



**Connecticut  
Public Health  
Association**

Promoting Public Health in Connecticut Since 1916



3/4/2013

## CPHA eNewsletter

### Table of Contents

- Public Health Awards Night
- SCSU
- Call for Awards
- Legislative Breakfast
- Annual Conference
- APHA Student Liaison
- CPHA Awarded Grant
- Advocacy Committee
- HEC
- MOR
- Agency Members News

[Want to join? Or need to renew your membership? Click here](#)

[Visit the CPHA homepage](#)



[Want the most up-to-date information on CPHA's activities? Make CPHA your homepage.](#)

## 2013 CPHA PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS & NETWORKING NIGHT

### Celebrate National Public Health Week!

Thursday, April 4, 2013

5:30 pm-9:30 pm

CPHA's Public Health Awards & Networking Night will be held on Thursday April 4, 2013 at the [Wadsworth Mansion](#) in Middletown. Guests will enjoy appetizers, drinks, music, and a special address by Dr. Adewale Troutman, APHA President. Join us as we recognize and network with our colleagues during [National Public Health Week!](#) Regular admission is \$40 and \$30 for students with valid ID. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

[Top](#)

## SCSU SPONSORS 2013 CPHA PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS EVENT

A special thank you to [Southern Connecticut State University Department of Public Health](#) for sponsoring the 2013 CPHA Public Health Awards Night. CPHA is seeking additional sponsors and advertisers for this event. This is a great opportunity to show your support and be recognized. For more information about sponsoring and

advertising opportunities, [click here](#).

[BACK TO TOP](#)

## 2013 CPHA PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS-CALL FOR AWARDS!

CPHA is still soliciting nominations for several [public health awards](#)—the C.-E.A. Winslow Award, the Ira V. Hiscock Award and the Charles C. Huntington III Award. In 2013, CPHA is pleased to announce the addition of a special new award—the Michael J. Perlin Student Award—in honor of the late. Dr. Michael Perlin, Professor Emeritus, [Department of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University](#). The deadline for nominations is **Friday, March 15, 2013**. For more information, and to download the **2013 CPHA Call for Awards Nomination Form**, [click here](#).

Awardees to be announced on **Monday, March 18, 2013**. Selected recipients will be recognized at the [2013 CPHA Public Health Awards & Networking Night](#) on April 4, 2013 at the Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown!

[Top](#)

## 2013 ANNUAL CPHA LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

*Health in All Policies*

**March 27, 2013 8:00 am-10:00 am**

**Private Dining Room, Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford**

CPHA members are invited to join us as we host our annual CPHA Legislative Breakfast. This is a unique opportunity to meet and speak to your legislators about public health issues in our state. Guest speaker is Dr. Katharine Lewis, PhD, MSN, MPH, RN, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Health.

All CPHA members are invited. RSVP with your name and affiliation to Noele Kidney at [noele.kidney@cpha.info](mailto:noele.kidney@cpha.info).

[Top](#)

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**2013 CPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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

**CoCo Key Conference Center, Waterbury**

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

Business and Public Health \* 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

CPHA is seeking sponsors, advertisers and exhibitors for the 2013 CPHA Annual Conference. Contact Moira Lawson at [moira.lawson@cpha.info](mailto:moira.lawson@cpha.info) for more information.

[Top](#)

## **UCONN MPH STUDENT IS APHA STUDENT ASSEMBLY AFFILIATE LIAISON FOR CPHA**

[UConn Master of Public Health](#) Student, Angela Colantonio, has assumed the position as the American Public Health Association ([APHA](#)) [Student Assembly](#) Affiliate Liaison for CPHA. APHA Student Affiliate Liaisons serve as a link between their state affiliate and APHA and serve as their local contact. Ms. Colantonio will be reaching out to Connecticut's academic programs in public health to discuss forming

student chapters.

