Orange County, Florida as an Environmental Inspector and in Hillsborough County, Florida as a Code Enforcement Officer. Charles earned his Master of Public Health from the University of Connecticut and his Bachelor of Arts in Communication, with a minor in Marketing, from Central Connecticut State University.
Partnering to Advance Public Health Policy

- Learn at least one strategy for effectively incorporating results of research into a policy agenda
- Understand the enhanced role that direct service and membership organizations should play in shaping health policy that affects their stakeholders
- Be able to describe at least two models for how partnership can advance policy in Connecticut

Elizabeth Myung Sook Krause, ScM
(Moderator)

*Vice President of Policy & Communications, Connecticut Health Foundation*

As Vice President of Policy & Communications at the Connecticut Health Foundation, Elizabeth Krause provides vision and strategy for CT Health’s public policy and strategic communications activities. On staff since 2005 and previously holding the positions of Program Officer and Senior Program Officer/Health Leadership Fellows Program Director, Elizabeth plays a leading role in integrating the work of CT Health’s program, policy, and communications departments. A recognized health equity expert, Elizabeth represents the foundation on a number of state and national advisory bodies and multi-partner initiatives. The Smith College and Harvard School of Public Health alumna previously served as a Prevention Specialist with the Public Health Prevention Service of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Elizabeth is a Grantmakers in Health’s Terrance Keenan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy fellow.

Jesse White-Frésé, MA, LPC

*Executive Director, Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers*

Jesse White-Frésé is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers (CASBHC), a statewide advocacy organization. Jesse was the Director of School Based Health Services for 10 years for the Community Health Center, Inc., and served as President of the Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers from 1998 - 2000. She has been active in Connecticut’s Medicaid Managed Care Council and currently serves on the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council, a legislatively appointed position. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the School Based Health Alliance. Jesse participated in the development of the Oral Health Plan for Connecticut: 2007-2012, and the Oral Health Education K-12 curriculum for Connecticut schools. Jesse holds a Master’s degree in Marriage and Family Counseling and is a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Jay Sicklick

*Deputy Director, Center for Children’s Advocacy*

Jay Sicklick began as a staff attorney at the Center for Children’s Advocacy and the Medical-Legal Partnership Project director in April 2000. Prior to this appointment, he served on the faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Law, where he held the position of Assistant Clinical Professor of Law, teaching lawyering skills, and social welfare law. Mr. Sicklick also served as a senior staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society’s Bronx Neighborhood Office for six years, as well as a private practitioner in Boston. He currently holds the positions of Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut School of Law, where he teaches courses in legal ethics and professional responsibility, Clinical Instructor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Mr. Sicklick is a graduate of Colgate University and Boston College Law School.

Alyssa Norwood, JD, MPH

*Health Program Associate for Advocacy and Membership Services, Connecticut Association of Directors of Health*

Alyssa Norwood is a Health Program Associate for Advocacy and Membership Services at the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health. She has worked for numerous health advocacy and policy organizations, including the Connecticut Health Foundation, the Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative, the Medical-Legal Partnership Project, and the Center for Medicare Advocacy. She was a 2009 fellow of the Connecticut Health Foundation’s Leadership Fellows Program. Alyssa received her JD and MPH from the University of Connecticut and her BA from Harvard University.

**Morning Breakout Session 2 Objectives and Biographies**

**Partnerships for Obesity Prevention**

- To summarize efforts of obesity prevention across the state
To discuss current methods and to identify new ways of establishing communication and collaboration among the obesity prevention programs, community partners and other stakeholders

To recognize/acknowledge obstacles that impede the implementation of guidelines and policies supporting obesity prevention initiatives

Augusta Mueller, MBA (Moderator)
Senior Community Benefits Administrator, Yale New Haven Health System

Augusta Mueller, MBA, has over 16 years of health career experience and is currently Senior Community Benefits Administrator for Yale New Haven Health System where she oversees community health needs assessments and implementation strategies. She is also co-chair of the Partnership for a Healthier New Haven, and a coordinator for Get Healthy Connecticut, also in New Haven. A member of CPHA, she is a graduate of Sacred Heart University and completed a graduate certificate program from the St. Louis University Graduate School of Public Health.

Ann M. Ferris, PhD, RD
Director of the Center for Public Health and Health Policy, University of Connecticut

Ann Ferris is the Director of the University of Connecticut’s, Center for Public Health and Health Policy, a cross-university policy, research, and outreach center with 35 professional staff and faculty who lead initiatives in health information, health care reform, community transformation, urban health, workforce development, and inter-professional education. She is also a Professor of Medicine and Public Health and holds joint appointments in the Department of Nutritional Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources where she was a faculty member and department chair. Throughout all of her administrative appointments, she maintained a funded research team and participated in undergraduate education, service learning, and community outreach. Her team focuses on explaining, preventing, and treating the high occurrence of food related conditions, particularly childhood obesity and iron-deficiency anemia in underserved and poor families.

Marlene B. Schwartz, PhD
Director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, Yale University

Dr. Schwartz currently serves as the Director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University. She received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Yale in 1996 and spent 10 years at the Yale Center for Eating and Weight Disorders. As a founding member of the Rudd Center, she has spent the past eight years working its mission - to improve the world’s diet and reduce weight stigma, by connecting science with advocacy and public policy. Dr. Schwartz’s own research focuses specifically on the influence of federal food programs and emergency food system on children’s diets, as well as the link between the school food environment and academic achievement. She also has studied the role of food marketing on children’s diets, the effectiveness of industry self-regulation, and strategies to reduce sugary drink consumption among children.

Elaine Zimmerman
Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Children

Ms. Zimmerman is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Children and creator of the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI). Ms. Zimmerman serves on the Governor’s Early Education Cabinet, the State Poverty and Prevention Council, and the Achievement Gap Task Force. She was selected to serve as staff chair to the Human Services Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators and was appointed to the NCSL policy committee on food and hunger. She is recognized for her policy acumen and commitment to community capacity. She brings in broad and unexpected stakeholders to child policy discussion and ensures strong media dissemination to advance public information for families. Keenly focused on both civics and public policy, she weaves the two together in her leadership role for Connecticut children.

