



Promoting Public Health in Connecticut Since 1916



3/31/2011

CPHA eNewsletter

[CPHA Homepage](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

- National Public Health Week
- Membership Survey
- New Commissioner
- Legislative News
- CPHA Intern
- Budget and Public Health
- CPHA MOR
- MacNeal Scholarship
- Screen-Free Week

[Upcoming CPHA Events](#)

Public Health Concepts and Careers:

A New Way to Apply Connecticut Standards and 21st Century Skills
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
7:45AM to 3:30PM
34 Sequassen St.
Hartford, CT

Health Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2011
8:45AM to 12:00PM
5 Brookside Dr.
Wallingford, CT

[Check the CPHA Facebook Page.](#)

[Follow CPHA on Twitter.](#)

[Join the CPHA LinkedIn Group.](#)

Celebrate National Public Health Week!

April 4th - April 10th

Safety is No Accident: Live Injury Free

Celebrate National Public Health Week at the Legislative Office Building! CPHA has partnered with SCSU, UCHC, CCMC and DPH to host an information booth at the LOB Concourse during National Public Health Week. Our goal is to inform Connecticut residents that injury is a preventable public health problem, as well as informing the public and legislators of what public health is and does. Information on injury prevention and public health awareness will be available. We'll be there Monday, April 4th through Friday, April 8th (except Wednesday) from 9am through 3pm. Contact Alison Gilcreast at (860) 395-9202 or sailing395@comcast.net for more information or to volunteer.

Lecture Series:

While we were sleeping: Success stories in injury and violence prevention

Presented By: Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH: Director, Injury Prevention Center, Trauma Institute at Hartford Hospital & Connecticut Children's Medical Center

UConn Health Center

Available only to UCHC faculty, staff & students

April 6, 2011

4:30pm – 6:00pm

Want the most up-to-date information on CPHA's activities?
Make CPHA your homepage.

Academic Research Building, Room# EGO13

Southern Connecticut State University
Available only to SCSU faculty, staff & students
April 5, 2011
12:00pm – 1:30pm
Jennings Hall, Room# 114

Free to attend For more information contact: Joan Segal 860-679-1509 Alison Gilcreast 860-395-9202.

Note: Garry will also present a seminar to graduate Occupational Therapy students at Quinnipiac University on Tuesday, April 5th, 9:00 - 9:40am and 10:00 - 10:40am. Contact

Tracy.VanOss@quinnipiac.edu.

CPHA Membership Survey: Reply by April 10

CPHA has devoted itself to improving the quality of the public health field and advocating for policies and programs that promote health and prevent diseases since 1916. Recently, we underwent a strategic planning process and are currently beginning to formulate a business plan that will sustain our organization as we strive to better support the public health agenda in Connecticut.

To help us serve YOU better and provide important information for our business planning process, CPHA is asking members to complete an online survey. The survey is completely anonymous and voluntary. Membership Committee Chairs Monika Haugstetter and Meliessa Hennessy said an email notice went to all members recently. If you did not receive the e-mail, you can access it by going to the following url:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CPHA_survey.

"We realize that your time is precious, so the questions are designed to target areas of highest importance while remaining concise," said Tracey Scraba, CPHA President. "There is also the opportunity to respond through

open-ended questions. It is our hope that the information that you and our other stakeholders provide will help us to become an even more valuable resource in the future."

Please be a part of CPHA's future and reply to the survey by Sunday, April 10th!

[BACK TO TOP](#)

CPHA Meets with New Commissioner of Public Health

On March 23, members of the CPHA Board of Directors met with the new Commissioner of Public Health, Jewel Mullen. In attendance for CPHA were Tracey Scraba (President), Joan Segal (Immediate Past President), Kathy Lewis (Advocacy Chair) and Noele Kidney (Staff).

"The meeting went extremely well," said Scraba. "The Commissioner was particularly impressed by our Case Statement document and CPHA's mission statement. She took the time to thank CPHA for our testimony in support of her nomination."

Commissioner Mullen was provided with copies of CPHA's 2011 list of legislative priorities, BPA and Mercury fact sheets and testimony, a CPHA membership brochure and a Board Member listing. An invitation was also extended to attend the planned CPHA Health Equity Roundtable discussion this spring and the CPHA Annual Meeting in the fall.

Additionally, the Commissioner was receptive to the idea of appointing someone to represent DPH on the CPHA Board of Directors as an Ex-Officio Director. This Ex-Officio position is supported by our bylaws but is currently vacant.

