

Healthy Homes Initiative-Full Partners Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

Present: K. Ploszaj, C.Capacchione, D. Collelo, C. Corcoran, M-B Smuts, A. Bodyck, H. Norcia, E. Karsky, F. Provenzano, J. Dicine, E. Roberts, M. Reyes, S. Kuczo, M. Buckley-Davis, R. Paoletto, A. Baptista, A. Buzzetti, O. Quinn, P. Lelas-Sullivan, J. Simpson, K. Veneziano, M. Gurecka

Next meeting: September 11, 2013---1-3:30PM---CT DOT building (again)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Some new members were present, representing Uncas HD, Northeast District Department of Health, New Opportunities, and Naugatuck Valley Health District. We introduced ourselves and continued with the agenda.

II. Health Impact Assessment for Weatherization + Health

The HIA was partially an off-shoot of our partnership work under the Health Homes Initiative. Michael Gurecka and Edith Karsky provided a summary of the Health Impact Assessment developed by New Opportunities, Inc. and CAFCA through funding support made possible by NCHH and NASCSP. The final publication was distributed to partners following the meeting, as requested. Amy Salls voiced her support of this effort, and how it will hopefully impact energy and weatherization policy in CT as we move forward.

III. CHIF/LAMPP Applications and DECD Funding Awards

Chris Corcoran provided an update on LAMPP funding announcements. LAMPP received large awards from both HUD and DECD for lead and healthy homes work during the prior week; approximately \$5 million total. Chris also updated on the group on how the funding is used and prioritized within units by LAMPP. Updates were also provided for HUD grantee towns in CT and the status of their awards.

Cal Vinal was not present, so Francesca Provenzano updated the group on the CHIF award from DECD and explained that the funding was geared towards neighborhood revitalization work in two communities, and not specifically healthy homes. CHIF had submitted two proposals to DECD and was awarded funding for one of them.

IV. Standardization

Outreach Materials and Branding: Francesca Provenzano raised the concern regarding the lack of standardization in how we approach healthy homes work in CT.

Partners have been using materials from different non-profits and other organizations outside of CT, instead of print materials that were developed by the HHI members. Francesca indicated that a large portion of HH materials have been distributed to partners – Susie and Jerome storybooks to schools, and the HH fact sheets to local health. Partners asked Francesca to send them an order form so that they can order any remaining materials – an email was sent the following day.

Many people are beginning to use the term “Healthy Homes” but as a statewide partnership, we have all agreed to a certain definition and level of quality when referring to the term ‘healthy

homes.’ Francesca emphasized the need to remain cohesive in our messaging and how we approach HH assessments and data collection.

There was a discussion regarding the widespread use of the Healthy Homes Assessment Tool that we received consensus from partners on over a year ago. Members agreed and asked that DPH send them all a copy of the assessment form – this was done after the meeting.

The floor was turned over to K. Veneziano who provided members with an overview of the newly developed Healthy Homes Module under a DPH data surveillance system known as Maven.

V. Updates

Electronic Surveillance System: Krista Veneziano presented on the Healthy Homes module that has been finalized. Krista ran through each of the screens in the system to show members the terminology used for the system, the data elements, user screens, functions, reports, and how the system can be used by different partners. The system can be used to collect information for routine home investigation activities related to asthma, HUD grantee work, housing complaints, and weatherization activities. Krista explained how different user roles would enable partners to use if for their purposes. Partners requested copies of Krista’s slides and training on the use of the data system. Slides were emailed to HHI partners by F. Provenzano. People interested in receiving training were asked to email Krista Veneziano at krista.veneziano@ct.gov

Healthy Homes Webinar Series: Joan Simpson raised the issue of identifying additional webinar topics for the CT-RI Public Health Training Center series. Partners agreed that advertising webinars in groups of 3-4 may bolster attendance, because we not compete with so many other webinar series. Suggestions for a Fall series of webinars includes the following:

- An overview of the Healthy Homes Surveillance System for potential users
 - DPH could present
- An overview of the findings of the Health Impact Assessment and how partners can use the report
 - Keep original presenters for one that had to be cancelled
- A policy update from the DPH Lead Program and Regional Lead Treatment Centers on adoption of the new CDC Reference Value of 5 ug/dL+ for children’s blood lead levels
 - CDC staff on policy decision, DPH on rollout in CT, and MDs from treatment centers on their role
- An overview of the Miranda Study – Phase 1 and 2 – how low lead exposure impacts CT School-Aged Children’s CMT Scores
 - Obtain Dr. Miranda and other researchers on her team to present, have SDE staff present on their efforts to roll out educational guidelines to schools (engage LHDs in their efforts!)
- DPH Private Well Water Guidelines for Monitoring and Testing
 - Meg Harvey from DPH recently developed monitoring guidelines for private well owners
- Unintentional Injury Prevention and Poisonings: two part series for young children and elderly
 - ID partners who used to work with DPH Injury Prevention Program and have them provide data from hospitals on both ends of the spectrum (young children and the elderly).
- DECD Housing-related Resources available throughout CT – an overview of the housing support programs, and rehab funds made possible through HUD and DECD to CT homeowners.

The CT-RI Public Health Training Center will be affected by a severe reduction in funding per an email message provided by Kathi Traugh. The reduction may result in the training center being unable to continue a large portion of its functions after August, 2013.

Bridgeport Lead Free Families (BLFF) announced their award from HUD for Lead and Healthy Homes.

Francesca updated the group on a recent meeting with OPM staffer, Bruce Wittchen, who manages Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZs) throughout CT. OPM is attempting to create a more standardized role for NRZs and guidelines under which they can operate. There may be an opportunity to engage NRZs in HH coalitions, HH work and outreach. Francesca indicated she would provide the workgroup with updates after the OPM meeting on any potential emerging opportunities that result from the NRZ project.

VI. Meeting adjourned

Francesca indicated she would send out the HIA, HH materials order form letter, HH Assessment Checklist, and copy of slides. They were sent the following day in several separate emails.