

Connecticut Healthy Homes Inter-Organizational Full Partners Meeting

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

March 7, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Francesca Provenzano, Healthy Homes Coordinator called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Twenty-one members attended who included Marco Palmieri, Phyllis Fusco, Al Buzzetti, Terri Trenholm, Edith Pestana, Richard Paoletto, Mary Beth Smuts, Greg Secord, Amy McLean Salls, Edith Karsky, Joan Simpson, Liz Reynolds, Michal Bobryk, Mary Margaret Gaudio, Chris Corcoran, Joan Bothell, Tammy Talton, Ray Jarema, Suzanne Blancaflor, Mark Aschenbach and Francesca Provenzano. Following brief introductions, the following agenda items were reviewed and discussed:

- **Healthy Homes Program Updates:** Francesca explained that the CDC Lead and Healthy Homes funding had been eliminated for the upcoming fiscal year. Nevertheless, this should not take away what has been accomplished to date or impede progress and that “our work will go on”...
- **LAMPP Policies and Experiences:** Ronald Kraatz, Program Director presented on LAMPP experiences to date with regard to regulatory versus non-regulatory aspects of LAMPP-funded Lead and Healthy Homes projects. Once applicant eligibility is determined, funding is allocated on a priority ranking system. Some applicants access the LAMPP project on a “voluntary” basis while others are seeking funding assistance because they are subject to an enforcement action (i.e., lead abatement order). The HUD rating system (assessment, hazards, score) is utilized for Healthy Homes “high risk/high impact” prioritization. In many Healthy Homes projects not all identified hazards can be addressed with LAMPP funds due to funding cap limits. Conversely, all identified lead hazards must be addressed at any LAMPP-funded lead project (whether solely by LAMPP funds or through a combination of various funding sources/sweat equity). If conditions that are immediately hazardous to life or health are observed during the course of a Lead Inspection Risk Assessment or a Healthy Homes assessment, the conditions are reported to the appropriate regulatory agency. In summary, this approach has worked well to this point.
- **CT Weatherization Plus Health:** Edith Karsky, Executive Director of the CT Association of Community Action (CAFCA) and Amy McLain Salls, Director of Training and Community Initiatives, National Center for Healthy Homes presented a joint summary describing the services under the CT Anti-Poverty Program (CAPS) and distributed the CAFCA annual report. CAFCA’s primary goal is to reduce poverty by reducing social and economic barriers. The CAPS operate the CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) which provides heating assistance to over 110,000 households. CEAP customers feed into the CAA Weatherization Program (WAP) and ARRA WAP which recently weatherized over 10,000 units. Annual WAP funding is \$5-6 M covering 700-800 homes per year. In the coming year, homes selected for energy efficiency/conservation efforts by New Opportunities, Inc., will model a “Weatherization Plus Health” initiative. Amy McLean Salls and Ellen Tohn have been invited to provide future HH training so that inspectors can perform a “one touch approach” to include HH assessments when entering a residence. They will also be offering training to other CAPS agencies. Other

partners in the Weatherization Plus Health would include UI, LAMPP, DSS, and DEEP. The Weatherization Health and Safety Plan, which DSS prepares, is pending approval by DOE/DEEP. Amy stated that CT was ahead of most states performing Healthy Homes activities.

- **Webinar Update:** Kathi Traugh reported on the recently held Webinars which included “Injury Prevention”, “Fair Housing: the Health Connection” (Feb 23rd), the “New England Healthy Homes Forum” (March 1st) and upcoming “Green Cleaning in the Home” (March 13th). All are available to view on CT Train. Edith Pestana suggested that a Weatherization/Healthy Homes webinar be held in the future.
- **Workgroup Updates:**
- Joan Simpson, facilitator for the Public Awareness workgroup presented the following: The Public Awareness workgroup has developed 7 new fact sheets that each address one of the 7 Healthy Homes Principles. Each fact sheet is set up with the headings: the main idea, how it affects your health, how to know if you have a problem, how to fix the problem, and how to learn more. They will be available on the DPH HH website for download. (any idea when?) The public awareness workgroup will be reassessing their strategic plan activities in the near future via a conference call. Joan also provided an update on the internal DPH HH workgroup. The workgroup has completed the HH data book. Joan showed some slides of the content and some sample graphs. The document has to go through the approval process at DPH and then will be posted on the DPH HH website. The partner's will receive an electronic version as soon as it is approved.
- Mark Aschenbach, facilitator for the Policies, Practices, and Guidelines workgroup displayed the latest version of the “Defining Healthy Homes” document. A copy will be e-mailed to all partners for comment and feedback. Terri Trenholm reviewed the current versions of the regulatory (enforcement) and non-regulatory matrices. These documents must be reviewed and okayed by Judith Dicine before distribution.
- **Other:** Discussion ensued concerning development of a policy statement that could require that Healthy Homes and Green Housing be included in existing housing (State-\$300M in bond money). The “Defining Healthy Homes” document possibly could be a starting point (with some revisions) as the basis for such a policy statement.
- Joan Bothell and Mary-Margaret Gaudio described several recent projects of the Healthy Environments for Children Initiative (HEC), Department of Extension, at UConn.
 - HEC has received a 5-year grant from the Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Program, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to develop and deploy a healthy homes curriculum for urban 4-H staff and students (grades 4-6) in afterschool programs. The program will be piloted in Hartford and New Britain.
 - HEC, with the support of LAMPP, has developed a healthy homes curriculum for Head Start and Early Head Start staff and their clients. The curriculum has been piloted through EASTCONN (a regional educational service center serving the northeastern part of the state) and will soon be delivered by the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust.
 - The text of HEC’s new children’s book, *Susie and Jerome Learn about a Healthy Home*, is complete. The book is now being illustrated. It will be published by CT DPH.

- **Summary, Conclusion, and Action Items:**
 - a. Mark to send out current version of “Defining Healthy Homes” document to all partners for feedback.
 - b. Terri and Marco to continue to refine regulatory and non-regulatory matrices and work with Judith on obtaining approval.
 - c. Kathi to convey upcoming Webinars schedule and dates to all partners.
 - d. Joan to revise “Defining Healthy Homes” document and draft initial version of a policy statement.
 - e. Judith to review regulatory enforcement matrices/documents for accuracy and completion.
 - f. Suzanne to contact Joe Cassidy, Acting State Building Inspector, to solicit support for HH program and get the agency involved again.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Upcoming Meetings/Activities:

- Workgroup #3 members will meet Thursday April 26th 1:00-3:30 PM at the American Lung Association, 45 Ash Street, East Hartford.
- The next full HH partners meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 7th, at the American Lung Association, 45 Ash Street, East Hartford.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Aschenbach