Public Health-Hospital Collaboration

- Differentiate the steps necessary to establish partnerships and agreements with partners from other sectors, institutions, and organizations
- Appraise the differences and advantages of various data collection approaches
- Discuss options for use of consultants, interns, and staff
Sharon Mierzwa, MPH, RD  (Moderator)
Project Director, Connecticut Association of Directors of Health
Sharon is the project director at the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, Inc. (CADH) coordinating use of the Health Equity Index, a tool designed to address health inequities. The Index supports decision-making and strategic planning through a primary prevention approach focused on community conditions that impact health. Sharon received her MPH degree from Tulane University School of Public Health, and a BS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has served as the coordinator of the CT State Department of Public Health’s Obesity Prevention Program and the CT Diabetes Control Program. She is the past president of the Connecticut Dietetic Association (CDA) and the Connecticut Nutrition Council, and served as CDA’s state public policy representative. She’s the current board chairperson of the Hartford Food System, and a past member of the CT Commission on Health Equity.

Michele Sharp
Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Connecticut Hospital Association
As Director, Communications and Public Affairs, Connecticut Hospital Association, Michele Sharp leads the planning and implementation of strategic communications for CHA advocacy and member services, and serves as CHA’s primary spokesperson and liaison with the media. Early in her career, Ms. Sharp worked as a news researcher and producer for US News and World Report and CNN, respectively. She was also a television producer at WBAL-TV in Baltimore, where she earned a Peabody Award for excellence in broadcast journalism. Ms. Sharp holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Affairs and Broadcast Journalism from American University and a bachelor’s degree from Bryn Mawr College.

Mary Franco
President, Norwalk Hospital Foundation
Mary Franco is the President of the Norwalk Hospital Foundation and Vice President of Public Affairs at Norwalk Hospital. In this role, she leads the hospital’s fundraising efforts as well as government relations and community affairs. She joined the organization in June 2006. Franco previously was with General Electric for almost ten years, serving most recently as vice president of corporate citizenship for GE Consumer Finance. In this role, she worked globally to build business partnerships with local governments and non-government organizations to improve local communities. She managed charitable contributions and voluntary programs worldwide, as well as had responsibility for the company’s political action committee and United Way campaigns and a variety of other community outreach and partnership programs. She was a leader in the GE Women’s Network.

Thad D. King, MPH, RS
Local Director of Health, Chatham Health District
See Morning Breakout Session 1

Tim Callahan
Director of Health, Norwalk Department of Health
Tim Callahan has led the Norwalk Department of Health for the past 20 years. He previously served as the Director of Health for the Connecticut’s largest city and participated in the development of the standards used in the accreditation of state, local, and tribal health department. Tim also serves as a site visitor for the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). He was the founder of the Norwalk Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center (FQHC) and primary care center offering a comprehensive array of services for the uninsured and underinsured. He also serves as Vice President for the Board of Directors of Connecticut Renaissance, Inc, an operator of halfway houses for the corrections system and a provider of substance abuse treatment. He is currently President Elect for the Board of Directors Connecticut Association of Directors of Health.

Catherine Rees, MPH
Manager of Community Benefit, Middlesex Hospital
Catherine Rees is the Manager of Community Benefit at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, CT. She joined Middlesex Hospital as an Administrative Fellow in 2006, jointly completing her fellowship along with a position in Community Benefit and Service Excellence. As Manager of Community Benefit, her responsibilities include oversight of the Hospital’s community benefit program; community health needs assessment and implementation plan, and liaison for community collaboration. Ms. Rees holds a bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College and received a master’s in Public Health from Yale University. Prior to entering the field of healthcare, she was Director of Operations in a CT based retirement planning firm.
Maintaining Environmental Health Partnerships

- Identify and understand how to create a healthy home coalition
- Describe how to develop a local healthy homes coalition by identifying key stakeholders, their resources, expertise and capabilities
- Identify potential challenges relating to buy-in, maintaining engagement, and raising awareness

Kimberly Ploszaj (Moderator)
Epidemiologist, Connecticut Department of Public Health
Kimberly is an Epidemiologist with the State of Connecticut Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes Program. Kim received her BS in Public Health from Southern Connecticut State University. Working in public health has allowed Kim to fulfill her desire for serving the underserved. In her free time, Kim teaches CPR and First Aid in her community and also volunteers as an Emergency Medical Technician with Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Owen Quinn
New Opportunities, Inc.
With over 30 years of experience in executive and non-profit management, Owen has held senior positions with local, state, and federal government and community based organizations. His areas of expertise include proficiency in grant writing, goal analysis, strategic development, organizational design and development, needs analysis and program implementation. Owen is currently employed by New Opportunities, Inc. where he concentrates on housing, economic development and community relations. His prior positions include Neighborhood Housing Director with NeighborWorks America, Mayor of Torrington, and Town Manager of Winchester.

Rachel DiVenere
Public Health Educator, Waterbury Department of Public Health
Rachel DiVenere, born and raised in Bristol, CT, graduated from UCONN with BS in Allied Health Sciences with a concentration in Public Health. Rachel has been a public health educator for the Waterbury Department of Public Health since January 2012. Prior to her position at the Health Department, she has worked in banking, sales, and healthcare as a CNA. Rachel choose this field as a career because she believes that a better world starts with healthier people.

Afternoon Breakout Session 1
Objectives and Biographies

Partnering with the CT Health Insurance Exchange

- Describe how the exchange can reduce the level of uninsured, improve healthcare quality and lower healthcare costs
- Describe how public health can assist with identification of individuals/populations that can benefit from enrollment in healthcare exchange coverage
- Recognize how public health can partner with insurers to strengthen prevention efforts and community links, such as the Patient Centered Medical Home model

Kathi Traugh, MPH (Moderator)
Assistant Director of the CT-RI Public Health Training Center, Yale School of Public Health
Ms. Traugh is the Public Health Professional Development Coordinator and Assistant Director of the CT-RI Public Health Training Center at the Yale School of Public Health where she coordinates and implements continuing education programs for public health practitioners in collaboration with internal and external partners and provides technical assistance to public health agencies on workforce development. Previously, Traugh served as the lead coordinator for the Yale Center for Public Health Preparedness (YCPHP) where she provided daily administrative oversight for project activities and acted as a primary contact for practice partners while managing a portfolio of activities in environmental health, public health nursing, workforce development planning and public health disaster ethics. Traugh presently serves as the President of the Connecticut Public Health Association.

