

## Table of Contents

- [A Message from the President](#)
- [Public Health Awards](#)
- [Advocacy Committee](#)
- [HEC](#)
- [Program Committee](#)
- [CSHCT](#)
- [Student Opportunity](#)
- [Bulmer Named President](#)
- [Refer a Friend](#)
- [MOR](#)
- [ACA Training](#)
- [Advocacy Interns Needed](#)
- [New Haven Community Index](#)

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## A MESSAGE FROM CPHA PRESIDENT KATHI TRAUGH

As we come to the close of 2013, I want to take a moment to recognize some of CPHA's 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 to a packed crowd of advocates and lawmakers in Hartford this past 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, including landmark new laws on gun control to a ban on the use of tanning salons by minors. CPHA's Mentoring Organization Registry was featured in an article in the American Public Health Association's public health monthly newspaper, "The Nation's Health, and CPHA was the recipient of a national grant that enabled us to provide a statewide workshop on conducting collaborative hospital-health department community health needs assessments with our good partners, the CT Association of Directors of Health and CT Hospital Association.

Once again, our Annual Meeting and Conference was the public health "go to" event of the year. More than 300 attendees descended on the CoCo Key Conference Center in Waterbury, CT to hear about the latest trends in public health practice, visit our 22 exhibitors, view student posters and network with colleagues, old and new. Among the highlights of the day was the opening session presentation by Dr. Judith Monroe, who works directly with state, local and tribal health departments in her leadership role at CDC. In a wonderfully heart-felt presentation, she relayed the central role of developing partnerships in her long and distinguished public health career. I am pleased to report that the program evaluation showed 94.3% of respondents would likely to attend future CPHA events based on this year's conference experience. Much thanks to our meeting sponsors, the CT Hospital Association and CT Health Foundation, for their support. Great job, 2013 Program Committee!

When you are making your 2014 New Year's resolutions, why not resolve to become more active in CPHA by volunteering to work on a committee or activity. This can help to advance your career and your professional networks. Contact information for Chairs can be found in this newsletter or on the CPHA website. Any donation of your time or resources, no matter how small, will be deeply appreciated by CPHA!

[Top »](#)

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 CT PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS**

For over 50 years, CPHA has recognized outstanding contributions to public health in our state by public health practitioners and partners with a series of public health awards. And just last year, we added a brand new award category to acknowledge a promising public health student. Do you know a colleague or student worthy of recognition by their public health peers? Please take this opportunity to nominate them for a public health award. Nominations will be accepted through January 22, 2014. Look for the nominations form in your e-mail soon!

*SAVE THE DATE: CPHA AWARDS AND NETWORKING EVENT IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 10, 2014 AT 8:30 AM.*

[Top »](#)

### **Advocacy Committee**

**Thinking about getting involved in public health advocacy?** The CPHA Advocacy Committee is seeking new members who are interested in participating in upcoming legislative advocacy projects. Learn more by visiting the [CPHA Advocacy Committee webpage](#) or email Colleen O'Connor at [colleen.oconnor@cpha.info](mailto:colleen.oconnor@cpha.info).

### **Quick Facts: 2014 CT General Assembly Regular Session**

Convenes: February 5, 2014

Adjourns: May 7, 2014

[Top »](#)

### **HEALTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

#### January Meeting

The January meeting for the Health Education Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Please arrive at 8:45 for refreshments and networking. The meeting will be at the State of CT Department of Transportation located at 2800 Berlin Turnpike in Newington.

Presenters will be:

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- Molika Chea, MS, CHES, Health and Nutrition Educator at UCONN; Nutrition Research on the Dietary Guidelines Messages
- Alison Gilcreast, Aetna; Accountable Care Organizations: The Path to Healthcare Sustainability

[CPHA's Health Education Committee](#) (HEC) always welcomes new members. For more information, please email the CPHA Health Education Committee at [cpha.hec@cpha.info](mailto:cpha.hec@cpha.info).

