

**CT State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)
Environmental Health Action Team**

Quarterly Team Meeting

*December 12, 2019
American Lung Association of CT Offices
45 Ash Street, East Hartford, CT*

Attendees:

In person: Ruth Canovi, Tom St. Louis

Via call-in line: Sandra Gill, Marie-Christine Bournaki, Judith Dicine

Meeting opened at 12:39 pm

Administrative Updates:

New CT DPH Lead (Tom St. Louis)

Tom St. Louis introduced himself to the group as the new DPH Lead for the Environmental Health Action Team. Plans are for Tom to see the current team through to completion in 2020 and then decisions will be made about a Lead for the new iteration of the SHIP.

New External Co-Lead Needed

Andrea Boissevain has stepped down as the external Co-Lead for the team. At this point in the process, it may be more productive to wait until the new SHIP structure is revealed to decide on a new external partner for the team. It was mentioned that a Local Health Director should be considered for this position if possible.

General SHIP/SHA Updates:

Healthy CT 2025 Summit

Sandra Gill reported that the Summit went very well and feedback from the group activities will be used to inform the new iteration of the SHIP. Tom St. Louis reported that the Environmental Health chapter of the SHA is completed and the only public comments received were that it looked good (no changes needed). Internally, some of the programs requested changes and those were incorporated.

Communication Committee

Sandra Gill reported that the first committee meeting was postponed due to weather. Rescheduled to the week of 12/16. The committee is intended to be a “by members, for members” group to support the SHIP action teams and the SHIP process in general going forward. Hope is to have a representative from each action team participate in the committee. Judith Dicine mentioned that she may be able to attend the first meeting but wouldn’t be able to commit long-term. Tom St. Louis mentioned that there are two members of the committee who work in the Environmental Health Section at DPH, so in lieu of an action team member in attendance, those individuals would be able to provide any information needed.

Action Agenda Wrap-Ups/Dates

Sandra Gill indicated that most Action Teams have planned on continuing quarterly meetings for the 1st half of 2020 to finish up on their Action Agendas. The group agreed that the Environmental Health Action Team should meet in the 1st quarter of 2020 to ensure that the Action Agenda is complete and up-to-date and then discuss a 2nd quarter meeting if necessary. Sandra Gill indicated that there will be one or more large meetings between March-May 2020 to discuss the structure of the next SHIP and how it will focus on health disparities and social determinants of health.

Focus Area Updates:

Childhood Lead

No one from the Lead sub-group was able to attend. In the past, the DPH Lead (Krista Venziano) would give these updates. Tom St. Louis reported that he received an email from a Lead Program staffer (Kim Ploszaj) that there were no updates to give. Judith Dicine indicated that we should investigate whether Childhood Lead was part of the DPH Legislative Agenda, particularly whether investigating all childhood lead levels ≥ 5 ug/dl will become the standard of practice for Local Health Departments. Tom St. Louis indicated that he would check with the DPH Lead Program regarding the Legislative Agenda. Judith Dicine indicated that the City of New Haven may have just recently received funding for additional lead inspectors to perform investigations at the new action level.

Outdoor Air Quality

Ruth Canovi provided an update to the group regarding the sub-committee meeting that was held on 12/4/19:

DEEP – Susan Quincy shared the Environmental Literacy Plan. They are open to thoughts from the group, Additions that they are addressing include using inclusive language, addressing Next Generation Standards for Science, Climate Change language and

resiliency planning... believe they are planning to include Wellness program language as well.

There is a group in Avon, CT who has developed an anti-idling campaign. Trying to ensure people know the impact of idling. They've developed materials and really tried to get the word out.

December is the last month of the American Lung Association's Year of Air Pollution and Health. This is a link to information if interested: <https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/outdoor/fighting-for-healthy-air/year-of-air-pollution-and-health/>.

The Stratford Health Department has done some impressive work with the Air Flags Program, reaching approximately 65 community partners. Judith Dicine indicated that she has been in contact with Krista Estabrook from Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut about housing issues and that they may be a good partner for outdoor air issues as well.

Ruth indicated that she has received baseline data from the CT BRFSS about the public knowledge of air quality and then whether or not they alter behaviors when poor air quality is forecasted. I will share that data in another email. Tom St. Louis suggested that Ruth ask DPH BRFSS staff to do some further analysis of the data, maybe stratifying by age groups and co-morbid conditions of interest.

Gov. Lamont's Administration put out a transportation plan called [CT2030](#). If you would like to comment, there is opportunity to provide feedback on the [ct.gov](#) website.

Ruth indicated that she would also be interested in having a co-leader for the Outdoor Air sub-committee if anyone is interested in helping organize the meetings. She will send around a doodle poll to determine when the group can meet over the next year.

Property Maintenance Code

Judith Dicine indicated that she will be speaking at the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission meeting at the Legislative Office Building with the Governor's Undersecretary, DPH Deputy Commissioner Aaron, Deputy Chief State's Attorney Kevin Lawlor, and others. At that meeting, she will provide information about decreased crime rates and decreased injuries and illnesses in rehabilitated neighborhoods.

Others?

Marie-Christine Bournaki reported on attending a Climate Change Summit organized by the New England Asthma and Allergy Foundation. Ruth Canovi indicated that she attended the summit as well and that it was very informative.

Upcoming Meetings:

CT SHIP Communications Committee – December 18, 2019, 9:30am, CT DPH Laboratory, 395 West Street, Rocky Hill

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission Meeting (Judith Dicine presenting) – December 19, 2019, 9:00am, Legislative Office Building, Room 1D, Hartford

Next meeting for the Environmental Health Action Team will be February 27, 2020, 12:30 pm at the American Lung Association office, 45 Ash Street, East Hartford

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm