

## **SHIP Healthy Housing Coalition Meeting**

### **7/13/2016**

#### Meeting Notes:

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - Planning meeting
  - You are representing your agency/organization to provide input to implement the SHIP because not just one agency can do this alone
2. Overview of background and purpose of SHIP and Action Agenda
  - Statewide initiative
  - CT DPH is not the only agency working on this, we are over 300 strong!
    - If you are working on housing stock you are affecting people's health for the better
    - You are a key health system partner
  - Reviewed SHIP roles and responsibilities
    - DPH Commissioner – leader, decision-making authority
    - Executive Committee – 5 individuals who assist with advancing strategic goals, time sensitive decision-making
    - Advisory Council – approximately 34 people, meeting quarterly to review goals, reviewed preliminary plans and approved them
    - Lead Conveners/Actions Teams (7) – organize action teams, schedule meetings, complete action agenda, prioritizing 2-3 strategies
  - Action Team Roles through 2020
    - Develop 3-5 strategies from phase 1 objectives
    - Confirm/revise strategies ensuring using best evidence and current initiatives underway
    - Identify action steps and lead organizations to implement
    - Refine and update data and targets
  - Action Agenda: Is there at least one environmental change included in the strategies chosen?
    - Socioeconomic Factors – poverty, education, **housing inequality**
    - **Our Healthy Housing Action Agenda addresses housing inequality right on!**
  - Guiding Principles
    - Integrate each other/Collaboration
    - Align with national framework and existing plans, initiatives
    - Setting measurable health improvement goals
    - Strategies (prevention and risk reduction)

- Data-driven objectives and evidence-based strategies
  - Health Equity – CT has the richest and poorest right here. Every town has a “good” section and “bad” section.
  - Balance between scope and depth of focus – so much we want to do but we need to pick and choose something we can do
  - Understandable and actionable – it has to work for everyone
  - Overarching Themes
    - Health Equity
    - Economic Factors
    - Social Factors
  - Environmental Risk Factors and Health (ENV)
    - Mission: Enhance overall public health by decreasing environmental risk factors.
    - Areas of concentration: Lead, Drinking Water Quality, Outdoor Air Quality, Healthy Homes, Healthy Communities
      - Chosen to work on: Childhood Lead Poisoning, Air Quality, Healthy Housing (changed from Healthy Homes)
  - 2016 Action Agenda – ENV
    - ENV-1 Lead: Reduce to less than 3% the prevalence rate of children less than 6 years of age with confirmed blood lead levels at or above the CDC reference value (5 micrograms/deciliter)
    - ENV-5 Air Quality: Increase public awareness of the presence and risk of poor air quality days (DEVELOPMENTAL)
    - ENV-6 Healthy Housing: Increase the enforcement of minimum housing code standards through the collaboration and support of code enforcement programs (DEVELOPMENTAL)
    - WHAT IS OUR PLAN GOING TO LOOK LIKE IN 2017?
3. Overview of September 8, 2016 Planning Meeting
- Location: Chrysalis Center, Hartford from 8am – 4pm
  - All coalition members are invited and encouraged to attend
  - Review progress in meeting health improvement targets
  - Finalize 2017 Action Agendas and discuss 2017 policy agenda
  - Recognize partner contributions
  - Encourage agency leader to attend to garner support for your efforts in this
    - DPH will be sending out a formal invitation
    - Judy Dicine offered to pen a more direct letter from herself or her supervisor
4. Review work completed to date

- Reviewed Action Agenda Q2 – Focus Area 2, Area of Concentration: Healthy Homes/Housing updates (attached)
  1. Adopt a statewide property maintenance code
    - What agency will it sit under? Hasn't been determined. Has been discussed.
    - Public Act 16-215  
(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/2016/act/pa/pdf/2016PA-00215-RooSB-00388-PA.pdf>)
    - Next code cycle is Oct 2016 – has changed the adoption process for amendments of the CT State Building Code from legislative to administrative – directly to the Codes and Standards Committee of the Dept. of Administrative Services (DAS)
      - Code and Standards – appointed by the Governor's Office; home builders, trades (plumbing, electrical) state building official...
      - October 2016 is when the proposal session is opening, open for 3 months, goes into the body for decision – decision could be made by 2017 (quicker than legislative decision)
        - May still need to go to the Legislature for delegation of authority
      - CT DPH's development of legislative proposals deadline is August 1, 2016.
    - **PMC can be formally proposed then.**
    - How would this adoption affect fire prevention code and life safety code?
      - Unsure, but if there is a conflict the other standing statewide building and fire codes would override the PMC
    - Who would take this on?
      - Unsure, but may leave it up to the towns...but there must be a selected lead agency (can include language similar to CGS 47a-55 in statutes that can delegate to one agency but then they have the choice to assign it to another agency if it makes sense in that town)