Kevin J. Counihan
Chief Executive Director, Connecticut’s Health Insurance Exchange
Kevin was chosen by Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy as the State’s Health Insurance Exchange Chief Executive Officer in July 2012. Mr. Counihan has over 30 years’ experience in the health care industry and previously held the position of President of Choice Administrators in California. Prior to CHOICE Administrators Mr. Counihan served as the Chief Marketing Officer
for the Commonwealth of MA Health Insurance Connector Authority, was Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing for Tufts Health Plan, and regional vice president for CIGNA and EQUICOR. Mr. Counihan holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and an MBA in finance and marketing from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management.

**Vitoria Veltri, JD, LLM**
*Connecticut Healthcare Advocate*

Victoria is the state’s Healthcare Advocate, overseeing OHA in: assisting health insurance consumers with health plan selection; educating consumers about their health care rights; directly assisting healthcare consumers with grievances and appeals; acting as a watchdog of Connecticut’s healthcare marketplace; pursuing healthcare policy activities, and; serving as Connecticut’s federally designated independent health insurance consumer assistance program under the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Veltri sits as a member of Access Health CT (Vice-Chair), the Behavioral Health Taskforce, the Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council and the Healthcare Cabinet. Ms. Veltri received her BS in chemistry from UConn, her JD Western New England University School of Law and her LL.M. from New York University School of Law.

**Russell J. Munson, MD, FAAFP**
*Chief Medical Officer, HealthyCT*

Dr. Munson is Chief Medical Officer for HealthyCT. Before assuming this role in August 2013, he served in senior executive health plan and hospital positions in Massachusetts for the past seven years. Prior to 2006, Dr. Munson spent his professional career in Connecticut. He practiced as a family physician for 20 years and held many medical staff leadership positions at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, CT, including five years as the Medical Director for the physician-hospital organization responsible for quality, utilization management, case management and contract performance (“ACO” or “Accountable Care Organization”). His professional experience includes 20 years as town director of health, 15 years as medical director of Chesterfield’s Chronic and Convalescent Hospital, Medical Director for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Connecticut, with special focus on hospitalist programs, PA pay-for-performance quality initiatives, and national and regional responsibilities. The latter included credentialing and the national Medical Policy Committee for Anthem/Wellpoint.

**Health Impact Assessments**

- Define the meaning of the term Health Impact Assessment and describe the HIA process
- Define when an HIA is beneficial and when it is not recommended
- Describe how an HIA was used to study the health benefits and impacts of the CT DEEP weatherization program

**Colleen O’Connor, MPH (Moderator)**
*Special Assistant to the Health Director, New Haven Health Department*

Colleen O’Connor, MPH is the Special Assistant to the Health Director at the New Haven Health Department. She received her Master’s in Public Health from UCONN in 2011. Colleen served as the Associate Study Manager for the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering’s Health Impact Assessments (HIA) Study (August 2013) completed for the Connecticut General Assembly. The study examined the use of HIA for public policy development in the U.S. and made recommendations on best practices and potential applications of HIA in Connecticut. Colleen has ten years of experience in the public health and mental health fields. She serves as a Board Member and Advocacy Chair for the Connecticut Public Health Association. Colleen was an APHA Maternal and Child Health Student Fellow, 2011-2012; UCONN LEND Fellow, 2010-2011; and recipient of UCONN’s Susan S. Addiss Award for Applied Public Health Practice in 2012.

**Kara Blankner, MPH**
*Manager, Health Impact Project*

Kara Blankner is Manager of the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, designed to promote the use of health impact assessments (HIAs) and support the growth of the field in the United States. In this role Kara provides training, technical assistance and mentoring to HIA practitioners and collaborates with partners and stakeholders to develop programs that address the needs of the field. Before Pew, Ms. Blankner served on the public health and childhood obesity teams at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She also worked as a senior policy analyst at the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, where she specialized in childhood obesity and
children’s health policy, and managed Healthy Kids, Healthy America, a program designed to prevent childhood obesity through policy and environmental change. Ms. Blankner has a MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Mike Gurecka  
Director of Business Development – Energy Services, New Opportunities, Inc.

Mike Gurecka works as Director of Business Development – Energy Services for New Opportunities, Inc. in Waterbury CT. New Opportunities, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not for profit Community Action Agency with an array of social service programs such as Elder Services, Early Childcare, Energy Assistance and Weatherization. Mike oversaw the 21 million dollar 3 year DOE ARRA weatherization program and currently the DOE Weatherization plus Health Initiative, along with the Home Energy Solutions – Income Eligible program. His background is in business management and marketing and has received his national certification from the Building Performance Institute in Building Analyst, Envelope Professional and Multi-Family. He has also received his Healthy Homes Practitioners certification.

Margaret Round  
Senior Environmental Analyst, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Margaret Round is a Senior Environmental Analyst in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health/Bureau of Environmental Health’s (MDPH/BEH) Environmental Toxicology Program (ETP). The ETP evaluates acute and chronic health impacts associated with chemical contaminants that may be present in a variety of environmental media including air, water, soil, fish, and some consumer products. She has over 20 years of experience in assessing potential public health impacts and related regulatory issues associated with exposure to air pollutants including air toxics. Since 2004, Ms. Round has been the project manager of a large-scale environmental health study of Logan Airport in Boston. She has also worked with Massachusetts Department of Transportation to pilot the first health impact assessment of a transportation planning study (Grounding McGrath in Somerville, MA) mandated under the 2009 transportation reform law. In addition to working on the project to assess local public health capacity to address climate change impacts in Massachusetts, she is also actively involved in the bureau’s implementation of an environmental health surveillance network. Ms. Round has a Bachelor of Science degree in Toxicology from Northeastern University (1984).

