



**Connecticut
Public Health
Association**

Promoting Public Health in Connecticut Since 1916



CPHA eNewsletter

3/26/2012

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A Message from CPHA President, Kathi Traugh

CPHA has started 2012 with a bang! From the marble halls of the State Capitol to the exhibit halls at the Peabody Museum, our Committees have been busy elevating the visibility of public health and advocating for public health policies. Our Advocacy Committee has been tracking and testifying on many, many bills this legislative session, keeping public health front and center. I am very pleased to report that after much study, CPHA has added it's first-ever association section—the Connecticut Association of Boards of Health (CABOH)—modeled after the sections within the American Public Health Association. Congratulations to all of those who worked very hard to make this happen!

And speaking of firsts, I am counting on seeing fellow CPHA members and friends of public health at our first-ever statewide public health networking event on Thursday, April 5th from 6 – 10 PM at “The Big Food” exhibit at the Peabody Museum in New Haven. Don't miss this opportunity to see colleagues and network! More information below...

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CPHA Recognizes National Public Health Week with Special Event at Peabody Museum

[APHA National Public Health Week](#) is April 2-8, 2012 and CPHA will celebrate with a special event at Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History on April 5, 2012 from 6

pm until 10 pm. The event coincides with the Museum's special exhibit, "[Big Food: Health, Culture and the Evolution of Eating](#)" which uses multi-media to examine the influence of social, environmental, and cultural settings on our behavioral and dietary habits.

Commissioner of Health, Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MA and Jeannette Ickovics, PhD, Faculty at the [Yale School of Public Health](#), Director of Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE) and the exhibit's creator are expected to speak at the event. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes museum entrance, hors d'oeuvres, a drink and music.

The event, which is open to anyone in the public health arena, is being supported by the [Yale School of Public Health Office of Alumni Affairs](#), [Department of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University](#), the [University of Connecticut Health Center - Office of Development and Alumni Relations](#), and [Aetna Urban Marketing and Community Development](#).

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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CPHA Establishes New Connecticut Association of Boards of Health Section

On March 16, 2012, the CPHA Board of Directors approved the creation of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Health (CABOH). CABOH is 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).

"This is the culmination of many years of hard work and a historic moment for CPHA," says Kathi Traugh, CPHA President. "We will now be able to formally support and assist local boards of health and their members."

Traugh notes that Connecticut joins a handful of other APHA affiliates with a State

Association of Local Boards of Health section. While much work is yet to be done to get the section up and running, Traugh says that by-laws have been drafted and a core group of members will begin recruiting local board of health members, making the section operational. CPHA members will also have the option of joining CABOH.

Special recognition goes to CPHA members Judy Sartucci and Carolyn Wysocki, who worked with former CPHA staff member Annamarie Beaulieu in 2010 to obtain a NALBOH grant to support establishing CABOH. Current CPHA Board Members, Pamela Kilbey-Fox and David Skoczulek, will now work on membership recruitment, approving of by-laws, and designing section services and activities.

“We believe that CABOH is the first of many sections for CPHA,” adds Traugh. “This allows CPHA to expand its reach and better serve the public health community.”

CPHA members who are interested in assisting with CABOH should contact David Skoczulek at cpha@cpha.info

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CPHA Legislative Breakfast

The Advocacy Committee hosted a legislative breakfast at the Capitol on February 24, 2012 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. Several CPHA members attended which provided an excellent opportunity to educate members of the General Assembly about public health efforts in Connecticut, as well as challenges and opportunities. Dr. Jewel Mullen, Commissioner of Health also attended the breakfast.

The Advocacy Committee is in the process of securing a table at the Capitol during National Public Health Week in order to distribute CPHA materials and continue advocating for public health in Connecticut. For more information about the Legislative Breakfast and photo gallery, visit the [CPHA Facebook page](#).

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Committee Updates

Mentoring Committee (MOR: Mentoring Organization Registry)- Since January, MOR held 2 ambassador training sessions for Connecticut AHEC's 17 AmeriCorps members. The trainees plan to present on public health concepts and careers at 60 schools statewide. Three additional focus areas based on needs expressed by MOR members in a survey they completed last fall include: 1) new public health classroom presentations and activities for high school students; 2) An employer's guide for developing undergraduate student internships, 3) An online system for matching ambassadors with educational institutions in their area of the state (MOR is in search of a student to help out on this project). Visit the [MOR webpage](#) for more information.

Additional MOR activities include:

- Expanded and updated *Activities and Tools for Teaching Public Health: a Resource for Educators, Career Counselors and Public Health Ambassadors*. (Just click on the green box on the CPHA Mentor page to download the booklet).
- *Public Health Ambassador's Guide to Internships and Service Learning* is due out in May 2012, thanks to Kathleen Schultz, DMD, MPH candidate who is working on this project. It will include an evaluation form based on public health competencies and 21st century skills. (We send a special thanks to MOR members Steve Huleatt (West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District) and Steve Mansfield (Ledge Light Health District) for reviewing elements of the guide book as the move this project along).
- A new high school public health curriculum should be launched in Fall 2012 and piloted in selected high schools in priority school districts. Funded by Education Connection, Cyndi Stern, MOR consultant is working with CPHA members, Colleen O'Connor and Maureen Couvaris to develop the lesson plans. In the coming months, MOR members will be engaged to provide the experiential component of this curriculum.

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 American Heart Association in Wallingford, CT. The next meeting will be held on April 11th. Topics include "Food Safety During Disasters" and Central AHEC HIV Early Intervention Services. All meetings include networking and an educational session with CHES credits. For a complete list of meetings, visit the [Health Education Committee page](#) on the CPHA

website.