[Top](#)

## **CPHA AWARDED GRANT TO SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION**

CPHA was awarded a \$5000 grant by the [American Public Health Association](#) to conduct a statewide workshop in late Spring 2013 on best practices in conducting collaborative community health assessments (CHAs) for [public health accreditation](#). The goal is to increase the number of health departments using strategies from the Guidebook or pursuing accreditation by 25 percent. The Guidebook, which was recently developed by CADH and the CT Hospital Association, provides resources and templates on planning, implementing and evaluating a CHA—now a prerequisite for health department accreditation. Non-profit hospitals are also required to conduct a CHA every 3 years under the Affordable Care Act.

The grant timeline is February 15, 2013 -September 30, 2013 and will involve a number of partners, including the [CT Association of Directors of Health](#) (CADH) and the [CT-RI Public Health Training Center](#). CPHA is planning a session on CHA and accreditation at the [CPHA Annual Conference](#) on October 25, 2013. For more information, contact [kathi.traugh@cpha.info](mailto:kathi.traugh@cpha.info).

[Top](#)

## **CPHA COMMITTEE UPDATES ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

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

The 2013 legislative session is well underway and CPHA and the [Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut](#) are working together to advocate for and create new state policies to protect children from toxic chemical exposures. CPHA supports

these important legislative initiatives:

**HB6526--TOXIC DISCLOSURE AND INNOVATION FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN--**

This priority bill would authorize the DPH to identify chemicals of concern and work with children's products manufacturers to remove the most toxic chemicals. A public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 5th at the Legislative Office Building. CPHA members are encouraged to attend the public hearing to voice their support. For more information, contact Noele Kidney, CPHA Project Coordinator at [noele.kidney@cpha.info](mailto:noele.kidney@cpha.info).

**HB 6332--AN ACT CONCERNING TOXIC FLAME RETARDANTS IN CHILDREN'S**

**PRODUCTS--**would ban any product containing the Tris flame retardant chemicals (TDCPP, TDCP, TCEP or TCPP) marketed for the use of children age 3 years and younger. CPHA testified in favor of this bill as a public health issue based on reviewing scientific evidence about the impact of these chemicals on neurological and reproductive systems.

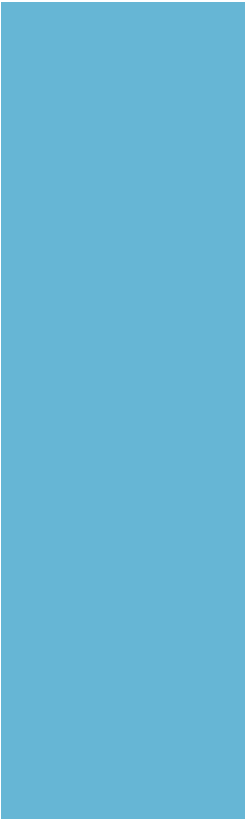
**SB 16--BPA LABELING OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCTS** would require manufacturers to label all food and beverage packaging that contains bisphenol-A (BPA). BPA is a known reproductive disruptor and has been linked to other health issues.

CPHA has partnered with the [Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut](#) since 2006 to assist in advocating for toxic chemical reform at the state and federal levels. CPHA encourages YOU to weigh in on these important issues! Contact your local elected officials and state legislators, talk with friends and neighbors, write letters to the editor, or even testify on behalf of a bill.

Interested in assisting with advocacy efforts around these and other bills? Contact Noele Kidney, CPHA Project Coordinator at [Noele.kidney@cpha.info](mailto:Noele.kidney@cpha.info).