Campus Partnerships

- Identify opportunities to collaborate with CT’s academic public health programs on student projects and other community health partnerships
- Define the roles and expectations of academic public health programs and community agencies in developing the public health competencies of emerging public health professionals
- Describe exemplary projects in CT engaging students and faculty from schools of public health and community agencies in local initiatives to reduce health inequities

Elaine O’Keefe, MSPH (Moderator)  
Executive Director of the Office of Public Health Practice, Yale School of Public Health

Elaine O’Keefe is the Executive Director of the Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP) in the School of Public Health (YSPH) at Yale University. She also serves as the Executive Director of the Yale Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA). O’Keefe worked in the local governmental public health milieu for near 25 years prior to joining YSPH, including 14 years as Health Director for Stratford, Connecticut and before that as AIDS Division Director for the New Haven Health Department. O’Keefe has held various state and national leadership positions. She is a former president of the CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH) and also past president of the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO). She is a recipient of the CT State Health Commissioner’s AIDS Leadership award, the C.E.A. Winslow award for Public Health Leadership, and co-recipient of the Franz Edelman Management Science Award.

Stanton H. Wolfe, DDS, MPH  
Director of Education and Training, UCEDD

Stanton currently serves as UCEDD Director of Education and Training. He also serves as the medical educator with CommMed/MPH Program; with primary responsibility for all applied public health practice courses and students’ experiential learning. Prior to coming to UConn, Stanton served as Head and founder of the Division of
Public Health at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, and as State Oral Health Director at CT DPH. Stanton started out as a full-time academic after which time he had a private clinical practice in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Mary Ann Booss, MPH, RN, CHES
Public Health Practice Manager, Yale School of Public Health
Mary Ann is the Public Health Practice Manager in the Office of Public Health Practice, Yale School of Public Health and Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Public Health, Southern Connecticut State University. She has held positions as health director, emergency preparedness consultant, and emergency planner for a health district. She is a member of the Society of Public Health Educators, American Public Health Association, the Connecticut Public Health Association and Eta Sigma Gamma (public health honor society). Her specific interests are in health policy and advocacy.

Peggy Gallup, RN, MPH, PhD
Professor, Southern Connecticut State University
Peggy is a Professor of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University, and the Director of the Department’s Health Equity Project. Dr. Gallup studied at the Yale School of Public Health. She did her R.N. training at The Nightingale School of Nursing. Dr. Gallup’s recent community work has been in Bridgeport, beginning with a three-year REACH grant collaborating with community members and advocates in the East End to address the contribution of social determinants and racism to health disparities. She is also conducting a food security study and is advising the newly formed Food Policy Council.

Afternoon Breakout Session 2
Objectives and Biographies

Working with the Media 101
- Identify the needs of the media
- Understand the challenges that face the media
- Know how to appropriately develop messages and respond to media inquiries

Diana Lejardi, MPH, CHES (Moderator)
Risk Communication Coordinator, Connecticut Department of Public Health
Diana has been with the Connecticut Department of Public Health for 11 years and has been the Risk Communication Coordinator for the department for six years. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut in Communication Science and a Master of Public Health degree from Southern Connecticut State University. She has led the public information response in a number of emergencies including Tropical Storm Irene, the rare October Nor’easter in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy. Her specialties include Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication and social media.

Christopher DeFrancesco
Communications Officer, University of Connecticut Health Center
Chris joined the UConn Health Center as a communications officer in 2007 and specializes in media relations. He spent most of his professional life before that as a reporter, anchor and public affairs director at WTIC NewsTalk 1080, where he was a four-time winner of the Connecticut Associated Press Broadcasters Association Walt Dibble Award for Personal Excellence in Radio. His journalism degree is from UConn, and he also has media experience as a freelance writer, weekly newspaper editor, morning show producer, and occasional talk show host and voice-over artist. Chris completed the FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness training course “Advanced PIO: Health & Hospital Emergencies” and serves on the Health Center’s Emergency Management Committee.

Arielle Levin-Becker
Reporter, The Connecticut Mirror
Arielle Levin Becker covers health care for The Connecticut Mirror. She previously worked for The Hartford Courant, covering health, education, criminal justice and municipal beats, and for the Home News Tribune in East Brunswick, N.J. Her first journalism job was at Real Change, a Seattle newspaper about and sold by the homeless. She is a graduate of Yale University.

CABOH – Succession Planning
- Describe what a succession plan is
- Discuss why it is important for boards of public health agencies to have a succession plan in place for their health directors and other key agency positions
- List and explain the steps involved in developing a succession plan
Carolyn Wysocki, MA, MHSA (Moderator)
Central Connecticut Health District Board of Health
Following early retirement as a Psychologist from Connecticut Dept. of Mental Health in 1995 Carolyn became an advocate for the integration/relationship of the environment and public health. She is a founding member of the Connecticut Coalition for a Safe and Health Connecticut and President of Ecological Health Organization, Inc. (ECHO). She has served on the Central Connecticut Health District Board of Health since 1998 and is a former Board chairman. For 6 years, she served as the New England Regional Director Representative on the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) and was instrumental in founding the Connecticut Association of Boards of Health (CABOH), which she currently chairs. She also serves on the Connecticut Health Improvement Planning Coalition convened earlier this year by the Commissioner of Public Health.

David Skoczulek, MPH
Director of Business Development and Community Relations, Ambulance Service of Manchester and Aetna Ambulance of Hartford
David Skoczulek is the Director of Business Development and Community Relations for the Ambulance Service of Manchester and Aetna Ambulance of Hartford. A licensed and practicing Paramedic, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Medical Services Management, a Masters in Public Health and was a Health Leadership Fellow with the Connecticut Health Foundation. Among his civic involvement David is currently the Chairman of the Board of Health of the North Central District Health Department and the Secretary of the North Central Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors.

Dave Kilbon
Chair, Farmington Valley Health District Board of Health
Chair of the Farmington Valley Health District Board of Health since 2001, Dave Kilbon was East Granby’s First Selectman from 1996 to 2008, serving in that position as both chief executive and chief administrative officer. He now chairs the town’s Board of Finance and is involved in regional activities as a member of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) Policy Board and Executive Committee. While First Selectman, Dave chaired the CRCOG Board and served as a member of the Bradley International Airport Board of Directors. Prior to being elected First Selectman, he worked as Director of Underwriting Systems for CIGNA Corporation and managed manufacturing assistance programs for the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. A graduate of Cornell University, Dave is a senior fellow of the Hartford chapter of the American Leadership Forum.

