

CAPHN
Executive Board Meeting
November 2, 2010

This was a meeting via conference call. The meeting started at 2:15 PM with Deborah Horvath, Monica Wheeler, Margaret Balint, Barbara Dingfelder, Beth Mertz and Andrea Lombard present on the call.

Monica Wheeler inquired about our next quarterly meeting. We decided that our next meeting would be about advocacy. Monica has asked Barbara Edinberg from the Bridgeport Coalition for Advocacy for Children (BCAC) if she would consider being our speaker. Barbara has been most recently concerned with health care reform. We will ask her to help us to learn how to be an effective advocate. Beth will work with Angela Simpson and Barbara Edinberg to set a time for the meeting either the week of January 10 or 17th, 2011. We hope to use the Meriden Library as we usually do.

For the following meeting we hope to have a joint meeting with the Virtual Office of Public Health Nursing (VOPHN) in the early part of May. We hope to again showcase the public health projects done by student nurses during their community health experiences. We discussed the pros and cons of having the display and meeting in the Legislative Hallway in Hartford. One consideration is how much support VOPHN will have with the next Commissioner of Public Health after the present gubernatorial election. Beth and Lydia Greiner will be working on getting schools of nursing to participate. If we decide against using the Legislative Building, maybe one of the schools would consider hosting the event since a large space is needed.

Barbara Dingfelder suggested a conference call between those local public health nurses who have been mentors to students and the public health nursing instructors to discuss several areas of mutual concern. The local PHNs could highlight those student projects that helped the local department put in place a sustainable program. The instructors could discuss what guidelines are necessary for the students' projects. Many preceptors have found the guidelines are very vague. The local PHNs also felt that they had little to no input into the student's grade. Barbara thought DPH could act as the intermediary for this conversation.

Barbara also said she would share with use the guidance document about emergency preparedness and vulnerable populations. She will also share the information about sheltering this population. Barbara also said the Public Health Nurses Orientation manual is still a work in progress. Barbara plans to send what work is completed to Beth Mertz, Rita Foster, Kristen Magnussen and Deb Horvath for review.

We began to discuss our annual meeting which is usually held in June. We discussed looking at the accreditation process that is coming for public health agencies. Barbara D thought that there would be a Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance person working at DPH that might be a speaker. The guidance that DPH now operates under was put into place in the 1950's. We discussed that the actions that local health departments are responsible for may be done by

the local health department or be done by another agency hired by the LHD. It would be interesting to note the financial repercussions of doing it both ways.

A second topic that we thought would fit in with this discussion is the White Paper that we are developing focusing on the need for a public health nurse in every health department/district. Hopefully we will continue to work on a toolkit for influenza clinics. The toolbox would be a practical application of having a public health nurse in every local health department.

There has also been a new report by the Institutes of Medicine entitled "The Future of Nursing." The report talks about what nurses can do to lead the health care reform. Perhaps this could be another topic for our annual meeting.

We went back to our schedule and noted that the March meeting had not been discussed. In previous conversations we thought we would focus on Hepatitis C. Andrea Lombard has agreed to take the lead on that meeting. She thought she would like not to do the introduction to Hep C as she has done several times throughout the state. She felt it was time to move on and she would focus on the follow-up needed for a report of Hepatitis C. She has started a directory for specialists in the state that would begin a linkage to care. This would lead to a more productive follow-up to each case and case management if needed.

The minutes for the last 2 meetings were approved and will be posted on our website.

The Treasurer reported a present balance of \$1921.48. There will be an upcoming bill for the services provided by CNA for the past quarter.

Deb Horvath will send out a meeting wizard to schedule our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Margaret Balint RN-BC