**CPHA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE WELCOMES LEGISLATIVE STUDENT INTERNS!**

Each year, the CPHA Advocacy Committee invites students who express an interest

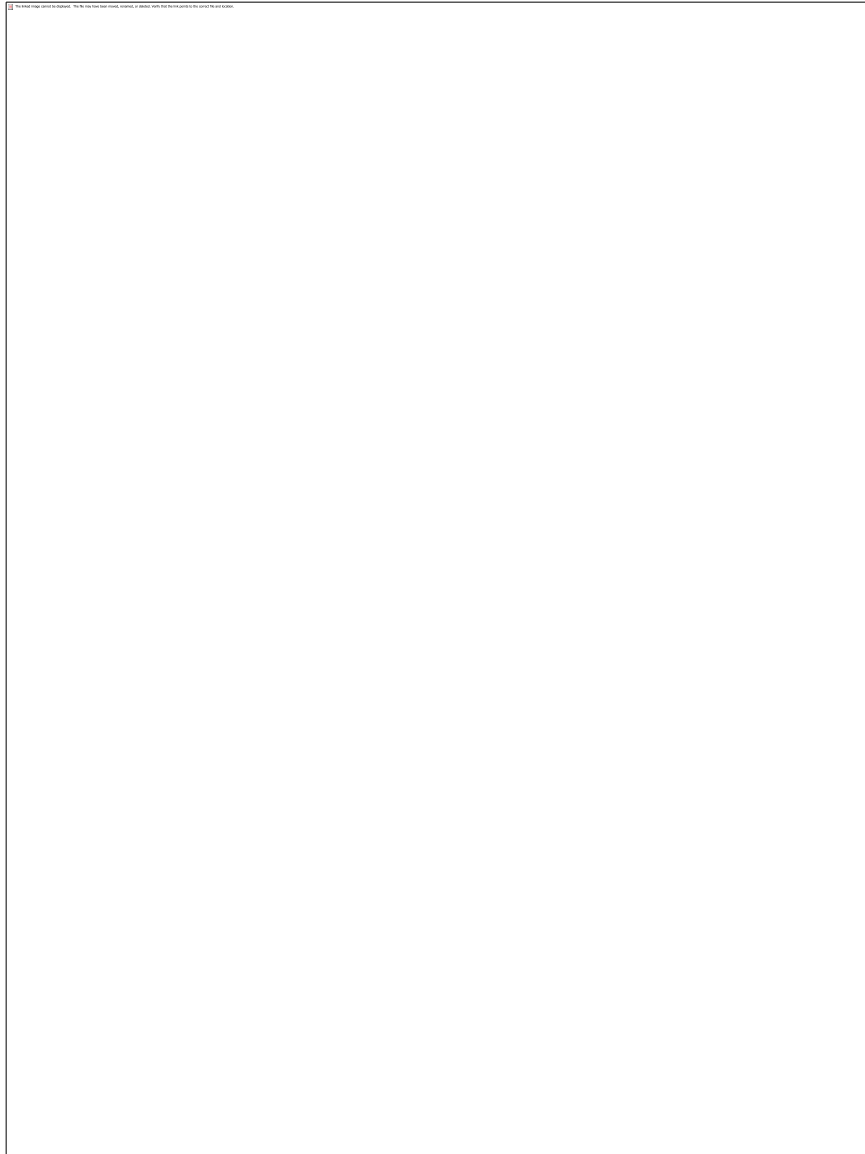
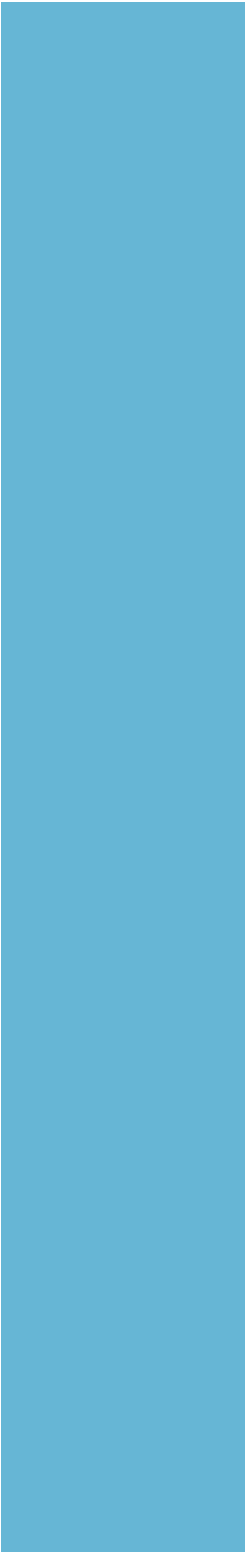


in advocacy to work directly with Committee members. Tasks include following specific bills, writing testimony and reporting back to the Committee. A little about our 2013 Advocacy Committee Student Interns...