Brandon Robertson, MPA
Town Manager, Town of Avon, CT
Brandon Robertson serves as Town Manager for the Town of Avon, CT. Prior to his appointment in Avon on January 4, 2010, he worked for the Town of Simsbury, CT, first as the Assistant to the First Selectman and subsequently as the Director of Administrative Services. Brandon began his career in local government management in Tolland, CT serving as the Assistant to the Town Manager. He earned his BA in Political Science and his Master in Public Affairs Degrees from the University of Connecticut. Brandon has held several positions in the Connecticut Town and City Management Association including Vice President. He is also a member of the International City/County Management Association. Brandon has served on the Board of Directors of the Farmington Valley Health District since 2003.

Student Mentoring
- Describe three public health careers and personal attributes and interests that lead to success in those fields
- Identify educational, networking opportunities, internships and early work experiences needed to attain sought after public health positions
- Describe three emerging areas in public health that are leading to new career opportunities in the field

Pamela Kilbey-Fox, MPH (Moderator)
Graduate Program in Public Health, University of Connecticut
Pamela began her public health career as a dental hygienist in a school and community health center program. After earning her MPH, she became the assistant director of Health for the City of New London, overseeing grant related public health programs and health education programs to reduce the burden of disease in city residents as well as employees. After ten years, she then became the Director of Health and Social Services. In her ten-year tenure in this
position, she helped create several coalitions to address issues facing the population including the Putting on AIRS (an asthma education initiative) Healthy New London 2000, New London County Safe Kids and others. Pamela most recently worked for the Commissioner in the Department of Public Health as Branch Chief for Local Health Administration and is currently teaching part time in the Graduate Program in Public Health at UCONN.

Cyndi Billian Stern, MA, MPH (Moderator)
Billian Stern Consulting, LLC
Cyndi Billian Stern has been principal of Billian Stern Consulting, LLC, since 1995 where she has worked on projects to promote youth, community and workforce development. Since 2007, she has focused on developing youth health career pipeline programs, including green careers. She has consulted for CT Business and Industry Association, Education Connection, Yale Department of Community Medicine and several school districts in this capacity. She has also presented at national and statewide conferences on these topics. Prior to consulting Ms. Stern was Public Affairs Manager for Planned Parenthood of Connecticut for nine years. She currently focuses on developing student public health opportunities and skills through CPHA’s Mentoring Organization Registry. Ms. Stern holds a BS from Pennsylvania State University, an MA in Speech and Language Pathology, and an MPH from University of Connecticut. She is on the Board of Directors of CT Forum, the University of St. Joseph Public Health Advisory Board, and has been a volunteer for Vision Health International since 2001.

Laurel Holmes, MSW
Director of the Office of Community Health, Outreach & Partnerships, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital
Laurel Holmes is director of Lawrence & Memorial’s Office of Community Health, Outreach & Partnerships, established in the spring of 2000 to promote collaborative initiatives to improve the health of our region. Community Partnerships’ primary projects include The Get Healthy Challenge, Healthy New London, the Faith in Action Network of Southeastern Connecticut and SAFE KIDS New London County. She also oversees state grant programs to the hospital including the HIV prevention grant, Healthy Start, CT Cancer and Heart Disease Integrated Health Screening Program and Nurturing Families Network. As well, Laurel is a member of the school district wellness committees in Groton. Laurel has over 29 years of experience in the field of health and has been recognized nationally and in Connecticut for her work. She has served on the board of the CT Health Foundation, and has been an active volunteer for the National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter, and currently serves on the board of The Hispanic Alliance of Southeastern Connecticut.

Linda Bergonzi-King, MPH
Distance Education Specialist, Yale-New Haven Center for HealthCare Solutions
Linda Bergonzi-King is a distance education specialist for YNHHS and is responsible for the design and development of online and instructor-led courses, with a specialty in video integration. She holds an MPH from the Yale School of Public Health, with a concentration in health communication. In 1990, she founded TriBella Productions, providing consultation in health communication, video production, media literacy, and project management. She has produced videos for area agencies, e.g., CT Hospice, VA Healthcare System, Yale University, etc. She has taught health communication at Sacred Heart University, Hill Regional Career High School and currently mentors public health students at the Metropolitan Business Academy. Linda has a strong background in communicating to a very diverse population. She has made it a career goal to reach many citizens of all cultures and uses techniques in video production and instructional design to communicate health promotion concepts to all.

Renee D. Coleman-Mitchell
Section Chief, Connecticut Department of Public Health
See Morning Breakout Session 1

Shane Lockwood, RS, MPH
Director of Health, Plainville-Southington Regional Health District
Shane Lockwood currently serves as the Director of Health for the Plainville-Southington Regional Health District. He has been working in Connecticut local health departments throughout the state for over 20 years with experience as a sanitarian and as Deputy Director of Health for the City of Waterbury. In his current position, Shane directs the day-to-day operations of the health district including budgeting, strategic planning and communication to the public. He actively works with community partners to build
a healthier Plainville-Southington district. Shane also serves as the Deputy Director of Emergency Management for the Town of Southington. He has been part of the Post University development team, and will be an Adjunct Professor for the newly created Emergency Management and Homeland Security undergraduate program, which will launch in 2014. Mr. Lockwood holds an MPH from University of Connecticut.

Katie Zito, MPH
Vice President of Government Affairs, Magellan Health Services
Katie Zito currently serves as vice president of government affairs for Magellan Health Services. In her position, Ms. Zito is responsible for coordinating the government affairs strategy in the North East region, and serves as a liaison between to various state agencies, regulatory bodies and legislators. In addition, Ms. Zito is responsible for developing business expansion opportunities and implementing new strategies to expand Magellan’s market share. In the past, Ms. Zito worked at WellCare Health Plans, where she managed state government affairs and public policy strategy. She spearheaded the company’s efforts to implement provisions enacted as part of health reform. Previously, she served as Chief of Staff to the former Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut. Prior to that, Ms. Zito spent four years working at the Connecticut Senate. Ms. Zito earned an MPH from the University of Connecticut and holds a BA from Trinity College in English and Political Science.

Mario Garcia, MD, MPH
Director of Health, City of New Haven
Dr. Garcia is the Director of Health for the City of New Haven, providing oversight for programs in the areas of Mother and Child Health, HIV/AIDS, Environmental Health, School Nursing, Epidemiology and Vital Statistics. He actively works with the hospital and other community partners to address health disparities. Dr. Garcia’s experience includes seven years as a Public Health Services Manager for the CT Department of Health where he provided operational management and administrative direction for major public health initiatives. He was also the State Director of Public Health Preparedness. Dr. Garcia is a trained physician with a Masters in Community Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, followed by several years of experience in international projects related to the delivery of preventive services and humanitarian medical relief as Country Director for Doctors Without Borders. He also holds an MPH from Yale School of Public Health.

