

CT ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES 2009 – 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The Connecticut Association of Public Health Nurses (CAPHN) is a private, non-profit, statewide membership organization. Officially established in 2002, the organizational mission is to strengthen the leadership role of the public health nurse. CAPHN provides expertise in areas of public health through leadership, advocacy, education, collaboration, and nursing practice.

Members of the CAPHN Board serve on a number of boards, committees and coalitions including: Advisory Board for the University of Hartford Department of Nursing, American Public Health Association, CT Public Health Association, Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing, Asthma Advisory Council, CT Vaccine Purchase Advisory Council, CT Lead Advisory Council, CT Nursing Collaborative, CT Partnership for Public Health Workforce Development, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, National Nursing Centers Consortium, the Steering Committee for the Organizational Leadership Network of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Valley Dental Advisory Council, Southwest Community Health Center, the Primordial and Primary Prevention Group, and most recently appointed to, the Commissioner's Local Health Council and the Public Health Preparedness Advisory Commission.

In addition, CAPHN provided letters of support to the Department of Public Health, the CT Partnership for Public Health Workforce Development in their pursuit of HRSA grants, Yale's Center for Emergency Preparedness in its pursuit of CDC grant funding for the Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center, and also co-signed a letter of support and provided a testimonial in support of funding for smoking cessation modalities and programs for the Medicaid population.

Recurring themes in our programs this year addressed how nurses collaborate with each other, partner across multiple disciplines, and connect and communicate with their partners and the communities they serve:

- CAPHN regularly offers "networking" meetings. This year, a workshop was held to share "lessons learned" and experiences from the H1N1 pandemic response at the local public health level. From this a draft white paper has been developed regarding "A Case for Public Health Nursing in Connecticut" in response to public health emergencies, and the beginnings of a "toolbox" of successful procedures that can be shared.
- CAPHN was a cosponsor of this year's annual VOPHN, at which Monica Wheeler, MSN, RN, current President of CAPHN, spoke on "What Does Collaboration Means to Public Health Nurses", and where undergraduate nursing students from Fairfield University and Sacred

Heart University had the opportunity to showcase and share their experiences from their Public Health Nursing rotations at various local health departments/districts.

- Our annual meeting focused on two important and timely topics: “Connecting Public Health to Social Media”, based on the Masters thesis of and presented by Charles Brown, the Program Director from Emergency Preparedness of the CT Association of Directors of Health, and on “Collaboration and Connectivity in Nursing”, presented by Lisa Davis, MBA, RN, Chief of the Public Health Initiatives Branch of DPH, and a 2010 graduate of the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program, highlighting the collaborative relationships among various nursing organizations in the state.

Membership in the association continues to develop and currently includes nurses with a population based practice from around the state. To download a membership application or to learn more about CAPHN, please call the association at 203-238-1207 or visit the website at <http://caphn.org>.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Wheeler, MSN, RN
President, CAPHN