**Kimberly Miller-Tolbert** is a first-year graduate student of Health Policy at the [Yale School of Public Health](#). Her interests include social justice, cancer prevention, gun control and public health infrastructure.

**Jordana Frost, MPH, CPH, CLC** is a Program Manager in the Division of Maternal and Child Health at the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services. Jordana joined CPHA in 2012 and was selected to serve as an Advocacy Committee Intern. Ms. Frost is also enrolled in the DrPH program at the Boston University School of Public Health, where she is focusing on perinatal health disparities, childbirth, and breastfeeding.

**Our 2013 CPHA Legislative Advocacy Interns will also be monitoring many of the below bills during this session...**



**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](#).**

## **CPHA FOLLOWING GOVERNOR MALLOY'S BUDGET**

CPHA has been following the proposed reduction of our state's EITC from 30% to 25% of the federal credit. The proposed EITC cut, along with other proposed reductions in social services, such as that of eligibility criteria for coverage under Medicaid for parents of children in HUSKY A from 185% FPL to 133%, may very likely have a significant adverse impact on our poorest working families.

## **CPHA PARTNERS WITH CAGV (Connecticut Against Gun Violence)**

CPHA has partnered with [Connecticut Coalition Against Gun Violence](#) (CAGV), the state-wide organization working since 1993 to reduce gun violence. CPHA is one of 50 CAGV partners ([full list click here](#)) around Connecticut. CAGV has proposed comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation.

## **CPHA REPRESENTED AT MARCH FOR CHANGE RALLY AT STATE CAPITOL**

On February 14, 2013, CPHA President, Kathi Traugh and CPHA Past President, Joan Segal joined the [March for Change](#) rally. The grassroots event, which attracted over 5000 attendees, was organized by CAGV and included remarks by Governor Malloy and other elected officials, faith leaders, survivors and family members of victims of gun violence

## **CPHA REPRESENTED AT U.S. CONGRESSIONAL FORUM ON GUN VIOLENCE AT WCSU**

CPHA member, Elaine Abrams, attended the **U.S. Congressional Forum on Gun Violence** at Western Connecticut State University on February 21, 2013. This invitation-only event was organized by Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, and U.S. Representative, Elizabeth Esty. Vice President Joe Biden delivered the afternoon address along with U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Also in attendance were U.S. Congressman Jim Himes, Governor Malloy, Lt Governor Nancy Wyman, Mayor Bill Finch, Mayor Pedro Segarra, and other state and local elected officials, representatives from law enforcement, clergy, mental health, State Department of Education and relatives of gun violence victims. In his address.



Governor Malloy introduced his own recommendations to tighten current state gun laws.

#### **ADDITIONAL CPHA ADVOCACY HAPPENINGS...**

- **Kathi Traugh, CPHA President** wrote a letter in support of the Hartford Courant's editorial urging Congress to lift the Federal ban on gun research that was published on January 4, 2013. The text of the letter can be read by [clicking here](#)
- CPHA wrote a letter to Governor Malloy on February 4, 2013 asking for the appointment of a public health professional to the **Sandy Hook Advisory Committee**.
- CPHA is one of 400 organizations adding their signature to a letter written by the **Coalition for Health Funding** to Congress on March 1, 2013 urging a strong investment in discretionary public health and research programs.
- CPHA is a member of the [State Health Improvement Planning Coalition](#) and CPHA President, Kathi Traugh will be Co-Chairing the Health Systems Workgroup for our State Health Improvement Planning process.

[Top](#)

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

The next Health Education Committee meeting will take place on **Wednesday, April 10, 2013 from 9 am-12 noon**. Speakers include--**Linda Ferraro**, CT DPH, who will discuss *Children's and Older Adults Oral Health Status Surveillance Surveys* and **Beverly Burke**, CT DPH, who will discuss *Cancer Genomics Best Practices for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian and Lynch Syndrome*.

CPHA's Health Education Committee always welcomes new members! The group 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**. For more information, please email the CPHA Health Education Committee at [hec@cpha.info](mailto:hec@cpha.info) or [click here](#).

