

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

CLIMATE AND HEALTH EQUITY COALITION CHARTER

Purpose

The Connecticut Department of Health Office of Climate and Public Health applied for and received CDC Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) funding. BRACE is a five-step process that allows health officials to develop strategies and programs to help communities prepare for the health effects of climate change. As part of the BRACE framework, DPH has proposed two specific adaptation actions in the domains of heat and air quality. DPH has also started building capacity within our agency and will be hiring a Climate Coordinator.

As part of the BRACE grant OCPH is committed to building a cross-cutting coalition to advise on the monitoring, evaluation, implementation, and dissemination of the BRACE activities, designed to advance adaptation and resiliency planning in Connecticut. This Coalition will be comprised of diverse and inclusive stakeholders with a range of skills, expertise, and perspectives, as well as representatives of populations disproportionately impacted by climate change. The coalition will build the community's capacity to address climate-related health equity and provide oversight on the adaption activities, as follows:

- Provide technical/strategic advisory on the development, implementation, dissemination activities and evaluation of Adaptation Action Project Plans.
- Review draft of Climate Compendium, provide feedback, and identify knowledge gaps.
- Review climate and health curriculum materials for Local Health Departments/Districts (LHDs), identify gaps and offer feedback.

Deliverables

- Progress reports shared with Deputy Commissioner and reported as a metric on the CDC BRACE grant report.
- Resources for Coalition members, accessible on the OCPH Sharepoint site.
- Microsoft Teams channel for collaboration
- Presentations to members of Coalition
- Revised curriculum on climate and health equity for use by stakeholders
- Revised Compendium posted on CT DPH and Yale's website and available for use by stakeholders.

Subcommittees

- The coalition will have two committees: (1) Monitoring and Evaluation and (2) Implementation and Dissemination



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Resources

- Member Level of Effort (LOE) – 1-1.5 hour / quarterly,
- OCPH Sharepoint site to house deliverables and resources

Proposed Membership

- CT DPH staff with content expertise, interest, or work duties related to the field of climate and health equity, including staff from Local Health Departments/Districts
- Stakeholders with experience/knowledge related to the specific adaptation actions, or represent communities disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Leadership

Sessions will be organized and facilitated by the Office of Health Equity (OHE), until a new BRACE PI in the OCPH has been onboarded. OCPH and OHE will continue to work in collaboration on building the department's capacity in climate and health equity. Coalition members with topical knowledge will be asked to present and discuss their own areas of expertise, when necessary.

Supervision: Deputy Commissioner Lisa Morrissey

Proposed membership

1. CT DPH representatives
 - a. DC Morrissey
 - b. Lori Mathieu
 - c. Sarah Walters
 - d. Hannah Beath
 - e. TBD Durational Project Manager in OCPH
 - f. Marie-Christine Bournaki – Asthma
 - g. Karen Wolujewicz – Vector-borne lead in IE
2. YCCCH representative
 - a. Robert Dubrow, Faculty Director
 - b. Jennifer Wang, Executive Director
3. Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)
 - a. TBD - please reach out to Deputy Commissioner Brenda Bergeron to select someone
4. CIRCA/UConn
 - a. Mariana Fragomeni
5. DEEP
 - a. Sarah Huang (DEEP Director of Equity and Environmental Justice)
6. Local Health (with variation by urban/rural, coastal/inland, district/department)
 - a. Sumit Sharma (acting director) – Bridgeport (coastal)
 - b. Waterbury Health Department



- c. Mike Pascucilla – East Shore Health District (district/coastal)
- d. CADH representation – Deanna D’Amore

- 7. DMHAS (mental health expert)
 - a. Samia Hussein – Director of the Multicultural Health Equity, recommended by Miriam Miller

- 8. Civil society representatives:
 - a. Dr. Mark Mitchell – EJ advocate, public health physician, lead of the CT Health Professionals for Climate Action
 - b. Ruth Canovi – American Lung Association
 - c. Kat Morris – climate/EJ advocate in Bridgeport
 - d. Possible organizations representing racial and ethnic minorities:
 - 1. Hispanic Health Council – point of contact TBD
 - 2. Black and Puerto Rican Caucus -point of contact TBD
 - 3. Statewide Multicultural Advisory Council – point of contact TBD
 - e. Food security expert
 - 1. Martha Page, from Hartford-based food group
 - f. Hospital representative
 - 1. Megan Smith, Senior Director of Community Health Transformation – Connecticut Hospital Association