

**DIRECTOR OF HEALTH REPORT**  
**Jessica Stelmaszek, MPH**  
**March 2019**

---

---

The Region 5 ESF #8 Healthcare Coalition (HCC) held its monthly meeting on the first Friday of the month and the Region 2 ESF #8 HCC held its monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of the month, which were attended by me and Administrative Assistant, Gaby, respectively. As the Region's designated exercise lead or "Trusted Insider", I virtually attended the Region 5 Coalition Surge Test planning meeting that was hosted by Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. The exercise will be held in April with little to no-notice for the hospital staff. The Directors of Health in Region 5 met to discuss the change in the public health emergency preparedness fiduciary structure for next fiscal year.

PHEP and MRC Coordinator, Dave, attended the Region 2 Medical Countermeasures Action Plan meeting that was followed by a Region 2 MRC planning meeting for a volunteer appreciation event in June that will be held to thank our volunteers and to encourage networking between the region to support regional capacity building. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, CT DPH and Leadership Greater Hartford hosted the second Strategic Planning Session for the Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps for local Directors of Health and Regional MRC Leads in Hartford. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Jess was an invited guest speaker at the Valley Chamber of Commerce Healthcare Council to provide an overview of the Medical Reserve Corps. Dave was also in attendance and we have established new relationships with area healthcare businesses because of this opportunity. NVHD hosted the monthly Region 2 MRC Unit Leaders meeting. Dave hosted two MRC training events: CPR/AED training and an Until Help Arrives training. Photos can be viewed on the NVMRC social media pages.

I attended the national public health emergency preparedness conference, the Preparedness Summit, in St. Louis, Missouri at the end of March. The theme of the National Association for City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) conference this year was "The Evolving Threat Environment". I attended many sessions and learned best practices that I can now apply to our PHEP and other public health programs. Topics included: mass casualty and mass fatality planning and response; reunification; hepatitis a; measles; information sharing; cybersecurity threats; emPOWER data; open and closed points of dispensing; medical countermeasures; emergencies that immigrants and low-English proficiency populations; climate change; syndromic surveillance; EPA investigations; opioids epidemic; and Medical Reserve Corps. While I did not present this year, I did help organize and emcee the conference's second annual social networking event. The event was created by me and two other CT public health professionals along with the NACCHO leadership team.

Carol and Dena created NauVEL postcards that were mailed to 3,200 owners of pre-1978 multi-family houses in the Valley. They have seen a great response and have received a number of applications to the program. They also created 5 10' x 3' vinyl NauVEL banners that need homes. If you have a suggestion of where we can hang them with good traffic, please email Carol at [cslajda@nvhd.org](mailto:cslajda@nvhd.org).

Christine Unson, PhD, Professor in SCSU's Department of Public Health provided staff training on data collection and reporting during the regular monthly staff meeting. The CT Association of Directors of Health met via teleconference.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES REPORT**  
**Carissa Caserta, MPH**  
**Assistant Director**  
**March 2019**

---

We have continued with another series of Matter of Balance classes at Shelton Senior Center. The class is going really well and has 8 participants. The final class will be April 10<sup>th</sup>. Jamie (Health Educator) completed the Matter of Balance grant report for CT Community Foundation that was due April 1<sup>st</sup>. We will continue to apply for grants to support this program from Matthies Foundation and CT Community Foundation.

Jamie, Melanie and I attended a meeting at Ansonia Housing Authority to start working on the deliverable for a new grant. This grant was given to us from DPH and focuses on Ansonia Section 8 housing. We have developed a relationship now with the housing officials so we can contact tenants and landlords who live within Section 8 and have a child who is lead poisoned. We will be completing a visual inspection for lead and working the parents to complete an epidemiological form. This form is several pages and focuses on nutrition, behaviors and locations within the home that may have lead. Jamie and Melanie completed their first home inspection in late March.

Jamie, Jess and I attended several grant meetings for our State Innovation Model grant. We set the dates for our first Diabetes Self-Management Class happening in June at Waterbury Hospital. This has been an interesting process and a pilot program grant offered through DPH.

I participated on a call with Valley Community Foundation and local partners for a Collective Impact project. This project is focusing on childhood poverty and data was presented for Shelton, Derby and Ansonia on families living in poverty and what the demographics are. We will be meeting regularly to discuss finding families living in poverty and further look into the data to choose one "problem" these families have that we can collectively work on within the Valley.

Jess and I submitted a capacity building grant through Valley Community Foundation that was due March 28. If awarded, the grant will be used to upgrade software and a phone system within NVHD to enhance our communications. We will know the outcome of the grant in October.

We also have been in contact with DPH's asthma program supervisor, Marie-Christine Bournaki, to discuss bringing the Putting on AIRS grant back to NVHD. We are excited about this opportunity and have meetings with Griffin Hospital and surrounding partners to discuss how to make this a success in our region.

I attended another Community Index meeting at Valley Community Foundation to focus on the health chapter. This report will act as our community health assessment for accreditation. We

have met several times to look at the new data provided by DataHaven and discuss how to make the report useful for our community. The report will be completed and presented to the community in the fall.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT**  
**Melanie Dokla, BS, RS**  
**Assistant Director**  
**March 2019**

---

---

Tattoo and body piercing inspections were completed for 8 establishments in our District. In the past year, one existing establishment closed.

Inspections of all the indoor swimming pools in the District were completed in March. A number of re-inspections were conducted to verify code violations were corrected.

Applications for the renewal of the public swimming pool permits have been sent out. Existing permits expire on April 30<sup>th</sup> and must be renewed by then or before outdoor pools open for the summer. Pools that open up for the season without having obtained a permit will be ordered to close and legal action to enforce the closure will be taken if necessary.

Yvonne Douglas attended a seminar presented by Judith Dicine, J.D. entitled Hoarding Hazards: Municipal Response Ct Health and Safety Laws on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Yvonne also conducted a presentation at the Ansonia Senior Center on March 21<sup>st</sup> about bed bug awareness, there were approximately 15 people in attendance. Laurel attended a CT Healthy Homes meeting in Meriden on March 20<sup>th</sup> about radon and mold. Carissa, Jamie and I attended a meeting with the Ansonia Housing Authority and DPH on March 12<sup>th</sup> to review the requirements of the LPP grant.