Student Poster Session
Understanding HIV-related risk behavior among returnee male migrant workers in Nepal
Roman Shrestha, MPH, University of Connecticut
BACKGROUND: Studies have indicated that migrant workers are at higher-risk of HIV-infection due to their engagement in risky behaviors. This study aims to explore associations between migration and increased HIV-risk behaviors among Nepal’s migrant workers.

METHOD: A cross-sectional study was conducted among India-returnee migrant workers (n=40) in Dhanusha district, Nepal. Interviews assessed participants’ migration-characteristics, HIV/AIDS knowledge and HIV-risk behaviors. Descriptive procedures, chi-square test, and odds-ratio were used to describe the association between studied factors.

RESULTS: Nearly one-half of the respondents had migrated before age of 20 years. Participants had moderate levels of HIV/AIDS knowledge (mean=70%). Forty-percent of the respondents had sexual-debut at an early age (15-19 years). While in India, two-thirds had sex with female sex workers (FSWs) but only 15% consistently used condoms. Lack of knowledge about safe sex was the main reason for not using a condom. Twenty-percent reported having sex with FSWs after drinking alcohol; 17% after taking illegal drugs.

CONCLUSION: Findings suggest that migrant workers represent a high-risk group due to various HIV-related risk behaviors. Thus, there is an urgent need for effective HIV/AIDS programs directed toward migrant workers in order to reduce HIV transmission in Nepal.

The role of self-efficacy in increasing food security among participants of a new food pantry model in Hartford, CT
Angela G. Colantonio, MPH, University of Connecticut; Katie S. Martin, PhD, University of Connecticut; James J. Grady, DrPH, University of Connecticut; Jane A. Ungemack, DrPH, University of Connecticut
BACKGROUND: The study aims to examine the association between food insecurity and self-efficacy, and to evaluate the ability of a new food
METHODS: A randomized control trial comparing Freshplace to a control group was completed. The survey instrument used for evaluation included a new self-efficacy for food security scale and the USDA Food Security Module. RESULTS: Cronbach α tests demonstrated that the self-efficacy scale was reliable. There was a significant positive association between self-efficacy and food security at baseline (P = .004) and at 3 months (P = .02). A positive relationship between Freshplace participation and not reporting very low food security was observed at 3 months (P = .05). There was a significant association between study group and self-efficacy status at 6 months (P = .001). CONCLUSION: The results of this study reveal an opportunity to further refine the Freshplace program to more effectively promote food security and help food pantry members become more self-sufficient. This study suggests that methods to increase self-efficacy will be an essential component of the evidence-based food pantry model resulting from this research.

The impact of graphic-plus-text health warning vs. text-only health warning on intention to quit smoking among Ghanaian smokers

Maurice Angme, Southern Connecticut State University; Christine Unson, PhD, Southern Connecticut State University

BACKGROUND: This study aimed to measure the impact of graphic-plus-text vs. text-only health warnings on the intention to quit among Ghanaian smokers. METHOD: An experimental two-group study design was conducted with 259 male smokers from Bolgatanga, Upper East Region of Ghana. The control group (n=123) was shown cigarette packs with text-only warning labels. The intervention group (n=136) was shown seven packs with graphic-plus-text warnings. Baseline demographic characteristics, smoking habits, knowledge of smoking risks, brand/packages liking, and intention to quit were collected. Emotion (fear, disgust, anxiety, sadness, surprise, guilt) and the latter three measures were collected post-treatment. RESULTS: Average age was 29 years (SD = 6.0), average age first cigarette smoked was 18 (SD = 4.9), and average years of smoking was 11 (SD = 6.3). The intervention group had significantly higher knowledge scores, brand/package liking and intention-to-quit smoking than the control group in repeated measures ANOVA. In hierarchical linear regression, age first cigarette smoked (.19*), post-test anxiety (.18*), and post-test brand/package liking (-.40*), controlling for group assignment (.27*), accounted for 63.1% of the variance in post-test intention to quit smoking. CONCLUSION: The graphic-plus-text health warning labels were more effective than text-only warnings labels in increasing smokers understanding of the health consequences of smoking, disliking for the brand/package and intention to quit smoking. Smoking at an older age, feeling anxious after exposure, dislike for the brand/package, and exposure to graphic-plus-text health warnings affected intention to quit smoking. Furthermore, graphic-plus-text health warning can be used to reinforce anti-smoking beliefs, increasing emotional response and behavioral intentions among smokers in Ghana.

A partnership to advance Correctional Nursing Practice and improve public health

UCHC Correctional Managed Health Care: Dianne Drobiak RN, Erinn Dolan RN, Pat Morris RN, Steve Badura RN, Srey Im RN, Candace Pettigrew RN, Michael DeSena RN; Michael Nicholson RN, MBA, Director for Education and Training; Constance Weiskopf, PhD, APRN, Director for Nursing and Patient Care Services; UConn School of Nursing: Louise Reagan APRN, MSN, Assistant Clinical Professor, Deborah Shelton PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN, Professor and Principal Investigator

BACKGROUND: The UCHC Correctional Managed Health Care (UCHC CMHC) nurses provide care to approximately 18,000 inmates. A functional analysis of correctional nursing roles led to the development of the Correctional Nurse Competency Program®. A partnership formed between the CT Department of Correction, UCHC/CMHC and UCONN School of Nursing with a mission to educate Connecticut’s correctional nursing workforce (grant #1D11HP22212-01-00). METHODS: An education committee guides the curriculum content and provides learning activities. A multifaceted approach integrating cognitive and psychomotor skills with self-paced online modules, skills sessions, and simulation on a mobile education van were created. CMHC
policies, nursing practice guidelines and the ANA correction nursing standards provide the foundation of the curriculum. RESULTS: Program evaluation data reveal that staff view the competency program as a positive learning experience; are glad to have the opportunity to practice clinical skills, and work through real-life scenarios. Nurses working on the education committee report personal and professional development. Evidence-based revisions of nursing policies and protocols have resulted. CONCLUSION: The foundation of the correctional nursing competency system has been implemented statewide. The goal to improve inmate health, thereby public health, is achieved through the clinical competency of the correctional nursing workforce.

