



**Connecticut
Public Health
Association**

Promoting Public Health in Connecticut Since 1916



9/21/2011

CPHA eNewsletter

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Annual Meeting to Explore Policy Options Aimed at Reducing Health Disparities

Don't miss this year's Annual Meeting on October 21 at the Aqua Turf in Southington when CPHA builds on last year's conference on health disparities by looking at the relationships between social, economic, health and other policy areas on all levels of government and the challenge of achieving health equity. The conference, titled [*All Policy is Public Health Policy*](#), will feature state and national experts that will speak about policy options that get to some of the root causes of health disparities both here in Connecticut and around the nation, with a look at "what works" in communities within our state.

"Our annual conference provides Connecticut public health professionals the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and exchange information on best practices, the latest research and new trends in public health," said Alison Gilcreast, Program Chair. "This year we will delve into the top health policy issues, viewing them using multi-disciplinary and multi-sector approaches, including those involving non-traditional public health partners. Plus, there will be skills sessions on how to successfully advocate for public health policy at all levels of government."

This year's keynote speaker is [Rear Admiral Michael R. Milner, C](#) Assistant Surgeon General, Chief Health Services Officer, United States Public Health Service. Admiral Milner's presentation is titled "Affordable Care Act -What do you need to know to be an advocate?" The Affordable Care Act will bring the United States towards a more equitable health care system, expanding both access to health insurance and health benefits coverage, including many preventive

services. The reform bill also contains numerous provisions that positively impact public health programs and funding, effectively establishing a huge role for public health as our nation moves to better manage health care costs. But this bill is under attack and might be entirely repealed, depending on the outcome of the Presidential and Congressional elections in 2012.

“The stakes are extremely high,” said Kathi Traugh, CPHA President-Elect. “I had the privilege of representing CPHA at an [APHA meeting in Chicago](#) this past June on the [Affordable Care Act](#) and was astounded to learn how much public health is a part of this law. It is critically important for public health professionals to be well informed.”

Conference participants will have several choices of both morning and afternoon breakout sessions. Topics include: housing, a longstanding public health concern major directly involving health equity; food policy and access to healthy food in all neighborhoods; oral health policy, including a look at how national and state policy impact access to appropriate services, and a look at women’s health policy and health equity in Connecticut. Conference participants will also have an opportunity to view graduate and undergraduate student poster sessions from public health students from Yale, UConn and SCSU.

The luncheon address will be given by [State Senator Theresa “Terry” Bielinski Gerratana](#), Co-Chair of the General Assembly’s Public Health Committee. This will be followed by presentations of the CEA Winslow Award and the Hiscock Award. These annual awards are given to public health professionals or agencies that have made notable contributions to public health in Connecticut. For just the second time, CPHA will also bestow the Charles Huntington III Public Health Leadership in Health Care Award, recognizing a health care practitioner who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the broader public health concerns of populations.

Continuing education credits will also be available for health educators. To learn more about the annual CPHA conference, sponsorship opportunities, or to register, visit [the Annual Meeting page on the CPHA website](#) or call (860) 293-1183. Or [click here](#) to register today!

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The Coalition Works Through the

Summer

The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut kept pretty busy this summer even though Connecticut lawmakers are not in session. Connecticut's legislative "slow season" was a perfect time for Coalition members to work on mobilizing support for the Safe Chemicals Act of 2011. Specifically, two events made a big difference: a National Call-in Day; and a [Day of Action that took place on Wednesday, August 10th in Bushnell Park](#). Thank you to the many CPHA members who contacted Connecticut's two senators on the call-in day, urging the senators to support the Safe Chemicals Act of 2011. Thanks to your efforts, Senator Richard Blumenthal attended the Day of Action event, publicly stated his support of the legislation and within days of the event signed on as a co-sponsor of the bill. Senator Joseph Liebermann has yet to indicate whether he will support the initiative.

The Coalition has also been contacting and meeting with Connecticut's representatives in Congress to urge their support of chemical policy reform. So far, both Congressmen Larson and Courtney are supportive of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut's initiatives. We look forward to meeting with the other members of the delegation in the upcoming months.

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CPHA to Participate in CT DPH Strategic Planning Process

CPHA has been personally invited by the Connecticut Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Jewel Mullen, to attend a 2-day strategic planning session at the Connecticut Department of Public Health on September 21 and 22, 2011.

"This is a tremendous honor and unique opportunity for CPHA to have a voice at the table as DPH embarks on a strategic planning process." said Tracev

Scraba, CPHA President. "I spoke to Dr. Mullen for quite some time about CPHA's participation and she is excited to have us at the table."

The CPHA will be represented by President Tracey Scraba on Wednesday and Advocacy Chair Kathy Lewis on Thursday. TSI Consulting Partners will facilitate the strategic planning process.

