



**Connecticut  
Public Health  
Association**

Promoting Public Health in Connecticut Since 1936



6/10/2013

## CPHA eNewsletter - June 2013

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Visit us at [www.cpha.info](http://www.cpha.info)

## A MESSAGE FROM CPHA PRESIDENT KATHI TRAUGH

What an exciting and productive Spring it was been! CPHA members, legislators and friends attended our Annual Legislative Breakfast on March 27, 2013 at the LOB in Hartford with guest speaker, Dr. Katharine Lewis, Deputy Commissioner, CT Department of Public Health...On April 4, 2013, CPHA recognized National Public Health Week (NPHW) when over 100 guests enjoyed appetizers, drinks, music and a very special public health awards ceremony at the Wadsworth Mansion...CPHA's MOR held several successful NPHW activities at several schools around the state...Our newly upgraded website was rolled out with many new "member-friendly" features to improve communications and member-to -member networking....

CPHA's Advocacy Committee and legislative interns racked up a number of wins at the General Assembly session...We have partnered with CADH, CT DPH, CT-RI PHTC and CHA to offer a special workshop, Conducting Collaborative Community Health Needs Assessments, on June 27, 2013 at the Connecticut Hospital Association...And you won't want to miss the 2013 CPHA Annual Meeting on October 25, 2013, where we are honored to have a very exciting keynote speaker, Dr. Judy Monroe.

Have a healthy and safe summer, and keep CPHA in your sights for Fall 2013!

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### CONDUCTING COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS WORKSHOP

Presented by CPHA, CT DPH, CT-RI Public Health Training Center & CT Hospital Association

June 27, 2013

8:00 am- 12:30 pm

Connecticut Hospital Association, Wallingford, CT

**Keynote Speaker:** David Zuckerman, Research Associate at [The Democracy Collaborative](#) (University of Maryland) and author of [Hospitals Building Healthier Communities: Embracing the Anchor Mission](#).

**Who should attend?** Public health and management personnel affiliated with local health departments; local public health directors; hospital administrators; community benefit managers; medical facility administrators and other interested in the CHNA process. All participants will receive a free copy of the 100-page document, [Guidelines for Conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment](#).

**Register today!** Go to CT-TRAIN <https://ct.train.org>. Search for Course ID: 1044067

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**2013 CPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*The Power of Partnerships: Working Together for a Healthy Connecticut*

Friday, October 25, 2013 8:00 am-4:00 pm

CoCo Key Convention Center, Waterbury

**PRE-REGISTRATION BEGINS SOON!**

**2013 CPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Dr. Judith Monroe**, [Click here](#) for more information about Dr. Judith Monroe.

**2013 CPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Public Health/Hospital Collaboration \* Coalition Building 101 \* Health Impact Assessments  
\* Partnering to Advance Public Health Policy \* Partnerships for Obesity Prevention \*  
Student Mentoring \* Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness \* Maintaining Environmental  
Health Partnerships \* Working With the Media \* Campus Partnerships \* Partnering with  
Connecticut's Health Insurance Exchange

**BECOME A 2013 CPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSOR, ADVERTISER OR EXHIBITOR!**

[Click here](#) for more information.

**2013 CPHA ANNUAL STUDENT POSTER SESSION**

Attention Students & Recent Graduates! CPHA welcomes you to submit poster abstracts.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to submit a poster abstract.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS (CECHs) for CHES**

To learn more, visit the 2013 CPHA Annual Conference webpage.

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## CPHA COMMITTEE UPDATES

### 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

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

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#### 2013 CPHA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

*Take 3 minutes of your time to help CPHA learn more about how to serve YOU better!*

CPHA Membership Committee is sending out a **brief survey** via email this week. The purpose of this survey is to solicit information about membership fees, member benefits, etc. Please help us to improve its member services by taking a few minutes to complete the survey by [clicking here](#).

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### ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

#### CPHA AND COALITION FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY CONNECTICUT

##### Toxic Chemical Reform--Legislative Session

Despite having the votes to pass both the State House and Senate, **HB6526--TOXIC DISCLOSURE AND INNOVATION FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN**, authorizing CT DPH to review chemicals of concern to children and report back to the General Assembly every 2 years, was never called for a vote during this Legislative Session. Bolstered by many well-funded Chemical & Toy Industry lobbyists, a small minority of lawmakers were able to defeat the Bill by promising to "discuss" the Bill at length if it was ever called. Sadly, those promises prevented House Leadership from calling for a vote and the Bill died on the House Calendar.

**But it's not all bad news!** The proposal gained some new supporters during the last weeks of the Session and the [Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT](#) vows to continue to work through next February to ensure that protecting children from the dangers of toxic chemicals is an issue before lawmakers during the 2014 Legislative Session!

