

## **Welcome to our Second Annual Meeting of the CT Public Health Nurses Association**

**May 6, 2004**

### **Happy National Nurses Day**

As I step down from my tenure as President, it is comforting to me to know that I am leaving an organization with a bright future. Although many express frustration at the pace of development of the practice of public health nursing, I know that "a mighty few" have taken on a "daunting task" with success.

We can easily benchmark this success in so many ways:

- Our being here today and meeting with a unique goal of promoting public health nursing and healthy populations/lifestyles throughout Connecticut
- Establishment of a structure with bylaws, near finalization of 501-c3, operating structure to organize events, activities and communications
- Establishment of strategic plan and working committees that will be developed in the coming year
- Participation in the Health Alert Network to receive alert notices from State Dept. of Public Health about timely health issues and threats
- Establishment of a web page and expected further development of that resource
- Established connections across public health fields through outreach to academia in nursing and public health, established associations/advocacy groups- hospice/ environmental advocacy groups, CT Nurses Association has been our constant companion
- Educational offerings to provide information and also promote recognition in public health of our practice.
- This summer first piloted programs solely targeted for the educational purpose of training local public health nurses in Bioterrorism Preparedness and Epidemiology. The offerings have been developed through the results of our partnership with the CT Partnership for Workforce Development. They will be available this summer, leading to the beginning of established and ongoing training mechanisms for public health nurses. No formal training has been offered to public health nurses in the last 6 years.
- Established the body of knowledge and practice that defines public health nursing
- CAPHN participated in early discussions leading to academic nursing institutions offering Bioterrorism & Emergency Preparedness Education into existing curriculums
- A representative delegation will participate next week in the first New England Public Health Nursing Conference, all NE States will be represented
- Participation in our conference today by the new State Commissioner of Public Health, Robert Galvin

As you can see we have met our initial goals of training and education, academic outreach, establishing an active structure and membership. The immediate issues lying ahead are to fully develop public health nursing as a full partner in the healthcare workforce(not just public health) We know our value and potential to improve the health of the populations health. Most importantly, this will happen as we develop the relationships of public health nursing amongst ourselves, and reach out to those who challenge us.

The Commissioner in his annual meeting today, referred to the invisible work of public health. Public health nursing needs to avoid the same perception. Nurses should not be defined solely by their title, position, or

institutional workplace. Public health nurses should make sure they also identify the relationship and credential of a specialized field of practice across workplace and public settings.

Do we have a lot more work to do? Definitely! Did we think we'd be this far today? Definitely- the road was bumpy- but never shaken. We will have this to inspire us as we meet the new challenges and obstacles placed before us- that is the one known we can be sure to expect, along with the expectation in two more years we'll be exactly where we want to be- once again. So that is the challenge I leave to future Boards and members.

Thank you all.  
Monica Farina  
CAPHN President, (2002-2004)

In closing our evening. Please join me in celebrating our successes with further recognition of public health nursing practice. Please stand as I call your name and remain standing until the conclusion.

Incoming board members:

President: Phil Greiner  
Secretary: Deborah Horvath

Member at large: Lynn Abrahamson, Beth Strimpel

Current VP: Joanne Cannon  
Current Treasurer: Jennifer Johnson

Outgoing secretary: Beth Strimpel

Current member at large: Andrea Poirot, Deborah Buxton-Morris

All the committee members:

New Nominating co- chair: open(2)

Finance co-chair: Jennifer Johnson, Debbye Rosen

Outgoing education chair: Ruth Knollmueller

Incoming education co-chairs: Barbara Quigley, Monica Farina

Incoming practice co-chairs: Andrea Poirot, Ruth Knollmeuller

Current membership co-chairs: Margaret Balint, Heather Henning

Awards and Distinctions Among Us

Ruth Knoellmeuller- CT Nurses Association: Josephine Dolan Award

Deborah Buxton-Morris- Nightingale Nursing Award

Joanne Cannon- CT Nurses Association: Presidents Award, Nightingale Award

Please all stand and acknowledge your contribution and others to conclude our program.