



**Connecticut
Public Health
Association**

Promoting Public Health in Connecticut Since 1916



6/25/2012

CPHA eNewsletter

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A Message from CPHA President, Kathi Traugh

As public health professionals, you serve Connecticut residents every day. CPHA wants to serve you better as you provide vital prevention services during these challenging economic times. On June 15, 2012 CPHA Board members held a day-long retreat to develop a three year strategic plan. Here are the Board's top goals for CPHA for the next 36 months:

1. **Be a "member-centric" organization:** This means we will be in closer touch with you, our members, about benefits and priorities. We are planning more networking and career development activities. Being responsive to our membership is now "Job 1" for CPHA.
2. **Enhance communication efforts:** From our website to our work at the state capitol, CPHA will be looking at our branding and marketing to broaden our appeal, demonstrate the importance of prevention and improve communication with our partner organizations.
3. **Promote public health and public health careers:** The work of public health is vital, but often goes unrecognized. CPHA is committed to fighting for health equity, attracting today's youth to public health careers and helping policy-makers and the general public understand the fundamental role public health plays in their quality of life.
4. **Assure sustainability:** CPHA cannot serve you without sufficient resources. Our aim is to double our membership and broaden the types of professions and agencies in our fold. We will also increase our efforts to obtain foundation

funding and grants to support projects and increase staff.

You are invited to play a role in CPHA's growth! Your participation can fit in with your career goals, whether it is in health policy, networking, mentoring or development. Together, we can build a more powerful community of CPHA members united in our commitment to advance public health in Connecticut.

I would like to thank our Board members for their work at the retreat, and to Dr. Linda Strong, CPHA member and Professor at Sacred Heart University, for serving as our facilitator.

SAVE THE DATE...

...for the **2012 CPHA Annual Conference** which will be held on **Friday, October 5, 2012** from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm at the [Four Points Sheraton](#) in Meriden. This year's conference, entitled **Transforming Public Health: Changing Roles and Meeting Challenges**, promises to be another CPHA not-to-miss event!

The morning keynote address will feature **Dr. Jeffrey Levi, PhD**, Executive Director of [Trust for America's Health](#). In 2011, Dr. Levi was appointed to the [National Prevention Council's](#) Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health by President Obama and currently serves as Chair. He is also Professor of Health Policy at George Washington University's School of Public Health, where his research has focused on HIV/AIDS, Medicaid, and integrating public health with the healthcare delivery system.

Dr. Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, Commissioner, [Connecticut Department of Public Health](#), will deliver the luncheon keynote address.

Several conference panels and skills building workshops will be offered with topics to include public health informatics, career and leadership development, effective grant writing, use of social media, public health certification and accreditation, and a special panel examining the intersection

of primary care and public health.

Continuing education credits for [Certified Health Education Specialists](#) will be available. A networking “happy hour” and book signing will follow the conference!

Early registration will begin in July 2012. [Click here for more information and for a downloadable conference poster.](#)

INTERESTED IN BEING A CONFERENCE SPONSOR OR EXHIBITOR?

CPHA invites you to participate as a Sponsor, Exhibitor and /or Advertiser. Sponsorship provides a unique opportunity to reach out to public health professionals, health care practitioners, community groups, faculty and students across the state. This year’s venue is ideal for sponsors and exhibitors – exhibits will be set up in the main lobby. [Click here for more information.](#)

STUDENT POSTER SESSION—CALLING ALL STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS!

Do you want an opportunity to showcase your academic or professional achievements at the annual conference? Student Posters may present research, a thesis, or community projects, or a unique academic experience. Deadline to submit a poster application is September 14, 2012. [Click here for more information and a downloadable application.](#)

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CABOH (CT ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF HEALTH)

CABOH’s newly elected officers met on June 3, 2012 to discuss overall structure, membership recruitment and fees. On March, 2012, CPHA’s Board of Directors approved the creation of the CABOH—CPHA’s first ever association section— bringing to a close the first phase of establishing a

state affiliate of the [National Association of Local Boards of Health \(NALBOH\)](#).

One of CABOH's goals is to broaden the network of public health officials and representatives within CPHA. [Click here for more information about CABOH.](#)

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CPHA MENTORING COMMITTEE - MOR (Mentoring Organization Registry)

- On May 11, 2012, MOR presented a Public Health Career Pathways workshop at the 18th annual Connecticut Works and Learns Conference in Westbrook, CT. CT's new high school public health curriculum which includes experiential learning, advocacy and career opportunities was included.
- MOR presented at the Internship Seminar hosted by SCSU on June 7, 2012. Making Internships Work: A Toolkit for Public Health Employers guide was reviewed, and the document will be made available on the CPHA website shortly.
- MOR has been recruited to provide experiential opportunities at New Haven's Metropolitan High School in Fall, 2012 when the school will launch a blended public health curriculum pilot.
- From Disease Prevention to Disaster Preparedness: A New High School Course in Public Health proposal has been selected for presentation at the 2012 APHA Annual Conference to be held on October 29, 2012 in San Francisco. Congrats to MOR members, Cyndi Stern and Colleen O'Connor, who submitted the proposal!
- Plainville-Southington Regional Health Department has joined MOR. MOR is always looking for new members, so consider joining MOR to help mentor our future public health workforce.