[Top »](#)

### **Be a Part of CT's Premier Public Health Event**

Join the CPHA Program Committee! The next program committee meeting will be held on January 22, 2014 from 11:15am-12:30pm at the CT Hospital Association; 110 Barnes Rd. Wallingford, CT. Feel free to bring your lunch. **PLEASE RSVP** to Anjuli Bodyk at [anjuli.bodyk@yale.edu](mailto:anjuli.bodyk@yale.edu) by January 14th if you plan to attend or would like to join the committee. Formal invitation and agenda to follow along with conference call in information if you can't make it in person, but we encourage you to join us there if at all possible.

There are a variety of volunteer roles.

Develop the theme and content for the next annual meeting and conference

- Gain valuable program planning, evaluation and volunteer experience
- Build new relationships with other public health professionals
- Identify speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and advertisers
- Help the committee have a balance of representation from all public health sectors

[Top »](#)

### **COALITION FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY CONNECTICUT: 2014 PLANS**

CPHA continues to work with health advocates and the more than 50 member groups within the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut to protect children from toxic chemicals that have been linked to serious health risks. After a disappointing finish to the 2013 Legislative Session, Coalition advocates brushed themselves off and

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mapped out new strategies to ensure future success. During the summer and fall months, advocates worked on coalition building, met with key Democratic and Republican policymakers and Executive Branch staff in order to be properly positioned for success when lawmakers convene at the Capitol in early February.

The Coalition's main focus and energies have been and will continue to be spent on its "Campaign for Toxic-Free Kids, which, once passed, will be a monumental step forward in protecting Connecticut children from dangerous, unregulated chemicals. With less than 5% of the more than 80,000 synthetic chemicals introduced into commerce having been reviewed for safety, a bill that authorizes the Department of Public Health to identify chemicals of concern to children and requires the agency to report biennially to the Legislature with potential recommendations for action has become an absolute necessity.

CPHA has received grant funding for over five years to support advocacy and communications for the Coalition. We are very pleased that the John Merck Fund recently announced that it intended to continue its support of CPHA's role and efforts to protect children from toxic chemicals by approving funds for CPHA for the upcoming year.

What can you as a CPHA member do to help the cause? Contact your lawmakers now to let them know that as a public health professional you support protecting children from toxic chemicals in consumer products. Then keep watch for emailed Action Alerts that will be sent at strategic times during the upcoming three-month legislative session (Feb 5th to May 7) asking CPHA members to take action. Would you like to do more? CPHA and its Coalition partners are always seeking individuals to write Letters to the Editor to their local papers, submit public hearing testimony and attend various events – press events, rallies, etc. throughout the year. In addition, the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 15th from 6-8:30 p.m. at the UAW Region 9A in Farmington. If you'd like to attend or become more involved in any of the ways mentioned above, please contact CPHA's Project Coordinator Noele Kidney at [Noele.kidney@cpha.info](mailto:Noele.kidney@cpha.info) or 860-305-7927.

[Top »](#)

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## **GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY**

The Children's Center for Community Research at Connecticut Children's Medical Center is looking for two graduate students who are interested in research for the Spring 2014 semester. The Adolescent Adjustment Project (AAP) is a longitudinal research study directed by Dr. Christine Ohannessian at the Children's Center for Community Research (C3R) at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. The primary goal of the project is to examine whether characteristics of the individual (e.g., self-worth, coping abilities) and the context (family, school, peers) moderate the relationship between family dysfunction and adolescent adjustment (as indicated by substance use, depression, anxiety, etc.) - to address the question of why some adolescents from dysfunctional families appear to be well-adjusted, whereas others do not. An additional goal is to examine whether the effects of the proposed moderating variables differ depending on the gender of the adolescent and/or the gender of the parent. Data have been collected annually throughout the high school years on over 1,200 adolescents and a subsample of their parents.