**Advocacy Committee Chairs, Colleen O'Connor and Sally Mancini, and Noele Kidney,**

CPHA's Project Coordinator, led many successes during this "long" session. Legislative priority areas included: Health Equity, Prevention, Environmental Health and Public Health Infrastructure. Thank you to CPHA Advocacy Interns, Kimberly Miller-Tolbert (Yale MPH candidate) and Jordana Frost (B.U. DrPH candidate) who tracked legislation, drafted factsheets, testimony and advocacy communications and attended advocacy events at the Capitol. Here are some highlights:

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## PREVENTION

### **HB 6525, An Act Concerning Childhood Obesity and Physical Exercise in Schools**

*Passed on June 1, 2013.* The CT Task Force on Childhood Obesity will study the effects of obesity on children's health, examine nutrition standards for all food procured by the state, and explore ways to increase physical activity among children, along with other goals. CPHA submitted testimony on this bill, requesting that DPH Commissioner (or a designee) be included on the Task Force as the original bill identified individuals to serve on the taskforce but neglected to include public health experts. This request was heard and included in the final bill. The Bill also mandates that every school in the state offer students a lunch period that is at least 20 minutes long and that all elementary school students be offered at least 20 minutes (total) of physical activity throughout the day. The original bill included language that would require the Task Force to study the potential impact of a sugar-sweetened beverage tax; however, this was removed as it was controversial.

### **SB 872, An Act Concerning the Use of Indoor Tanning Devices By Persons Under 17 Years Of Age**

*Passed and was signed by Governor Malloy on June 5, 2013.* This law aims to reduce the future incidence of skin cancer by banning children under age 17 from using indoor tanning devices. CPHA logged many volunteer hours working on this bill along with an ad-hoc coalition of supporters including scientists and physicians from the [Yale School of Public Health](#) and UCONN Dermatology. CPHA submitted testimony for the March 7th hearing in support of the ban, but arguing against a physician exception clause that would allow teenagers to tan with a doctor's prescription. The passage of the Bill was ultimately a compromise, in that it decreased the ban age from under 18 years old to under 17, but it does not include the physician exception language. **CT now has one of the strongest indoor tanning bans for teens in the U.S.**, joining seven other states with similar laws. [Read about state indoor tanning laws [here](#)].

### **SB 1076: AAC the Reduction of Gun Violence**

*This bill did not pass, however, a more comprehensive bill, **SB 1160: An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety**, passed through the "emergency certification" process and was signed by the Governor on April 4, 2013, leaving CT with one of the strongest gun control laws in the country.* CPHA will continue its work with [Connecticut Against Gun Violence](#) and the [National Physician's Alliance \(NPA\) CT Chapter](#) on coordinating a statewide effort to raise awareness of the importance of a Public Health Approach to gun injury and violence prevention.

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## HEALTH EQUITY

The Advocacy Committee, as well as other CPHA members, partnered with organizations to advance families' economic self-sufficiency including the CAHS Family Economic Support Network (FES) Network, attended lobbying days, and submitted written testimony to

educate legislators on the implications of poverty and income inequality on health.

#### **SB 387, An Act Increasing the Minimum Fair Wage**

*Passed and was signed into law on June 6, 2013.* The law will incrementally **increase the minimum fair wage to \$8.75 per hour as of January 1, 2014 and \$9.00 per hour by January 1, 2015.** CPHA Intern, Jordana Frost, attended FES Lobbying Day at the State Capitol on February 7th and met with her legislator to discuss the importance of this bill.

#### **Governor's SB 843, An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Budget**

The Advocacy Committee submitted 2 separate testimonies in *opposition* to this Bill that proposed cutting the EITC for working poor families. CPHA's testimony highlighted evidence indicating that the EITC results in positive health outcomes for recipients, particularly for babies born to pregnant women receiving the tax credit. Unfortunately, the cuts to EITC passed and are now law. The EITC will be reduced from the current 30% of the Federal EITC to 25% in fiscal year 2013 and 27.5% in 2014, and will restore it to 30% for subsequent tax years.

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

#### **HB 6519, An Act Concerning Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food**

#### **HB 6527: An Act Concerning Genetically Engineered Baby Food**

The Advocacy Committee submitted testimony for both of these bills. CT became the first state in the U.S. to pass a bill requiring labeling of GM foods when an amended version of **HB 6527 passed** in the final days of the session! However, this bill has a "trigger clause" requiring four other states, with one bordering CT, and a total population of 25 million people in the Northeast, to pass labeling of GM foods before Connecticut's law would be "triggered" to go into effect. It is an interesting and controversial compromise designed to encourage other states to pass similar bills along with CT. Currently, over 40 countries have laws, which ban or require labeling of GM foods. To read more about CPHA's position on GM foods click [here](#).

Read all of CPHA's **Legislative Factsheets and Testimony** from this legislative session [here](#).

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

**For a list of upcoming CPHA Advocacy Committee meetings,**click [here](#).

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## **HEALTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE (HEC)**

- **For a complete list of upcoming 2013 CPHA Health Education Committee meetings** [click here](#).
- 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).
- HEC meets 5 times per year (January, April, June, September, November) on the second Wednesday of the month from 9 am until 12 pm. In 2013, meetings will be held at the State of CT Department of Transportation located at 2800 Berlin

Turnpike in Newington.

