



Promoting Public Health in Connecticut Since 1916



1/17/2012

## CPHA eNewsletter

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## CPHA 2011 Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

Nearly 300 public health professionals from around the state gathered at the Aqua Turf in Southington, CT on October 21 for the CPHA Annual Meeting and Conference. Centered on the theme, "All Policy is Public Health Policy", the meeting explored the use of public policy to address the root causes of health disparities both here in Connecticut and around the nation.

The meeting was kicked off by [Rear Admiral Michael R. Milner, DHSc, PA-C](#), Assistant Surgeon General, Chief Health Services Officer, United States Public Health Service. Admiral Milner's presentation, "[Affordable Care Act -What do you need to know to be an advocate?](#)," described how the new reform law will improve health care coverage, health care quality, and make health care services more affordable. Most important to public health professionals, he described how the new law improves prevention services and supports public health activities, including the new Federal funding mechanism for public health programs, the [Prevention and Public Health Fund](#). He concluded with a call for all public health professionals to learn more about the law and to be advocates in their communities.

This year's meeting featured six concurrent sessions on a wide range of topics related to health disparities: housing, food policy, local health policy, oral health, health equity for women and advocacy. [PowerPoint presentations](#) from the sessions can be found on the CPHA website. Continuing the policy theme, the luncheon address was given by [State Senator Theresa "Terry" Bielinski Gerratana](#), Co-Chair of the General Assembly's Public Health Committee. Our

thanks goes to all our presenters for an outstanding educational program. Don't miss the pictures of the event posted on our [Facebook page!](#)

CPHA would like to thank all of our meeting sponsors (see below), exhibitors and advertisers for their financial support. A huge round of appreciate goes to our Program Committee members and the Committee Co-Chairs, Alison Gilcreast and Katie Boyle, as well as hardworking staff, Noele Kidney, Eileen Kehl and Jon Noel.

Don't miss next year's Annual Meeting and Conference on October 19, 2012!

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## CPHA Recognizes Outstanding Public Health Professionals

This year, CPHA bestowed awards to four exceptional individuals during a special luncheon ceremony at the 2011 CPHA Annual Meeting and Conference on October 21, 2011.

The **2011 C.-E.A. Winslow Award** for outstanding contributions to the public's health by a Connecticut public health professional was awarded to **Shelley Geballe, JD, MPH**. Geballe was honored for her unwavering leadership and determination in pursuit of social justice and health equity: her

advocacy for children, youth, women and the underserved in general; and for her current public health workforce development efforts at Yale University. She is Past-President (1995-2008) and Co-Founder of the highly respected advocacy organization, CT Voices for Children and was instrumental in advancing rationale policy in response to the AIDS epidemic, helping to assure access to vital prevention and care services for disproportionately impacted groups, including inmates of the Connecticut correctional system and school-aged children with HIV/AIDS who were being denied the right to an equal education. She is now a distinguished senior fellow at Yale School of Public Health. Her work focuses on state and federal tax and budget issues, child and family health and mental health, child welfare, education and juvenile justice.

In her acceptance speech at the Annual Meeting, Geballe spoke about the importance of addressing health inequities and finding a better balance between the conflicting American political ideals of individualism and community connectedness. She urged attendees to become more politically active, to work on policy to reduce health inequities and to donate to scholarship programs in public health so the best and brightest can enter the field without crushing student loans.

“Because health care is such a huge part of federal, state, local, business and personal budgets, its center stage,” Geballe said. “And because health is in all policy, we are ideal conveners for the essential discussion needed about how to create a more equitable and healthy population.”

The **Charles G. Huntington Award III** is presented annually to a Connecticut health care practitioner who has demonstrated public health leadership and a commitment to the health and well-being of populations. This year, the award was bestowed to two outstanding practitioners, **Garry Spinner PA-C, MPH** and **Robert Hill, APRN**.

Garry Spinner is a HIV specialist at the Southwest Community Health Center in Bridgeport, serving as the core provider of the Ryan White (HIV/AIDS)

Program. Prior to this, Spinner was Chief Operating Officer of the Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, where he worked for 25 years. He is a board member of the Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHNCT) and heads the network's quality assurance committee. Mr. Spinner has many broad-based health care interests, among them the establishment of an HIV clinic program in Africa. He has a global public health perspective that is driven by the belief that everyone deserves access to and receipt of quality health care.