Students working on the project have the opportunity to gain experience in data analysis, the preparation of conference presentations, and the preparation of manuscripts for publication. Students can earn from 1-3 credits based on their availability. The student would report to Dr. Christine Ohannessian and the work location can be flexible, either at Dr. Ohannessian's office at the University of Connecticut Health Center or at her office at 12 Charter Oak Place in Hartford. Please send inquiries to Shelly Morse at [mmorse01@connecticutchildrens.org](mailto:mmorse01@connecticutchildrens.org).

[Top »](#)

## **CONNECTICUT'S SANDRA MINOR BULMER NAMED SOPHE PRESIDENT**

**Sandra Minor Bulmer, PhD, MS, CHES**, Professor in the Department of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University, will serve a three-year term as SOPHE President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President.

"We are extremely pleased to have this caliber of esteemed health education professionals join the SOPHE leadership team," says SOPHE President Kelli R. McCormack Brown, PhD, CHES, "SOPHE will be well positioned to continue to provide global

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leadership to the profession of health education and health promotion and to promote the health of society."

### **About SOPHE**

The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) is a non-profit professional organization founded in 1950 to provide global leadership to the profession of health education and health promotion and to promote the health of society. SOPHE's 4,000 national, international and chapter members work in various public and private organizations to advance health education theory and research, develop disease prevention and health promotion programs, and promote public policies conducive to health. For more information, see [www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org).

[Top »](#)

## **Membership Committee**

### **2013 CPHA "REFER A FRIEND"**

The 2013 CPHA webpage "[Refer a Friend](#)" link is a great way to help CPHA meet its annual membership goals. Here is how it works.

#### **CPHA "Refer a Friend" Instructions**

- Click on the main [CPHA webpage](#)
- On right side of page, go to My Profile.
- Click on "Refer a Friend."
- Follow the simple instructions.
- You can refer up to 10 friends at once!
- your profile will keep a list of those you have referred.

[Top »](#)

## **MENTORING COMMITTEE (MOR)**

As CPHA's Mentoring Organization Registry (MOR) enters its 7th year, efforts to educate about and advance interest in public health and public health careers to middle, high school and community college students continue. Schools are now partnering with public health organizations to help them meet new graduation requirements for community service, experiential learning and mandated health education. Since 2012, MOR has spread the word about concepts and careers in public health at CT River Academy, an environmental science magnet school in East Hartford, Wilby High School in

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Waterbury, Metropolitan Business Academy in New Haven, Manchester High School, Middlesex Community College, Newtown High School and the Education Connection Health Career Internship Program. MOR continues to offer workshops and technical assistance to targeted schools to increase Public Health 101 lessons, community service opportunities, and participation in national events, such as National Public Health Week.

MOR wants to hear from you! Let us know how MOR can help you with training, materials and/or web resources. Share your successes in helping youth learn about and participate in public health in your community. Send email to: [Pamela.Kilbey-Fox@cpha.info](mailto:Pamela.Kilbey-Fox@cpha.info) or [Cyndi.BillianStern@cpha.info](mailto:Cyndi.BillianStern@cpha.info).

[Top »](#)

## **TRAINING OPPORTUNITY ON AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IMPLEMENTATION**

### **CT Healthcare Reform Resources for Local Health Departments**

Webinar on Thursday, December 19, 2014 from 1-2 PM

TRAIN Course # 1048004

Healthcare reform has come to Connecticut but does your agency know how to connect eligible populations in your jurisdiction to those in the know about new insurance options? Join CT experts and practitioners on Thursday December 19, 2014 from 1 to 2 PM to learn about ways that local health departments and others in local government can connect with the resources available from Access Health CT, our state's health insurance exchange. Hear about how the City of New Haven Department of Health and others are working as regional hubs to support outreach and enrollment.

Target audience: Staff of local health departments and other local and regional governmental agencies; also appropriate for staff of local and regional health and human service organizations.