- **Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) are eligible to receive (2) Category 1 CECHs for a \$6 fee at each meeting.**

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## MENTORING COMMITTEE (MOR)

- CPHA established the **Mentoring Organization Registry (MOR)** in 2007 to grow and diversify Connecticut's future public health workforce. Today, 33 organizations comprise MOR which has reached over 3000 educators and students via classroom and worksite experiences that prepare for higher education, volunteerism, and careers in public health.
- The document, **Activities and Tools for Teaching Public Health: A Resource for Educators, Career Counselors and Public Health Ambassadors** was added to MOR website.
- During **2013's National Public Health Week**, MOR reached more than 500 students and distributed 200 Public Health Starts Here wristbands statewide from Manchester to Waterbury. Joan Lane from **Southwestern CT AHEC** taught Public Health Starts Here in Bridgeport and New Haven. Students from the Connecticut River Academy, an environmental science magnet school in East Hartford, attended CPHA Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. CPHA Advocacy Chair, Colleen O'Connor and MOR Chair, Pamela Kilbey-Fox provided educator, Anthony Roy, with bill information to prepare students for experiences of meeting with lawmakers.
- New Haven's Metropolitan Business Academy students in Connecticut's first full year high school Public Health 101 class celebrated NPHW by creating original podcasts and distributing wristbands with the help of Linda Bergonzi-King, of Yale-New Haven Healthcare Systems, and teacher, Christopher Willems.
- Education Connection and MOR collaborated to invite over 50 greater Danbury high school health career interns to a special panel discussion about public health careers during NPHW. Panel speakers included: Elaine Abrams, CPHA President-elect, Scott LeRoy, Director, Danbury Health Dept., and Gretchen Raffa, Planned Parenthood.

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## OTHER CPHA MEMBER NEWS...

### 2013 CT ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES ANNUAL MEETING "THE IMPACT OF AFFORDABLE CARE ON PUBLIC HEALTH"

DATE: June 20, 2013

TIME: 12:30 PM-4:00 PM (inc lunch)

LOCATION: Il Monticello, Broad Street, Meriden

SPEAKER: Victoria Veltri, JD, LLM, State of CT Office of the Healthcare Advocate

COST: CAPHN members \$25 before June 1st; \$30 after June 1st; Guests \$35

**Registration deadline is June 14th** and the "early bird" discount must be received by June

1st. No registrations can be accepted after June 14th. [Click here](#) for more information.

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## CT DPH ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM (EPHT) UPDATE

The [CT Department of Public Health's Environmental Public Health \(CT EPHT\) Tracking Program](#) continues to make progress expanding public access to environmental and health data through Connecticut's Tracking Network.

EPHT will have new data packages available in Spring 2013 including:

- **Occupational Health Data:** The data will show counts and rates by ICD-9 group.
- **Reportable Disease Data:** Network users can now access state data on 3 environmental/ occupational related diseases – carbon monoxide, mercury, and adult blood-lead reports as well as selected infectious diseases.
- **Immunization Data:** Users can access immunization coverage rates.

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## CT EPHT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- **[Tracks: Nurses and the Tracking Network](#) (podcast)**
- **Tracking 101**
- The CT DPH EPHT Program is developing a training module to assist public health professionals, health providers and others. Look for it in summer 2013!

For more information, visit the web portal site (<http://dphepht.ct.gov>) and/or contact the EPHT program at 860-509-7740.

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## YALE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

The **Office of Community Health at the Yale School of Public Health (YSPH)** has been re-named the **Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP)** in order to better convey its mission is to bridge academia and the "real" world of public health through practice-based learning, applied research and community service partnerships. The OPHP activities include:

- **Placing M.P.H. students** in CT public health agencies for internships and practicum course projects of direct relevance and benefit to the field.
- **Contributing** to the **CT Public Health Practice-Based Research Network (PRBN)** led by the **CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH)** and various other CT based public health initiatives.
- **Acting as administrative hub** for the CT-RI Public Health Training Center that provides continuing education for public health workers from a multitude of agencies including local and state health departments, community health centers and AIDS service organizations.

For more information about the **Yale School of Public Health OPHP** click here or contact Elaine O'Keefe, Executive Director at [elaine.okeefe@yale.edu](mailto:elaine.okeefe@yale.edu), Mary Ann Booss, Public Health Practice Manager at [maryann.booss@yale.edu](mailto:maryann.booss@yale.edu), or Kathi Traugh, Professional

Development Coordinator at [Kathi.traugh@yale.edu](mailto:Kathi.traugh@yale.edu).

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## **NORTH CENTRAL HEALTH DISTRICT SEEKING FULL TIME SANITARIAN!**

**Job Description:** Investigating health, environmental, and nuisance complaints; Assist in the planning for and response to natural and man-made emergencies; Inspect schools and daycare centers, housing, and industrial facilities; Conduct inspections and issue permits for food service establishments, subsurface sewage disposal systems, public and community water supply wells, public swimming pools, and other venues.

**Qualifications:** Licensed Registered Sanitarian (RS) or be eligible within 1 year; Certified in Food Service Inspections and Phase I and II subsurface sewage disposal; BA/BS in public or environmental health or a related field.

**Salary:** Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**Benefits:** Health, dental and life insurance and a defined contribution retirement plan.

**Learn more** at <http://www.ncdhd.org/>

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