Advocacy Committee - The Advocacy Committee, chaired by Colleen O'Connor, has been extremely active this legislative session along with partners, [Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut](#) and [Healthy Teens CT](#). **Priority public health concerns in Connecticut include** health care reform, hospital mergers, aging in place, women's and adolescents' access to healthcare and overall public health funding. Five interns are following these issues in addition to the potential rollback of landmark legislation passed several years ago banning use pesticides on school property. Nationally, the Committee is following federal legislation that will affect public health activities in the state. Taking APHA's lead, the Committee sent out an action alert asking members to contact their member of Congress to reinstate funding to the public health fund. Letters were also sent to the Connecticut delegation to stop the elimination of funding to AHEC. For more information, visit the [CPHA Advocacy Committee](#).

Within three legislative priorities (health equity; environmental health; and public health infrastructure) the Advocacy Committee has accomplished the following to date:

Priority Area	Raised Bill	Fact Sheet	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	Action Alert	LTE
Environmental	HB 5116: An Act Requiring the Labeling of Food Packaging that Contains BPA	x	x		x	
	SB 274: An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products	x	x		x	
	HB 5121: An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern to Children	x	x	x	x	
	HB 5117: An Act Concerning	x	x			

	Genetically Engineered Foods					
	SB 93: An Act Concerning A Mercury Thermostat Collection and Financial Incentive Program			x		
Infrastructure	HB 277: An Act Establishing a Council to Promote Collaboration Between Local Health Departments and the Department of Public Health			x		
Health Equity	HB 5450: An Act Establishing a State Basic Health Program & HB 5485 (Exchange Bill)			x		
	HB 5527: An Act Concerning a Working Group to Study Health Care Reform					

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A Coalition Update

The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut is supporting a number of bills to protect children and families from the ill effects associated with toxic chemical exposure this session. But it's major focus is on the Coalition's priority bill, Senate Bill 274, An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern to Children, which would create a Green Ribbon Science Panel of experts in the fields of science and green chemistry whose members will advise the Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Energy and Environment (DEEP) on which chemicals currently being used in

commerce (for example in children's toys and common household objects) pose the biggest health threat to children and pregnant women. Every two years the state agencies and the panel will report back to the Legislature and recommend policies to reduce the public's exposure to toxic chemicals.

The Chemical Industry lobbyists are out in full force disputing science-based claims that toxic chemicals are a public health risk. But how do they explain that as the number of chemicals used in the United States has increased, so have the incidence rates for different types of cancer (brain, breast, bladder, liver and many more)? Plus, the incidence rates of environmentally related childhood illnesses, such as asthma and childhood cancers, have also been steadily rising over the past 25 – 30 years.

With efforts to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act stalled on the federal level, protecting the public from toxic chemicals has become the responsibility of the individual states. Coalition partners have been working hard to ensure that lawmakers on the Public Health Committee approve the bill, which if passed by the entire General Assembly, would once again put Connecticut out ahead of the nation in protecting it's citizens' from toxic chemical exposure.

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Upcoming Education Opportunities

Evidence-Based Public Health: Identifying and Using Information Resources

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

12:00PM to 1:30PM

Free Webinar

Introduces the concepts of **Evidence-Based Public Health (EBPH) practice**, which involves using the best available evidence to make informed public health practice decisions, and provide an overview of resources that are online and freely accessible to the public health workforce. Resources highlighted will include evidence-based guidelines, systematic reviews, formulated literature reviews, best and promising practices and additional sources of evidence available from the Partners in

Information Access for the Public Health Workforce, PHPartners.org.

Registration: The webinar is free, but pre-registration on CT TRAIN is required. Register at www.ct.train.org by choosing course **103952**. A certificate of attendance will be provided. Contact: Kathi Traugh at (203)-785-2868 or email kathi.traugh@yale.edu.

The Donaghue Foundation 2012 Annual Conference:

Beyond Eureka! Evaluating Risk: How Perceptions Shape Our Health

Thursday, May 3, 2012

7:30AM to 12:30PM

Hartford Marriott Farmington

This conference will explore how our perceptions of risk are formed and how our understanding of risk influences our behavior and decisions. The program will provide an overview of what is known about risk and how psychology, literacy and experience, among other factors, influence our perceptions of risk. Anyone interested in gaining a better understanding of how our perceptions of risk are formed, how these impact health and medical decision-making, and how to improve risk assessment and communication skills should attend. Health practitioners and public policymakers, systems leaders, payers and funders, health care educators, advocates and researchers should all find the speakers and panel discussion informative and thought provoking.

Register by April 23, 2012 by visiting

<http://donaghue.org/conferences/highlights.php>. Continuing education credits available for \$20 for nurses, physicians and social workers.

Leading the Charge: Public Health Nursing in Health Care Transformation

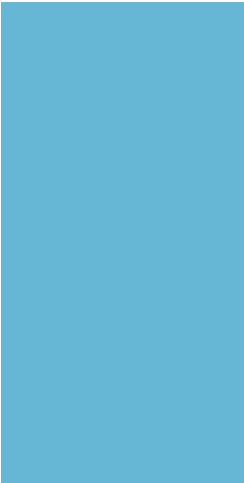
April 19, 2012

8:30AM to 3:15PM

University of Connecticut

Keller Auditorium

Farmington, CT



\$20 (prepay) or \$25 at door includes continental breakfast and box lunch. Register at <https://ct.train.org/> Course # 1032516. Sponsored by [CT Department of Public Health](#) in collaboration with [CT Association of Public Health Nurses](#), CT-RI Training Center, and [CT AHEC](#).

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