

Connecticut Healthy Homes Inter-Organizational Partners Meeting

Full Partners Meeting

CT DOT Headquarters, Newington, CT

September 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Francesca Provenzano, Healthy Homes Program Coordinator and Workgroup 2 facilitator, called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. Following reintroductions, Fran reviewed and discussed the Healthy Homes agenda items which included the CDC Healthy Homes Grant award received by DPH, the Home visitation grant, block grant projects, and monthly webinars which Kathi Traugh later reviewed in detail as part of the Workforce Development update. Ron Kraatz and Chris Corcoran announced the successful funding that LAMPP received for Lead Hazard Reduction (3M for 3 years) and Healthy Homes (1.8 M for 3 years). LAMPP will work with United Illuminating to include energy efficiency. A Community Action Agencies (CAP'S) fact sheet was distributed to the group by Edith Karsky, executive Director of CAPS who joined the group.

Healthy Homes Strategic Plan Work Group Reports:

1. Public Awareness Work Group:

Joan Simpson, facilitator of the Public Awareness Work Group provided an update.

- The pdfs of the fact sheet and poster have been sent to the local health department health educators, posted on the DPH HH web page, and sent to HUD/CDC for consideration for the new website under development- HealthyHomes.gov. Joan distributed hard copies of the HH fact sheet. A Spanish translation will be done in the next few months by a LLAMP contractor.
- The workgroup is finalizing a list of resources to be used by the 211 Infoline caseworkers.
- Joan S. will be doing an exhibit table at CT Public Health Association annual meeting on October 21 and will distribute the fact sheets.

2. Workforce Development Work Group

- Kathi Traugh provided updates of recent and upcoming activities of the HH Workforce Development Group. Yale has received a 4 year 650K grant. Four webinars had been recently completed (Mold, Bedbugs, Radon, HH Policy). One hundred twenty-five (125) participants viewed the webinars. It is planned that the HH webinar series will continue; 3 are currently upcoming (IPM- October 27th, Smoking-Nov 15th, Injury Prevention-Dec.15th). A "Green Cleaning" webinar will be rolled out in the spring of 2012.
- LAMPP announced the upcoming Home Safety and HH Assessment Tool training to be held September 28th. DPH to work in conjunction with LAMPP to conduct the training. (Update-the DPH/LAMPP assessment tool training session was conducted 9/28).

3. Policies, Guidelines, Practices Work Group

- Mark referred updates directly to group members Judith Dicine, Mike Santoro, co-facilitator, and Marco Palmieri.
- Fran had asked Mike Santoro about future trainings that DECD mentioned in their “Consolidated Plan”. Mike could not promise anything regarding HH at this time due to recent layoffs, reorg., and positions not yet filled. Julia Hatton mentioned that she may be able to fund future trainings. Mike will make attempts to push the HH agenda to management.
- Judith unveiled a copy of the new draft 2012 IPMC (which CT does not have in use). It is similar to what is in use at some municipalities. Mike Nintean is working on it. Judith reviewed the status of the reorg at OPS in which the State Building Inspector and State Fire Marshal’s Offices (Dept. of Construction Services) are merging with Public Works. We do not know still if we have support of that agency for IPMC adoption; there is still no State Building Inspector nor Commissioner appointed yet. Commissioner Mullen at DPH is “favorable” to supporting Healthy Homes. It is uncertain about IPMC.
- Marco distributed the updated version of the regulatory (potential for enforcement) vs. non-regulatory (non enforcement) table to the entire group. It was suggested that a “cheat sheet” or a “field pocket guide” could be developed from this for possible use by local health for scenarios such as complaint investigations or pre-occupancy inspections. The general nuisance clause was brought up as a means to enforce for many different issues. Many issues are already covered in the CT General Statutes and Public Health Code. Training of CEO’s would need to be performed.

Break Out Session Workgroup 1 (met prior to the Partner’s meeting):

- The required form is being submitted to 211 Infoline plus the poster, fact sheet and resources;
- Mary-Margaret shared the draft of the Healthy Homes/Healthy Kids Train-the-trainer curriculum being developed for Head Start.
- Tracey Van Oss, an assistant professor at Quinnipiac University, Department of Occupational Therapy will be joining the workgroup and will provide input related to injury prevention.
- Distribution of the 4,000 copies of the fact sheet was discussed. Suggestions included Head Start programs, health fairs, LHDs, town halls, libraries, housing authorities, etc.
- The contents of the Montana HH Toolbox were reviewed and discussed. It may be viewed at www.tribalhealthyhomes.org.
- The group discussed the follow-up to the fact sheet – a series of one page fact sheets – one for each HH principle. These would be more detailed and contain an explanation of the principle and recommended actions to take to reduce exposure, and resources.

Break Out Session Workgroup 3:

Workgroup 3 members re-convened at the conclusion of the main meeting. Primary topic was, “where do we go from here?” Since the group at this time has no commitment from any agency for support of the IPMC (timing issue) then what steps can be taken to move forward with the groups’ agenda and

objectives? Pat suggested our focus could be establishing a minimum code for 169 towns (40 of 169 currently have codes) and make it mandatory. Donna Hamzy of CCM will be asked to assist since they have conducted past research regarding population and # of codes. Judith agreed to contact Donna concerning this matter. In the interim it was stated that a message needed to be prepared, the # of maintenance codes used, who enforces the codes, the # of complaints, and percent population covered. This concept can be approached at a future CADH meeting to get buy-in from LHD's. Fran participated at the conclusion of the group's session and suggested that the group build a case on why HH is a health and safety issue.

Upcoming Meetings/Activities:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM. The next full partners meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 30th, 1:00-3:30 PM at the American Lung Association, 45 Ash Street, East Hartford.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Aschenbach