[Top](#)

Legislative News

[Senate Bill 210](#), legislation that bans the use of bisphenol-A (BPA) in thermal register receipts and clarifies the role of the Chemical Innovations Institute, cleared its first major hurdle recently when it was given a stamp of approval by the Legislature's Environment Committee.

The Coalition for a Safe and Health Connecticut, of which CPHA is a funded member, has been a driving force at the State Capitol in educating lawmakers on the dangers of BPA exposure, especially when used in register receipts which uses unbonded BPA and easily rubs off onto hands or anything else that comes in contact with it. Recent studies indicate that BPA is easily absorbed through human skin and these findings bring to light serious concerns for consumers and the many teenagers working at registers. BPA, a known hormone disruptor, has been linked to many serious health problems including breast cancer, prostate cancer, heart disease, diabetes and numerous reproductive disorders.

The bill received bipartisan support from the Environment Committee and now goes to the Senate Floor where it is believed that lawmakers will refer it to the General Law Committee for its review. Thirty states, including Connecticut, have introduced some form of chemical policy reform legislation this year. CPHA members are asked to call their state senator and representative to urge them to support Senate Bill 210 (Senate Democrats - 860-240-8600, Senate Republicans - 860-240-8800, House Democrats - 860-240-8500, and House Republicans 860-240-8700). Any questions about Senate Bill 210 should contact CPHA's Project Coordinator Noele Kidney at (860) 293-1183.

[Top](#)

Meet CPHA Student Intern: Alison Gilcreast



Alison is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health degree at Southern Connecticut State University with a focus in public health policy and health promotion. She received her Bachelors degree from Mitchell College in New London, CT, majoring in public health and psychology. Alison has worked for physicians, health insurance companies and non-profit organizations, all of which have given her great insight into the healthcare field. She also serves on the Community Board of The Connection, Inc., volunteers for the American Heart Association's *Go Red For Women Campaign*, and is a recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award. Currently, Alison is a member of the American Public Health Association, Connecticut Public Health Association and Eta Sigma Gamma. She resides in Plainville with her husband and nine month old daughter.

During the 2011 legislative session, Alison's goal is to advocate for public health infrastructure within the state of Connecticut. She has attended public health committee meetings and hearings, as well as drafted documents in support of public health infrastructure bills. [House Bill 5618](#), An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Council to Promote Enhanced Communication Between State and Local Public Health Officials, is her main focus because it directly relates to CPHA's key legislative priority, public health infrastructure. This act would establish an advisory committee that will promote enhanced communication and collaboration between the Department of Public Health, municipal health departments and local health districts. Alison submitted [written testimony](#) and gave oral testimony in support of the H.B. 5618.

[Top](#)

Governor's Budget and Public Health

While the budget process is always a complicated matter, the State's fiscal crisis and the battle over large cuts to the Federal budget have added layers

of complexity to this year's work. Governor Malloy's [two-year budget](#) for the Department of Public Health (DPH) largely spares public health programs from deep cuts. [Commissioner Mullen testified before the Appropriations Committee](#) on March 2, 2011 and provided an overview of the Governor's proposed budget.

"The budget before you is intended to preserve the core mission of the Department - to protect and improve the health and safety of the people of Connecticut," testified Commissioner Mullen. "We accept the reality of these difficult fiscal times but are optimistic about the future, as I know we can achieve our mission by working together."

Some highlights from her testimony:

- Local and District Departments of Health: increase of \$30,000 to support regionalization
- XRAY Screening and Tuberculosis Control: \$820,101 higher than the amount appropriated in FY2011. This increase does not reflect new spending; however, expenses for this fiscal year have been covered by transfers of unspent funds.
- Augments funding for the State's Public Health Laboratory: Three new positions are proposed to support this new state-of-the-art facility.
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening: Proposed reduction of \$243,106 to correspond to the number of women who will now receive mammograms and cervical cancer screening paid for through private insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid under healthcare reform.
- Community Health Centers (CHC): Proposed reduction of \$3.8 million in recognition of the decreased need for uncompensated care accounts under the Medicaid Low Income Adult program.
- Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR): Eliminated.
- HIV: Proposed Reduction of \$495,260 may impact people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and people at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. The current number of Medication Adherence Programs for PLWHA may be reduced from 11 to 9 programs. Any HIV prevention program component that will be discontinued is part of a larger HIV prevention program that will continue to provide services.

Here are some other major factors affecting the budget process this year.

- Consolidation of state agencies: [Governor Malloy's proposals to](#)

[combine state agencies](#) did not impact DPH. However, there are legislative initiatives in this area so it is still possible that DPH could be impacted.

