

Connecticut Association of Boards of Health (CABOH)  
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241 Main Street  
Hartford, CT,06106

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Deputy Commissioner, Kathy Lewis

February 17, 2014

Dear Kathy,

Being snowed in, I was not able to attend the forum on “Lead Public Health” but fortunately, with the use of technology, I was able to view the program on CT-Net. I understand it went quite well and am pleased to see DPH moving forward in this direction.

While the speakers addressed several facets of the Connecticut Public Health infrastructure, missing was the roles and responsibilities of District Boards of Health and how they differ from North Carolina’s and other County Health Departments. Connecticut has its own unique infrastructure.

By State Statues, District Health Departments, are formed by their member towns and are governed by a Board of Health. It is the District Boards who hire their Health Directors; are accountable to their communities for identification of public health needs; ensures the quality of the programs and services provided; developes policies; seat fees and servs as advocates for Public Health.

Districts are funded by municipal, state and federal funding and are accountable to our member towns for our fiscal decisions. It is for these responsibilities that Boards of Health are a critical link in what makes public health system work locally and therefore needs to be at the table when decisions are made regarding Public Health..

Boards of Health need to be partners with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Directors of Health in promoting and protecting the health of our community. CABOH supports enhanced communication and relationship building between state and local public health agencies as both are equally responsible for the promotion of health and prevention of illness of every resident and community in Connecticut. Improved collaboration between state and local public health is good public health policy and assures improved health in the communities they serve.

Including CABOH and Boards of Health in the processes of communication between local departments, boards of public health and the state Department of Public Health can lead to an overall improvement in utilization of scarce resources, and to targeted, relevant public health issues and health services on the community level.

*CABOH was formed in 2012 as a Section of CPHA to strengthen and support BOH members in their role and efforts to promote anad protect the health of their communities.*

*Carolyn*

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