**For a complete list of upcoming 2013 CPHA HEC meetings, [click here](#).**

[Top](#)

## **MENTORING COMMITTEE (MOR) UPDATE**

CPHA's MOR is partnering with public health professionals across the state to commemorate [National Public Health Week](#) (April 1-7, 2013) by presenting at several high schools and community colleges. Locations and speakers to include:

### **April 3rd - Newtown High School, Newtown, CT**

Speakers: CPHA President-elect, **Elaine Abrams, RN, MPH**, and **Scott LeRoy**, Director, Danbury Dept of Health and Human Services in conjunction with Education Connection's Health Career Internship Program.

### **April 4th- Middletown Community College, Middletown, CT**

Speakers: **Ruthanne Marcus, MPH** and **Cyndi Billian Stern, MA, MPH**

### **April 5th- Metropolitan Business Academy, New Haven, CT**

Speakers: **Linda Bergonzi-King, MPH** in conjunction with Chris Willems' Public Health 101 class.

### **[Escape Fire: The Fight to Rescue American Health Care](#)**

This award-winning documentary film will be presented at several locations in Connecticut during National Public Health Week. Please watch the CPHA web page for further announcements when dates and locations are announced!

### **St. Joseph's University Joins MOR**

[St. Joseph's University](#) in Hartford has joined MOR. The University will commence a public health undergraduate degree program in Fall 2013.

Interested in becoming involved with MOR? Send an e-mail to Cyndi Billian Stern at [cyndi.billianstern@cpha.info](mailto:cyndi.billianstern@cpha.info).

[Top](#)

## **NEWS FROM OUR AGENCY MEMBERS...**

### **Qualidigm's "Communities of Care" Program Mirrors Published Study Findings**

A pivotal study published in the January 23, 2013 issue of *JAMA* found that hospitalizations and rehospitalizations among Medicare patients declined nearly twice as often in communities where Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) coordinated interventions that engaged whole communities to improve care than in comparison communities. The study substantiates similar successes that [Qualidigm](#), Connecticut's QIO, has experienced through its "[Communities of Care](#)" program which now consists of 14 communities and 150 healthcare and community-based organizations across Connecticut. Qualidigm efforts have demonstrated that reducing preventable readmissions involves the efforts of not only hospitals, but health care providers and community-based organizations, patients, families and caregivers. Since deploying this approach in 2010 in partnership with the [Connecticut Hospital Association](#) (CHA) and other local stakeholders, Qualidigm estimates the cost savings associated with avoiding preventable rehospitalizations at approximately \$5.4 million. As a part of this initiative, Qualidigm also collaborates with leaders from the state's hospitals, home care and long-term care trade associations, physician groups and various community organizations.

### **Health Director Bill Blitz Retires After 30 Years of Service**

After 3 decades of service, Bill Blitz retired as Director of the [North Central Health District](#) on February 4, 2013. Happy retirement, Bill!

### **North Central District Health Department Welcomes Michael Pirro, MPH, MPA**

The Board of Directors for the North Central District has selected Michael Pirro, MPH, MPA to assume leadership of North Central Health District. For the last 8 years, Pirro served as the Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator for the City of Meriden. Prior, he was Director of Environmental Health for the City of Hartford where he also served as a Registered Sanitarian and Inspector. Pirro can be contacted at the District's main office in Enfield at (860) 745-0383. Questions can be

directed to David Skoczulek, Chair, Board of Directors, North Central Health District via email at [DavidS@asm-aetna.com](mailto:DavidS@asm-aetna.com)

The North Central Health District Health Department is the state's largest local health district by population (160,000+), serving East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon, Windham and Windsor Locks.

## **North Central District Health Department Seeks Full Time Sanitarian**

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 include: health, dental and life insurance and a defined contribution retirement plan.

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

### [Top](#)

---

**CPHA eNewsletter** is a subscription-based email publication from the Connecticut Public Health Association to its members. If you would prefer not to receive the newsletter anymore, to unsubscribe and enter "[Unsubscribe](#)" in the subject line of the email reply.

Copyright © 2013 Connecticut Public Health Association. All rights reserved.