What is Connecticut’s perception of public health?

Debra Akrasi; Mary Beth Johnson; Wendy Martinson; Fanny (Fonnie) M. Montero; Carolina Starr-Manning; Juliette Touchette, University of Hartford

BACKGROUND: The purpose of this qualitative study was to examine and document the public’s perception of public health in CT. Results may be used by public health professionals and policymakers to inform and guide social marketing strategies, public health communications and public health practice in CT. METHOD: A questionnaire was developed to elicit general discussion about the roles, responsibilities, values and cost of public health services as perceived by adult residents. Two focus groups in the 8 counties for faculty and nurses facilitated a minimum of 16 groups, or until data saturation, enrolled in the MSN program’s public health track at the University of Hartford. All had been trained in focus group facilitation and had completed the University of Hartford Humans Subject Committee (HSC) training. RESULTS: CT residents have minimal to no knowledge of the role and purpose of the public health department. Many had difficulty identifying key public health services available at the local or state level. Adults who had utilized services such as immunizations, health clinics, and CT HUSKY had more knowledge of public health in general. Most participants had no awareness of the CT Department of Public Health or local health departments. Many participants shared confusion between public health and healthcare including Medicare and Medicaid. CONCLUSION: This study highlights gaps in information about the goals and responsibilities of public health agencies and personnel, the funding and implementation of public health activities, and confusion related to the relationship of public health and the U.S health care industry. In order to gain support for public health prevention at the community, state, and federal level, the public must be better informed about the role and importance of effective public health programming.

Implementing an inter-professional group visit model at a federally-qualified health center look-alike: Opportunities and challenges

Jennifer Crowley, University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy; Olayinka Edwards, University of Connecticut School of Medicine; Amy Eklund, University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine; Jennifer Granger, MBA, MPH, United Community and Family Services; Devra K. Dang, PharmD, BCPS, CDE

BACKGROUND: For many community health centers, group visits have been a cost-effective way to enhance patient care. A FQHC look-alike in rural Connecticut seeks to implement group visits into their current health delivery system. This project’s objectives were to assess the feasibility of implementing this model at the clinic, develop a diabetes-focused toolkit for implementing group visits, and recommend improvements in inter-professional collaboration. METHOD: A literature review of various models of group visits was performed. Interviews with administrative and clinical staff were conducted to determine perspectives about group medical visits and characterize the current nature of inter-professional collaboration. RESULTS: Administrative interviews revealed internal and community resources to facilitate the implementation of group visits including tools within the electronic health record and from the local health department. Providers found group visits appealing but expressed certain concerns such as cost-effectiveness and ability to address psychosocial factors. Interviewed personnel expressed desire for better inter-professional communication and collaboration. A diabetes group visit toolkit was created. CONCLUSION: Group medical visits for diabetes patients can be a feasible alternative to individual visits at this site.
in order to optimize patient care and provider productivity. For optimal outcomes, policies promoting effective inter-professional communication should be in place.

**Using technology to fight elder abuse:**

**Developing recommendations for interactive tools to raise awareness and change behavior**

Yuan Zhao, BSc, Hannah-Rose Mitchell, MPH, Yale University; Lela Posey, MPH, University of South Florida

**BACKGROUND:** Elder abuse is an underreported and growing problem. An estimated 11% of U.S. elders experience abuse or neglect, yet only one out of every 14 cases of elder abuse is reported. There is a need for scalable, cost-effective tools to increase awareness and enable rapid recognition and reporting of incidents of abuse. **METHOD:** Key-informant interviews were conducted with experts on elder abuse and technology to examine barriers to recognizing and reporting, as well as understand technological and social considerations when designing health-related interactive tools. Focus groups were conducted with students from Yale School of Medicine and Yale School of Nursing to assess knowledge on elder abuse and identify opportunities for interactive interventions. **RESULTS:** Several social and institutional barriers to recognition and reporting of elder abuse were identified. Recommendations were developed to address the form and content of innovative, interactive tools to increase recognition and reporting of elder abuse among future medical professionals. Specific strategies on integration of such tools into medical education were also discussed. **CONCLUSION:** Interactive tools are promising media to integrate knowledge of elder abuse into current medical education. Special considerations should be given to the timing, content, technological design of such tool and more research are needed before its implementation.

**Public health students in action: Where the classroom meets the real world**

Southern Connecticut State University: Valerie Maingnan, Etienne Holder, Griselmarie Alemar, Aisha Mangan

**BACKGROUND:** The Connecticut-Rhode Island (CT-RI) Public Health Training Center is a workforce development partnership between academia and the community. Established in 2011, the Center aims to empower communities towards healthy lifestyles while fostering student development and growth. Students and communities collaborate to address public health needs via trainings and field placements, allowing students interested in public health to gain practical experience and training. **METHOD:** Six students (3 undergraduates and 3 graduate) were selected as CT-RI Public Health Training Center Fellows through a competitive process. The Director of Health at Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD) worked with the fellows to (1) complete an organizational assessment using the NACCHO Local Health Department Self-Assessment Tool to assist QVHD in preparing a strategic plan (2) assist with laying the foundation for a community health assessment of towns served by QVHD. In addition, the fellows planned activities for the Healthy Y Kids event at the Ralphola Taylor Community Center YMCA in Bridgeport. **RESULTS:** Valuable strengths and opportunities were identified via conducting the organizational assessment for QVHD. Skills on how to navigate through the Health Equity Index (HEI) were developed and data from the (HEI) was analyzed and utilized in the focus group questionnaire. Fellows engaged in a variety of team activities with children at the Healthy Y Kids event. **CONCLUSION:** The purpose of the CT-RI Public Health Training Fellowship is to provide “real world” experience and build capacity among students ready to enter the field of public health. The experience was accomplished via fostering collaboration between the fellows, a local health department and their academic advisors. As a result, the fellows actualized two of the American Public Health Association’s priorities: building public health infrastructure and capacity; as well as creating health equity.

