

Connecticut Healthy Homes Inter-Organizational Partners Meeting

Full Partners Meeting

American Lung Association (ALA), 45 Ash Street, East Hartford, CT

November 30, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Krista Veneziano, DPH Lead and Healthy Homes Program, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Reintroductions of attendees included new members Phyllis Fusco, New Opportunities, Michelle Marichal, ALA, and Nicole Stankoski, Central Connecticut Health District. The following agenda items were reviewed:

- **HH Strategic Plan Implementation:** Krista reiterated the importance of staying on course and meeting target dates for the Healthy Homes (HH) Strategic Plan. Workgroups must continue to meet goals and objectives. Activities and accomplishments associated with the HH Strategic Plan are reported to the CDC under the HH grant work plan. A copy of the HH Strategic Plan summary was handed out to all.
- **LAMPP Projects Update:** Chris Corcoran reviewed the LAMPP project and current status with respect to ongoing and future Lead Hazard Control/Demo grants and Healthy Homes grants. Discussion ensued concerning future use of several HH assessment tools (DPH, UI, and the new HUD tool). LAMPP personnel will be trained on HUD assessment tool use per grant requirement. A LAMPP summary sheet was provided.
- **LHD/Block Grant Projects:** Krista reviewed background and current status of ongoing block grants with local health departments. Four health departments/districts are performing basic HH inspections. They are UNCAS Health District, Quinnipiac Valley Health District, Torrington Area Health district, and Milford Health Department. The DPH HH assessment tool is in use for these inspections.
- **Monthly Webinars:** Krista shared Kathi Traugh's e-mail summarizing the recently held webinars and upcoming schedule. The next scheduled webinar is January 19th-Injury Prevention. A request was made to the group to submit future webinar topics. Several topics were suggested including:
 - a. Fair Housing – Erin Boggs CT Fair Housing Center
 - b. Residential Wood Burning – Mary Beth Smuts will provide contact for a speaker.
 - c. Intro to the Healthy Homes Rating Tool – Greg Secord suggested it. (The tool has not been finalized).
- **DPH Internal Work Group:** Joan Simpson provided the group with a summary/update on the status and progress of the DPH Internal Workplan. The workplan outlines tasks that the focus group must be accomplish to meet the goals, objectives, and strategies of HH implementation.
- **Format for External Full Partners Meetings:** Mark asked for comments concerning the frequency and format for future Full Partners meetings. Group consensus was that in-person meetings should continue to be held on a quarterly basis.

Healthy Homes Strategic Plan Work Group Reports:

Workgroup 1. Public Awareness Work Group: Joan Simpson

- The HH fact sheet is on the web site in both English and Spanish. A fact sheet will be developed for each one of the seven HH principles.
- Joan reviewed the progress on the databook and efforts to incorporate the HH Assessment tool data into the DPH MAVEN system once the HH module is developed.

Workgroup 3. Policies, Guidelines, Practices Work Group: Mark Aschenbach

- Mark stated that in light of current budgets and economy that adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) would have to be put on hold and regarded as a long range objective. Given current circumstances, the workgroup would have to pursue other achievable tasks to develop policies, guidelines, and practices.
- Feedback had been received from workgroup #3 members concerning the HH worksheets that “define healthy homes”. Worksheets were about 90% complete. Once completed they will be shared with other workgroup members to gain consensus.
- Feedback was also received concerning the Regulatory Enforcement matrix that Marco Palmieri put together. It is close to completion but not finalized. Discussion centered on the application for this document. The document could be used as a tool for written policies, practices, and guidelines or for training curriculum development. Further discussion on this topic took place during the Workgroup #3 breakout session.
- Mike Santoro provided an update on DECD. New DECD management is slated for early spring. Support for HH is stated in the 5-Year Consolidated Plan and the 2012 annual action plan. Mike still could not commit to DECD funding for HH training courses at this time due to recent layoffs and reorganization within his agency. He will continue to attempt to push the agenda.
- Julia Hatton announced that a UI sponsored HH Essentials training will be held Jan 30-31.

Break Out Session Workgroup 1 : Joan Simpson

The following was discussed after the main Partner’s meeting:

- The Healthy Homes/Healthy Kids Train-the-Trainer Curriculum about Healthy Homes for Early Head Start and Head Start Staff and Families Trainers Manual, developed by Mary-Margaret and Joan Bothell, was discussed.
- A list of outreach materials that DPH has available and will be using at outreach events was distributed.
- HH one page fact sheets drafted by some members of the workgroup were distributed and discussed.

Break Out Session Workgroup 3: Mark Aschenbach

Workgroup 3 members re-convened at the conclusion of the main meeting. Primary discussion centered on moving forward with tasks as outlined in the Action Plan. Several ideas and options were brought out:

- The Regulatory Enforcement matrix revisions were revised to show existing Public Health Codes and Statutes/Regulations. This could be used to form the basis to develop HH policies/practices/guidelines.
- Create a manual compiling all HH written principles policies/practices/guidelines; further use to develop training curriculum to assist workforce development group to provide training to target audience, that being, Code Enforcement Officials (CEOs).
- Provide a field guidance “pocket guide” for trained CEOs to use in the field.
- DCP comments and feedback on worksheets were discussed. Consensus of the group was that a statement can be added to the Regulatory Enforcement matrix chart rather than the worksheet to emphasize adherence to fire and building codes. Terri Trenholm will follow up.

Updates:

Mary Beth Smuts provided an EPA update on HH activities:

- Dec 31st is the closing date for Environmental Action Regional Awards
- The New Hampshire HH Conference featured a HH Interactive Display
- Research findings concerning ETS effect on # children to be out shortly
- The guidance document entitled “Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades” was briefly reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Upcoming Meetings/Activities:

- A workgroup #3 meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan 11, 2012, 1-3 PM at CT Fair Housing, 221 Main Street, Hartford.
- The next full partners meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 7th, 1:00-3:30 PM at the American Lung Association, 45 Ash Street, East Hartford.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Aschenbach