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New Public Health Training Center Grant Awarded to Connecticut and Rhode Island



The [Office of Community Health \(OCH\)](#) at the Yale School of Public Health has been awarded a \$2.6 million dollar Public Health Training Center (PHTC) grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for public health workforce development in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The project period is September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2015. The successful proposal was a collaborative effort between the MPH programs at Yale, [Brown University](#), the [University of Connecticut \(UConn\)](#) and [Southern Connecticut State University \(SCSU\)](#), as well as public health agencies and professional associations in both states. CPHA was a collaborator in the proposal and provided a letter of support.

The Center, which will be housed at OCH in Yale with a satellite center at Brown University in Rhode Island, will enable a vastly expanded training program for the current public health workforce. It will also support student internships and community projects at all four academic institutions with an emphasis on addressing health disparities, including HIV/AIDS.

The Center is designed to work as a highly collaborative, multi-state effort between practice partners, faculty and subject matter experts that will provide a broad range of accessible, practical training tailored to meet the needs of the

many disciplines and agencies providing public health services. Particular emphasis will be placed on

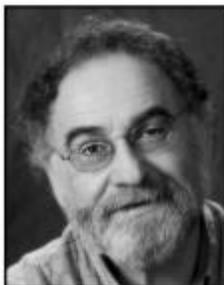
- assessing practitioner training needs on a continuous basis
- conducting collaborative community projects and student field placements to address health disparities
- providing continuing education programs, particularly skills training aligned with new national health initiatives such as the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#), using both classroom-based and distance learning formats
- developing a systematic approach to evaluating changes in practice resulting from PHTC programs

Prior to receiving the grant, Yale and many partners in the proposal participated in the [PHTC that serves New England](#) acting as the [Connecticut Partnership for Public Health Workforce Development](#) and the Rhode Island Roundtable. The new center will build on this existing infrastructure, adding additional academic, training and practice partners as well as new advisory bodies. CPHA has been a member of the CT Partnership since its inception in 1999. Recently, the CT Partnership supported training of public health professionals in support of the CPHA Mentoring Organization Registry (MOR).

The CT-TI PHTC is one of [10 Public Health Training Centers](#) awarded on August 31, 2011, bringing the total number of [Public Health Training Centers](#) to 37 across the country.

For more information, contact Kathi Traugh at kathi.traugh@yale.edu or 203-785-2868.

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CPHA Notes the Passing of Beloved Public Health Educator

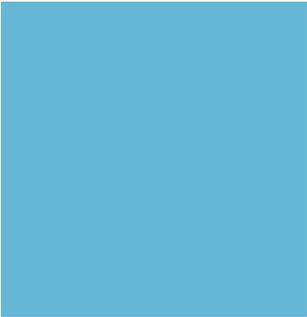
It is with great sorrow that CPHA writes about the [death of Dr. Michael J. Perlin](#), Professor Emeritus of Public

Health at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) and 2009 recipient of CPHA's Winslow Award, the highest honor given to a public health professional in Connecticut. Throughout his career at SCSU, Dr. Perlin distinguished himself as a well-loved teacher, uniquely respected colleague and unflagging advocate for the highest academic standards and accountability in higher education. During his many years as an educator, he molded hundreds of future public health professionals with his love and respect for the field. In his position as coordinator of the graduate program, Dr. Perlin diversified the student body and recruited and mentored foreign students, many of whom return to their home countries to affect positive change. As coordinator for the public health internship, he has developed the practicum into a superior educational experience

.Outside of teaching, Dr. Perlin had long standing involvement with counseling and programs concerned with substance abuse, mental health and highway and traffic safety. On February 26, 2010, the Board of Directors of The Connection, Inc. established the Michael J. Perlin Center for Substance Abuse Intervention to honor his work. Dr. Perlin was the co-author of the Connecticut Pretrial Alcohol Education System, the State of Connecticut's Drinking Driving Rehabilitation Program, which later became the DMHAS-funded Pretrial Alcohol Education System and the Pretrial Drug Education Program for first-time offenders. These two community justice programs, now provided under the umbrella of the Michael Perlin Center, enable The Connection to serve thousands of individuals in nearly a dozen communities throughout Connecticut.

"This is a huge loss for the public health community," said Tracey Scraba, CPHA President. "Fortunately, his legacy lives on through the students he trained and the Center recently established in his honor. I am so pleased that CPHA was able to recognize his accomplishments through the C-E.A. Winslow Award."

In remembrance of Dr. Perlin, donations can be made to the Southern Connecticut State University Foundation (501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT



06515) with a note in the memo that reads: Dr. Michael J. Perlin Scholarship. For more information on donating online, visit the memorial webpage created by his former student, Betty Jung at <http://www.bettyjung.net/Perlin.htm>.

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