**Committee Reports**

**Advocacy Committee**

*Chair, Colleen O’Connor*

The Advocacy Committee advocates its public health initiatives by educating members, policymakers and public constituencies. The Committee logged in many hours and led many successes during the 2013 “long” session. The 2013 legislative priority areas included: Health Equity, Prevention, Environmental Health and Public Health Infrastructure. Committee members submitted testimony for the following bills: HB 6525, An Act Concerning Childhood
Obesity and Physical Exercise in Schools passed on June 1, 2013; SB 872, An Act Concerning the Use of Indoor Tanning Devices By Persons Under 17 Years Of Age (passed and signed June 5, 2013); SB 1160: An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children’s Safety (passed through the "emergency certification" process and signed by on April 4, 2013); SB 387, An Act Increasing the Minimum Fair Wage (passed and signed June 6, 2013); Governor's SB 843, An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Budget; HB 6519, An Act Concerning Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food and HB 6527: An Act Concerning Genetically Engineered Baby Food (amended and passed). The Committee also hosted the annual CPHA Legislative Breakfast on March 27, 2013 at the Legislative Office Building.

Communications Committee
Chair, Elaine Abrams
Staff, Jonathan Noel
The Communications Committee manages the CPHA e-newsletter and website, as well as the CPHA social media activities. This year, the Committee publishes 4 issues of CPHA e-newsletter each year offering its member timely updates regarding committee activities, member news, educational and networking opportunities, and legislative advocacy. In addition, the Committee maintains the Association’s website, which received over 7345 unique visitors and over 12,235 total visits from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and 162 cities within Connecticut in the last year. CPHA’s presence on Facebook and Twitter has grown significantly with daily posts. As of September 1, 2013, there were almost 300 Facebook "likes" and over 240 Twitter followers. In addition, CPHA's blog was re-launched in September 2013 with new blog posts posted weekly.

Health Education Committee
Chair, Linda Mako
Co-Chair, Molika Chea
Purpose: A forum for the exchange of information. An opportunity to educate the public health workforce and other health professionals by increasing the competency, skills and performance as they relate to the core public health essential services. The Committee serves as a networking opportunity for public health professionals that are employed in a variety of settings. Activities: The Health Education Committee meets the second Wednesday of January, April, June, September and November. Refreshments and networking occur from 8:45 am – 9:00 am. The meeting is held from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Meetings begin with (2) one-hour programs on a variety of health topics or skill ability topics of interest to the group. The remainder of the meeting involves networking, sharing of ideas, best practices and job opportunities. Goal: The goal of the Health Education Committee is to offer networking opportunities to Connecticut health educators in addition to offering CHES credits for attending education sessions. Members: Members of the Health Education Committee consist of public health professionals who work in local/state health departments, non-profit and not-for-profit organizations, community based organizations, clinical practice, academia and other healthcare settings.

Membership Committee
Co-Chair, Elaine Abrams
Co-Chair, Morgan Spencer
Staff, Jonathan Noel
The CPHA Membership Committee recruits new members, works to retain current membership and promotes the efforts of the other CPHA Committees. As of September 2013, there are just under 400 members, representing a 25 percent increase from 2012. A CPHA membership survey was distributed in early summer that revealed a number of important details about current membership. CPHA’s newly upgraded member database and website upgrade has allowed better tracking of membership. In addition, members now set private login to manage their own membership profile, join groups, manage invoicing, etc. The Committee strives to provide its members with opportunities to network with other members and to participate in public health advocacy efforts. New and existing members are continuously updated (via electronic means) on CPHA activities. Ongoing goals include maintaining the CPHA membership database throughout the year; annual membership survey; informing members about the benefits of being a CPHA member; increasing of new members.

Mentoring Committee
Chair, Pamela Kilbey-Fox
Consultant, Cyndi Billian Stern
Since 2007, CPHA’s Mentoring Organization Registry (MOR) has built a committee of organizational members across Connecticut to prepare youth for community service, healthier
2013 Connecticut Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Conference

Lifestyles and careers in public health. Through collaboration with 34 member organizations to date, MOR provides public health experiential learning opportunities in classrooms and communities throughout the state.

2012-13 MOR Activities:

1. Provided public health mentors in Bridgeport, East Hartford CT River Academy, Hartford, Middletown, Newtown High School, New Haven, Manchester High School, and Waterbury.
2. Partnered with Education Connection at New Haven Metropolitan Business Academy and Newtown High School to implement National Public Health Week events which were featured in The Nation's Health.
3. Preliminary Results of 2013 MOR Member Survey: Survey results of 18 of 34 member organizations and educational partners revealed that more than one half of respondents: (1) Used MOR's public health resources and tools available on the CPHA web site; (2) Requested access to additional training on organizing internships, connecting with schools and adapting resources for youth public health activities (3) Requested a Linked-In page or listserv to enhance information sharing among public health mentors.

MOR 2013-2014 Plan:

1. Establishing a Public Health 101 classes and field experiences in Connecticut's high schools and community colleges.
2. Providing workshops and training for educators to incorporate public health units into required health education, civics or community service curricula.
3. Networking/matching classroom educators with public health professionals to increase experiential learning and/or volunteer opportunities.
4. Working with educational partners to improve outreach and secure funding for workshops for mentors and educators, activities.

Program Committee
Chair, Anjuli Bodyk

Purpose: The Program Committee's purpose is to plan CPHA events, particularly the Annual Meeting and Conference and the Semi-annual event. This year's conference theme is Public Health Partnerships and the title is "The Power of Partnerships: Working Together for a Healthy Connecticut." Activities: The Program Committee holds regular biweekly or weekly meetings via teleconference. Committee members, guided by the Program Committee Chair, discuss and finalize items such as conference content, budget, logistics, invited speakers, publicity materials and content, sponsors and advertisers, registration logistics, food, recruitment of volunteer staff, elections, student posters, and requirements of session organizers. Many committee members accepted tasks to handle individually such as handling CHES credits or reviewing student poster submissions. Members correspond with other CPHA committees, academic institutions, conference vendors, sponsors and presenters in order to ensure a well-executed annual conference. A contract staff person assists the Committee with many details of the conference. Goal: The goal of the Program Committee is to hold an educational, timely, interesting and well-executed annual conference. Members: Members of the Program Committee consist of public health professionals at local/state health departments, non-profit and for-profit organizations, community based organizations, clinical practice, academia and other healthcare settings.
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Best wishes for a successful annual meeting and conference!

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