Learning objectives:

- Describe programs and products offered through Access Health CT
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- Describe opportunities for local health department/municipal engagement through the Navigator and In Person Assister Outreach Program
- Identify education and enrollment web and print tools to engage eligible populations
- Describe strategies and upcoming events coordinated by the New Haven Health Department and other Regional Navigator and Certified Application Counselor organizations

Registration is available at <https://ct.train.org> and search for course #1048004. CPH continuing education credit is available and application has been made for a CHES contact hour. A certificate of attendance is provided for all viewers who attend the program and complete an evaluation.

#### **APHA Resource**

#### **Get your free Get Ready 2014 Pup-Preparedness Calendar!**

The [Get Ready 2014 Pup-Preparedness Calendar](#) is now available online for free. Featuring cute dogs and preparedness tips, the APHA calendar makes a great addition to your bulletin board, office wall or refrigerator. Get your copy and print one to share!

[Top »](#)

## **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY INTERNS NEEDED FOR SPRING 2014**

**The Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA), the largest and most diverse public health association in Connecticut, seeks legislative advocacy interns for the Spring 2014 semester.**

The mission of CPHA is to represent and unite the diverse expertise of Connecticut's public health professionals, to ameliorate the most pressing public health issue in the state, and to promote healthy and safe living for the people of Connecticut.

Be a part of CPHA's mission: Become a CPHA legislative intern.

Legislative interns will:

- Participate in the legislative process in Connecticut;
  - Track bill activity;
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- Research and draft materials needed for CPHA to effectively advocate for its legislative priorities--health equity, environmental health, and public health infrastructure.

The internship requires strong writing skills, travel to the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, a flexible schedule and the ability to take initiative. Previous coursework in Environmental Health and Social and Behavioral Health is recommended. Intended for graduate students in Public Health, Law, Policy, Social Work, Nursing and related fields.

If you are interested, please submit a cover letter and resume to Colleen O'Connor, Chair, CPHA Legislative Advocacy Committee at [colleen.oconnor@cpha.info](mailto:colleen.oconnor@cpha.info).

[Top »](#)

## **The Greater New Haven Community Index 2013**

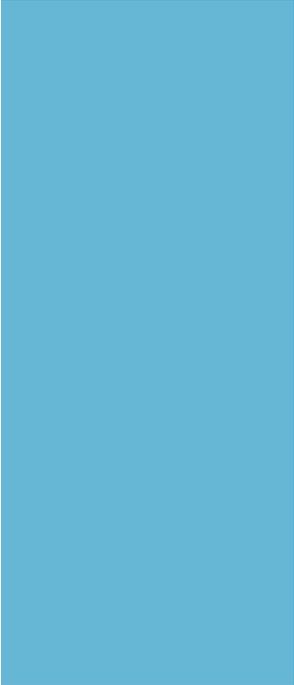
### **Benchmarking the People, Economic Opportunity, Health Needs, and Civic Life of Our Region**

The purpose of the Greater New Haven Community Index is to start a discussion about the opportunities and challenges facing metropolitan New Haven. It focuses on health, demography, education, economics, and civic life and is rich in maps and graphs (an example of which is below). The document was published by DataHaven with the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, New Haven Health Department, Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale School of Public Health.

Chapter 4 brings together a wealth of data to describe health in greater New Haven.

#### **Health Highlights:**

- Greater New Haven is a relatively healthy region but has the potential to be even healthier.
  - As with much of the rest of the country, being overweight poses a health challenge throughout the region.
  - Illnesses, like diabetes and asthma, are not evenly distributed geographically. Injuries from violence and infant mortality both result in a great loss of human potential particularly for Black and Hispanic New Haven residents.
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- Many people in the region smoke regularly. The good news is that the majority of daily smokers have tried to quit in the last year.
  - A large number of people in New Haven are at risk of cirrhosis because they have chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. Some of them are infected with HCV and don't know it.

If you would like to read more please go to [www.ctdatahaven.org/communityindex](http://www.ctdatahaven.org/communityindex).

[Top »](#)

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