- [Commission on Addressing Agency Outcomes](#): This legislative commission recommended standardizing the number of staff supervised by managers and supervisors at the state to 1:10. In response to the Commission's inquiries, the Governor's Office has stated that DPH has a number of unique considerations given the large number of federal grants it receives and its regulatory structure.
- Labor Negotiations: In order to balance his budget, the Governor proposed \$2 billion in savings and concessions from state employees over the next two years. Talks are now underway between the administration and unions representing state workers.

[Top](#)

Dont Miss Out: CPHA Mentoring Organization Registry Activities!

On Tuesday, April 12th, the CPHA Mentoring Organization Registry will be hosting a workshop called "[Building 21st Century Skills Through Public Health](#)," sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Education. The event is free and will explain how public health topics can be used and applied to education standards and skills. The workshop will also identify the resources necessary to establish public health experiences for students. The target audience is high school through community college educators and counselors. To register, go to www.crec.org/events.php.

[Connecticut Public Health Career Ambassador Training](#) from 8:30am to Noon on Wednesday, May 4th at Yale West Campus. Share your passion for the public health with students and educators! Help teachers incorporate public health concept into their curricula! This training will help you strengthen linkages with local schools and improve community understanding of your work. Other benefits include building and diversifying our future workforce and helping to prepare today's youth for success in educational, career and community involvement. Workshop participants will receive a FREE toolkit and learn about opportunities to present in schools.

Register through TRAIN CT at ct.train.org and look for course ID# 1026634.

[Top](#)

NALBOH Announces 2011 MacNeal Scholarship

The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) is offering a minimum of one [MacNeal Scholarship](#) for \$800 to assist a current public health student in attending the NALBOH Annual Conference from September 7-9 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. This scholarship program is designed to assist students participating in NALBOH's Annual Conference and provide an opportunity to learn more about the governing bodies of public health systems. The recipient will have an opportunity to attend sessions on governance and leadership, board development, public health policy, and public health priorities; interact with board of health members; hear from national, state, and local public health leaders; and gain additional information useful to a future role as a public health worker and, hopefully, a board of health member.

The MacNeal Scholarship application must be received by the NALBOH office by 5:00 p.m. (eastern) on Friday, June 3. Applications may be emailed to nalboh@nalboh.org; nalboh@nalboh.org faxed to (419) 352-6278; or mailed via US post to 1840 East Gypsy Lane Road, Attn: MacNeal Scholarship, Bowling Green, OH 43402.

[Top](#)

Celebrate Screen-Free Week: April 18th - 24th

CPHA is proud to be an official endorser of [Screen-Free](#) (April 18-24), the annual celebration where children, families, schools, and communities turn off screens and turn on life. What would you and your family do with an

extra 20, 30, even 50 50 hours a week? Please visit www.screenfree.org to learn how you can get involved and join in the fun.

We all know that [children spend far too much time with screens](#): an astonishing average of 32 hours a week for preschoolers and even more for older children. Excessive screen time is harmful for children - it's linked to poor school performance, childhood obesity, attention problem, and the erosion of creative play.

Excessive screen time is harmful for children—it's linked to poor school performance, childhood obesity, attention problem, and the erosion of creative play. Screen-Free Week (formerly TV-Turnoff) is a wonderful way to help children lead healthier, happier lives by reducing dependence on entertainment screen media—including television, video games, computers, and hand-held devices. By encouraging children and families to unplug, Screen-Free Week provides time for them to play, connect with nature, read, daydream, create, explore, and spend more time with family and friends. And, of course, Screen-Free Week isn't just about snubbing screens for seven days; it's a springboard for important lifestyle changes that will improve well-being and quality of life all year round!

Anyone can participate in Screen-Free Week simply by refraining from using screens for entertainment during the week of April 18-24, 2011. But experience tells us that it's more fun – and more effective – to go Screen-Free with others. Since 1996, tens of thousands of parents, teachers, healthcare professionals, scout leaders and clergy have helped millions of children turn off screens and turn on life by organizing local Screen-Free Weeks.

Screen-Free Week organizers and their teams promote the week, reach out to community partners, get children and families to participate, and help them discover fun screen-free activities. You can organize a Screen-Free Week in a classroom, an entire school, with a scout troop, faith community, neighborhood association, at your local library or in any community or civic



group. To learn how you can become a Screen-Free Week organizer, please visit www.screenfree.org.

[Top](#)

Copyright © 2010 Connecticut Public Health Association. All rights reserved.