[Click here for more information about MOR.](#)

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CPHA HEALTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Are you a CPHA member in need of CHES credits? The Health Education Committee meets five times per year on the second Wednesday of the month

from 9 am until noon at the Connecticut affiliate of the [American Heart Association](#), 5 Brookside Drive in Wallingford. Their next meeting will be held on September 12, 2012 and topics will include “Coordinated School Health,” presented by Lisa Budris, CT Dept of Public Health and “Emergency Preparedness,” presented by Charles Brown, [CT Association of Directors of Health](#). All meetings include networking and an educational session with CHES credits.

For a complete schedule, meeting minutes and presentation archives, visit the [Health Education Committee page on the CPHA website](#).

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CPHA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Advocacy Committee was very busy this session despite the fact that public health issues were overshadowed by education reform, medical marijuana and Sunday liquor sales during this session.

The Committee was joined this session by 5 interns, Jennifer Allis-Vazquez, Allison Kostrzewa, and Pamela Reyes (University of Hartford, MSN program); Kelly Rago (University of Connecticut MPH program) and Ashley Bissonette (Southern Connecticut State University, MPH program).

Below are some highlights of this session:

- Allison Kostrzewa submitted written testimony for **SB 138, An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study "Aging in Place."** The bill passed and was signed by Governor Malloy on June 15, 2012.
- Jennifer Allis-Vazquez testified at a public hearing on **HB 5218, An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products** and wrote a Letter to the Editor which was published in the Record Journal. The bill died on the House calendar.
- Noele Kidney testified at a public hearing on **HB 5116, An Act Requiring the Labeling of Food Packaging That Contains BPA** and wrote a Letter to the Editor which was published in the Journal Inquirer about **HB 274: An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern to Children**. Both bills died on the calendars of their respective houses.

- Pamela Reyes submitted written testimony for **HB 5450, An Act Establishing a State Basic Health Program**, the Committee's priority health equity bill this session. This bill died on the calendar but CPHA will continue to advocate for implementation of a State Basic Health program, an option provided under healthcare reform to ensure affordable access to healthcare for certain low-income individuals in Connecticut.
- Kathy Lewis testified at a public hearing for **HB 5527, An Act Concerning a Working Group to Study Health Care Reform**. This bill died on the House Calendar.
- Kelly Rago submitted written testimony for **HB 5117, An Act Concerning Genetically Engineered Foods**. This bill ultimately did not pass due to a potential constitutional issue posed by mandating labeling based on a consumer's right to know (versus a health or safety risk). CPHA supported labeling these foods, which have limited safety evidence, in order to improve tracking and research of these food products.
- Colleen O'Connor, Kelly Rago and Kathy Lewis wore shirts [promoting access to healthcare](#) during several well-attended advocacy days at the Capitol. The event was organized by the [Universal Healthcare Foundation of Connecticut](#).
- Ashley Bissonette submitted written testimony on the BPA food and beverage package labeling bill and also completed research on **Maryland's Health improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012**. The law will establish health enterprise zones and incentives to encourage primary care providers and other specialists to provide care in neighborhoods with high rates of disease burden and health inequities. The Committee plans to promote similar legislation in Connecticut in 2013.
- Interns and committee members drafted factsheets and submitted written testimony on 8 bills, which can be viewed on the [Advocacy Committee webpage](#).

CPHA's Advocacy Committee is looking for additional members to participate in advocacy efforts to ensure that health equity remains a focus of healthcare reform legislation in the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision, which is expected shortly. **If you are interested in joining, or would like a more detailed report of the Committee's activities, please contact Colleen O'Connor at colleen.oconnor@cpha.info.**

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**COALITION FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY
CONNECTICUT UPDATE**

Despite having been approved by three committees and having enough support in both the House and the Senate to pass, Senate Bill 274 – AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF CONCERN TO CHILDREN, wasn't called for a vote because of intense lobbying by the toy industry coupled with competition from many other high priority bills (education reform, minimum wage and shoring up last year's budget). While disappointed, the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut can point to many accomplishments that will serve it well as advocates look toward 2013 for safer children's products.

They include:

- Support from Senate Leadership and a commitment to work with the Coalition next session on a comprehensive chemical reform bill.
- Support from the Public Health Committee Chairs – Senator Terri Gerratana and Representative Betsy Ritter.
- Support and a commitment from Dr. Philip Landrigan and colleagues at the Mount Sinai Center for Children and Environmental Health.
- A newly cultivated relationship with Dr. Paul Anastas at the [Yale Center for Green Chemistry](#).
- Increased name recognition for the Coalition through expansion of member groups and intensified efforts to increase media attention to its issues.

The Coalition looks forward to working with CPHA in 2013 to advocate on behalf of state and federal policies that protect children from toxic chemicals.

[Click here for more information about the Coalition.](#)

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CT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

The CT Department of Public Health has launched a new educational campaign, "Action Pack," using cartoon characters to encourage parents and children to be physically active and choose fresh fruits, vegetables and low fat dairy products. Campaign messaging will be broadcast in English and Spanish and will run on Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) and on cable outlets throughout the state. The campaign is funded through the

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP). For more information, visit the campaign's website at www.ct.gov/dph/actionpack.

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UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership Annual Meeting

" We Are the Change We Seek: Health Equity for Everyone"

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

8:00am - 2:30pm

Water's Edge Resort

Westbrook, CT

[Click here for more information](#)

The Second Town Hall Meeting on Health Disparities

Thursday, June 28, 2012

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Bushnell Center for Performing Arts

Hartford, CT

Sponsored by the Curtis D. Robinson's Men's Health Institute at St. Francis Hospital

[Click here for more information](#)

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