

Connecticut Healthy Homes Inter-Organizational Full Partners Meeting

American Lung Association, 45 Ash Street, East Hartford, CT

October 4, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Mark Aschenbach, Healthy Homes Workgroup #3 Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Thirty-one attended that included new partners Owen Quinn and Michael Guerecka, New Opportunities, Evan Seretan, United Illuminating, Larry Zarbo and Don Graham, CRT, Pat Lamothe and Ebrima Jobe, Stamford Health Department, Cal Vinal, President. CT Housing Investment Fund (CHIF), and Angelique Roberts, Access Agency (LEAP). Following introductions, Mark briefly reviewed the agenda items. Francesca Provenzano, Healthy Homes Coordinator, welcomed the group and provided a status update and current overview of the Healthy Homes program. The following agenda items were reviewed and discussed:

- **Workgroup #3 Policies, Procedures, Guidelines Report:** Mark presented accomplishments and tasks completed during the preceding year and outlined what still remained ahead.
- **Workgroup #1 Workforce Development:** Francesca presented the groups' accomplishments and tasks completed. The recently held Webinars were reviewed. The Healthy Homes Assessment form and status of completion of the form was discussed. It is planned that the new DPH MAVEN system will eventually incorporate HH data from the assessment form. The workgroup plans on moving forward with CT specific CEO training in 2013.
- **Workgroup #2 Public Awareness:** Joan Simpson, DPH Epidemiologist 3 and workgroup 2 facilitator, presented education/outreach updates and accomplishments. The latest print materials were presented to the group which included the completed HH data book, HH fact sheets, and the Susie & Jerome storybook. The new Healthy Homes "Seven Principles" banner was displayed for viewing during the meeting.
- **Partnerships/Initiatives:**
 - a. Michael Santoro, Department of Economic and Community Development, announced a new CHAMP "Notice of Funding Availability" of up to \$2.5M for local communities and non-profits directed to owners of either existing affordable rental developments or developers of proposed new affordable multifamily rental developments seeking funding from DECD. The goal of this NOFA is to foster the creation and/or preservation of affordable multifamily rental housing in Connecticut to promote healthy lives, strong communities and a robust economy.
 - b. Cal Vinal (CHIF) spoke of his organization's role and intention to include Healthy Homes into the mainstream of future CHIF activities which primarily focuses on affordable housing and energy efficiency. CHIF could potentially provide resources to address health and safety issues. CHIF plans on pursuing the DECD CHAMP funding.

- c. Michael Guerecka, New Opportunities and Amy McLean Salls, National Center for Healthy Homes, co-presented on “Weatherization & Healthy Homes”. The HH/Energy Efficiency/Weatherization is an important link since significant funding will likely be available for weatherization. Edith Karsky reported that the DSS Commissioner is on board with and supports the Energy Efficiency “Weatherization Plus Health” program. DEEP may also be supportive.
- d. Kim Ploszaj, DPH Lead and Healthy Homes Program Epidemiologist 2, presented on the newly formed “Subsidized Housing” work group. The work group is meeting to address deficiencies in subsidized housing in CT. Partners include various federal, state and local agencies, community organizations, public housing authorities and local health departments.
- e. Judith Dicine, Chief State’s Attorney for Housing matters and workgroup #3 member, presented the ”Broken Windows” plan to the group. This newly formed task force plans on training code enforcement officials to perform inspections that include not only health and housing code violations (including fire and building codes) but also spot potential “crime” problems in the vicinity, on the property or in the immediate neighborhood. Funding is through LISC- “Crime Prevention through Environmental Design”. Ultimate goal would be to redesign the neighborhood, make it safer, and upgrade housing (and promote health).

- **Group Discussion and Wrap-up:**

The group held an open discussion on future formats for continued collaboration in moving forward. Consensus was that quarterly meetings should be continued at different locations supplemented by conference calls and Webinars. It was agreed that our efforts continue and that DPH continue to provide the lead. It was felt that there were still many potential partners that needed to be part of the full HH partnership. It was also suggested at the conclusion of the meeting that a fourth workgroup be created on “Weatherization Plus Health”. This will be further discussed at the next full partners meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM

- **Upcoming Meetings/Activities:**

The next full HH partners meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 10, 2013 at a time and location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Aschenbach