
CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

June, 2010

Dear CAPHN Member,

I write to share my reflections of this past year. In the Chinese tradition, 2009 was the year of the Ox and 2010 is the year of the Tiger. I think we will for years to come remember our 2009 – 2010 membership year as the year of the H1N1 pandemic! All consuming, it seemed that very little else was possible to accomplish not only in our day – to – day jobs but even as an organization. However, if we look back at the experience, which we now call “after action” reporting from our new emergency preparedness roles, every public health nurse in Connecticut and in the country should be proud of their accomplishments.

Public health nurses have always known the integral role they play in the three “Ps” of public health, to prevent, promote, and protect. In the H1N1 public health emergency, we clearly demonstrated how essential public health nursing was to getting the job done! As a matter of fact, without us, it would have been impossible.

CAPHN has developed a white paper to capture the H1N1 experience titled *A Case for Public Health Nursing in Connecticut: After Actions Reflections H1N1*. Surveys of our membership provided the data. As a follow up, our networking meeting in March was dedicated to sharing our personal experiences with H1N1. This facilitated workshop highlighted the tools, procedures, outreach efforts, obstacles and successes experienced. It was suggested that a “toolbox” be developed for members to access, and this is a goal for the coming year.

As an organization, our goal is to urge policy makers to find resources to support an increase in the capacity of public health nurses in the state of Connecticut, by mandating a public health nurse in each local health department and district. After the white paper is reviewed by a panel of CAPHN members, and revised as necessary, it will be shared with state policy makers as we look to garner support. Other ways to lead this effort will be continued by CAPHN. The paper will be available to you on our website.

CAPHN gave its support to various important public health efforts this year. Letters of Support were written for the Connecticut Partnership for Public Health Workforce Development and the Department of Public Health, as they each apply for grant funding to support education

for public health professionals. In addition, a Letter of Support and a testimonial was submitted to legislators to support the funding of Comprehensive Smoking Cessation for Medicaid Clients.

The Executive Board is committed to strengthening our organization as we move into our next fiscal year. As you have noticed, our dues were increased for the first time. This is essential to pay the bills for administrative support, website enhancement and maintenance, state fees, program materials, etc.

In the coming year, we will post our Board meeting dates on the website. Members will be invited to come to learn more about Board and committee responsibilities and activities, and share your suggestions. We plan to offer hands-on workshops for members to develop and practice new computer and internet skills, in addition to our networking meetings. We will build the toolkit previously mentioned. Lastly, we plan to sponsor a contest to design a logo for CAPHN. So, I encourage you to be involved, to participate, and be creative. We need your voice and your talents to support CAPHN and public health nursing in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you,

Monica Wheeler, MSN, RN

President