Robert Hill is director of special projects at the Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, where he serves as a primary care provider for adults and children and director of special projects. He is also a caregiver at the South Central Rehabilitation Clinic, which provides management of HIV and Hepatitis C, detoxification of substance addicted persons, and opiate dependence care. Hill is known as a caregiver of the first order, tireless in the pursuit of primary care and specialty services for his patients, and for his advocacy throughout his career to assist the underserved.

This year's CPHA **Presidents' Award** was awarded by Tracey Scraba to **Joan Segal, MA, MS** for her many contributions and extraordinary service on behalf of CPHA. Ms. Segal is Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Graduate Program in Public Health at the University of Connecticut (UConn) Health Center, where she has advised and mentored MPH students for more than twenty years. She is a recent Past President of CPHA and was the 2005 recipient of the Association's C.-E.A. Winslow Award for her demonstrated leadership and achievement in public health education. Over the past 3 years, Ms. Segal served as the CPHA's Grant Manager for the Affiliate Capacity Building Infrastructure (ACBI) grant and has represented CPHA on several coalitions, including the CT Influenza and Pneumococcal Coalition and the Primary Care Coalition of Connecticut. Prior to serving as President of CPHA, she served in several capacities on the Board, including Co-Chair of the Communications Committee.

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## CPHA to Sponsor Legislative Breakfast at Capitol

Save the date! CPHA will host a breakfast for legislators and public health advocates on Friday, February 24, 2012 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The event, which will take place in the Private Dining Room from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., is our opportunity to meet directly with legislators in an informal setting and educate them about public health and our policy priorities. Members of the [General Assembly's Public Health Committee](#) as well as the other key lawmakers will be invited to attend. Please help us have a strong showing by attending! Watch your e-mail or visit the [CPHA website](#) for more information.

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## A CSHC Update

2011 was a great year for the [Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut](#). Our state continued to lead the nation with precedent setting policies that reduce exposure to toxic chemicals like bisphenol-A (BPA) in thermal receipt paper but we faced intense pressure to roll back our ban of BPA in infant formula containers just as the law was to go into effect!

CSHC mobilized its members, the environmental community and health professionals to press for passing the first-in-the-nation ban of BPA in thermal receipt paper and successfully fend off rollbacks. Connecticut lawmakers got the message – it's vital that we protect public health and the health of the environment.

On December 7th, the Coalition held its Annual Meeting with guest speakers.

Mike Schade and Anne Rabe of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice in New York (CHEJ) presenting on their work in green procurement. The Coalition also honored six individuals for their outstanding efforts to help the Coalition in the fight for reducing the public's exposure to toxic chemicals. Honorees included Senator Richard Blumenthal (National Leader), the Central Connecticut Oncology Nurses Society (New Member Leader), Hacah Boros, RN, BSN (Citizen Leader), Beka Apostolidis, RN, MS (Citizen Leader), Loyola Welsh, JD (Citizen Leader) and Martha Kelly of Connecticut Citizens for Environmental Justice (Citizen Leader).

As 2011 came to a close, the Coalition was pleased to announce and welcome its newest organizational member – the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. The Coalition looks forward to working with PCSW on environmental health issues and how they relate to women.

With the 2012 Legislative Session scheduled to commence on February 8th, the Coalition is already hard at work meeting with lawmakers and planning its 2012 legislative agenda. I'll keep you posted and look forward to working together with you to protect public health in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Noele Kidney Project Coordinator

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## **CPHA Elects New Officers and Board Members**

CPHA members elected a new slate of officers and board members at the 2012 Annual Meeting. Each of the members below is looking forward to serving you for the next two years. They bring a broad range of public health experience to the board. Many have been active in CPHA committees and activities over the years. If you are interested in serving on one of the CPHA standing committees – Advocacy, Communications, Membership, Program, Health Education, Finance or Mentoring, please contact CPHA President

Kathi Traugh at [kathi.traugh@yale.edu](mailto:kathi.traugh@yale.edu).

### **CPHA Officers**

**President: Kathi Traugh** is the Public Health Professional Development Coordinator the Yale School of Public Health and the Assistant Director of the newly awarded CT-RI Public Health Training Center at Yale. Kathi filled a vacancy as the President-Elect of CPHA in 2011, and also served as CPHA Secretary and Chair of the Communications Committee. She has been active with CPHA for many years, and is the Association's former Executive Director. Kathi holds an undergraduate degree in political science and received her MPH from Southern Connecticut State University.

**President-Elect: Katharine Kranz Lewis** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Hartford and Director of the Center for Public Health and Education Policy. Since 2010 she has been chair of the Advocacy Committee for CPHA. Her research interests include comparative analyses of public health systems nationally and internationally, translational public health research, and the impact of policy on the health of populations. Prior to joining academia, Katherine worked as hospital staff nurse, school nurse and in health administration. She holds both a MSN and MPH degree and a PhD in social policy.

**Secretary: Kimberly Ploszaj** is an Epidemiologist with State of Connecticut Lead and Healthy Homes Program. She has worked for non-profit and not-for-profit community based organizations, a local health district and the State Department of Public Health. Currently, Kim has been Chair of the CPHA Health Education and coordinates their monthly meetings and trainings. Kim also teaches CPR and first aid in her community and volunteers as an Emergency Medical Technician with Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps. She holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Public Health.

**Treasurer: Alison Gilcreast** currently works as a Client Service Analyst at OptumHealth in Rocky Hill, CT and previously worked as a Plan Coordination Consultant for Aetna. She was CPHA's 2011 Public Health Policy Intern and

served as the Chair of the CPHA Program Committee in 2011. Alison is an active volunteer with community agencies and has been involved with numerous charity fundraising activities. She holds a BS with a concentration in public health and psychology as well as a Master of Public Health degree.

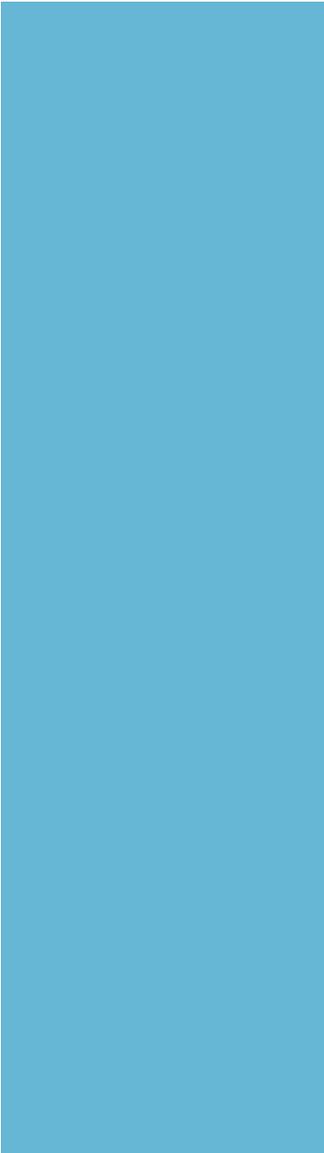
***Elected At-Large Board Members***

**Elaine Abrams** is a Registered Nurse and Certified Health Education Specialist with 20 years of public health nursing, community health and health promotion experience. A graduate of University of CT Graduate Program in Public Health, she has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in health education. She is currently the Community Health Coordinator at Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County in Norwalk CT and served on the CPHA Program Committee.

**William G. Faraclas** is Professor of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University, where he has been a faculty member since 1975 and Department Chair since 1980. Dr. Faraclas teaches both graduate and undergraduate public health courses, and serves as Director of the Environmental Health Training Program, and Department's International Field Studies in Health. He has served on the CPHA Board in various capacities, where he has championed student involvement in CPHA activities. He holds a PhD in Public Health.

**Pamela Kilbey-Fox** worked as the Branch Chief for Local Health Administration for the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) where she served as the liaison between local health directors and the Commissioner of Public Health. Her duties also included serving as Interim Dental Director of the DPH Office of Oral Health. Pamela was the Director of Health and Social Services for the City of New London prior to joining DPH. She holds a MPH and is a Registered Dental Hygienist.

**David Skoczulek** is the Director of Business Development and Community Relations for the Ambulance Service of Manchester and Aetna Ambulance Service of Hartford. He is the Chairman of the Board for North Central District



Health Department and the Vice President of the Board for North Central Area Agency on Aging. He has a BS in Emergency Medical Services Management, a Master's in Public Health and was a Connecticut Health Foundation *Health Leadership Fellow* for 2011.

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## CPHA 2012 News Briefs

- CPHA looks forward to adding its first section, a State Association of Local Boards of Health (SALBOH), over the next year. Changes in the CPHA By-Laws approved at the Annual Meeting have opened the door for CPHA to support sections in its membership structure, similar to the section structure used by the American Public Health Association. Support from a grant from the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) has helped to move this process along. Watch this newsletter for more information
- Are you a CPHA member in need of CHES credits? Become active in the CPHA Health Education Committee! The committee meets five times per year at the American Heart Association in Wallingford, CT. All meetings include networking and an educational session with CHES credits. The 2012 calendar is now available. For more information, visit their page on the CPHA website.

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