Health Impact Assessments – energy efficiency and health benefits (National Center for Health Housing – *CT study “Using Health Impact Assessment to Identify the Best Investment in Energy Efficiency and Health”*) See at:

<http://nchh.org/Portals/0/Contents/Using%20Health%20Impact%20Assessment%20to%20Identify%20the%20Best%20Investment.pdf>

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- 2. Establish Incentives for owners to comply with health and safety laws
  - Need a carrot, most property owners would make homes compliant (safe and healthy) if they could, financial limitations
  - Funding partners – Meetings held in June and July 2016  
“Programs that help people in CT”
    - EverSource – energy efficiency improvements were limited by the condition of housing; so they revised their program to assist with some of the housing conditions
    - Correlation of funding sources to see what funding is available to use for housing improvement and energy efficiency – so enforcement agencies can direct people to funding sources
    - Code compliance is necessary; funding will assist
    - Funding flow chart “deadline” for completion Sept 2016
    - Goal: easy access to help owners make housing safe and healthy
  - Meriden Housing Division : Bi-annual inspection program, renovation soup to nuts may get a pass to a 10 year certificate, significant renovation 7 year certificate, some renovation 5 year certificate. Puts precious staffing time on those houses in need of frequent inspection, not those that are in generally compliant. Rewards owners of compliant properties.
  - Section 8 apartment are supposed to be inspected annually
    - Quality of inspections has been varied; need to improve
- 3. Media awareness campaign
  - Not started/under development
  - Get the word out about #2 above to property owners, especially those who want to do good
  - Hope to work with the CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM)
    - Meetings on going

- Discussion for getting the word out to both the Council of Small Towns (COST) and the Council of Large Towns (COLT)

- We must remember our 2017 strategies must be evidence based, documenting need and must be monitored to measure change
- SHIP HH strategies may use Healthy Homes, Distressed Properties data and possibly data collected from DPH HH Assessments (surveillance system)
  - Additional sources are being identified - asthma and lead and HIAs (Health Impact Assessment data)
- Will be updated into the HCT 2020 Performance Dashboard (<http://www.ct.gov/dph/dashboard>)

5. Review progress and successes (what are our strengths?)

- Brought in a lot of partners
- Coordinated effort on a statewide level
- Partners have been active and eager

6. Discuss challenges, gaps, and lessons learned (what are our weaknesses?)

- Keeping HH Coalition cohesive
  - Not updating group with progress as much as needed
    - Andrea – should HH and Lead groups be combined?
    - Judy – need to keep their autonomy but be part of each other’s group. Approaches for funding from common sources should be coordinated so both are served.

- Participation from other organizations

Karen – Newington has a referral system for others; calls made when they are in at premises.

Andrea – bring together code organization (CAHCEO, CEHA, CADH) and discuss mutual healthy housing approaches; highlighting Meriden’s “Code Walk” program

Karen – check off form being developed to identify issues used in Hoarding cases

Caleb – cross-training; recognize other types of issues for referral

Roger – has a referral system; don't want cross-trained individual to make claims that something is safe but it may not be code compliant  
Judy – good to have a second set of eyes for referrals. Doesn't replace proper code official's inspection but helpful

Kristin – These code coordinated actions can be added with Hoarding as an Action Step under PMC. Judy agrees

Judy – invite other organizations; New Opportunities, Dept. of Housing has been invited and needs to be at the table – they are important and more

Caleb – Section 8

Judy – looking to improve the housing conditions

Governor's current housing initiatives include the following:

Veterans and Families that are Homeless

Now addressing all homelessness along with Second Chance Society (people leaving incarceration) and people with Mental Health and Substance Abuse problems...all in need of stable, decent, safe and affordable housing.

Janita – invite in real estate association/home inspector association/Appraisers

Karen – also Housing Resource Education Center

#### 7. Key Environmental Housing Factors (opportunities, threats?)

Educate the people of the value of prevention work

Need help with funding

Need to form new partnerships and maintain them

#### 8. Future Planning

Kristin Sullivan – do you want to table last objective media awareness until 2018 since you are working on codes and standards?

Judy/Andrea – it wouldn't be a total loss to wait

Andrea – we don't want it to get lost, during meetings it will still be discussed; shop it to COST/COLT for consideration; different strategies for singular health departments and district health departments.

Kristin – it could be placed as an action step under the Property Maintenance Code – Judy agrees.

Judy – can I come in and speak to your organizations? Let me know...I'm so willing!

Mike – Waterbury; bank makes property owner think they don't own the home and then tenants are left and don't have any recourse...property sits and languishes. How can we find out who the property owner is?

Judy – add an Action Step for Occupied Pre-Foreclosure/Post-Foreclosure/Neglected/Vacant Properties

Strategies – reduce the incidence of injury, illness and violence of Occupied Pre-Foreclosure/Post-Foreclosure/Neglected/Vacant Properties

Scope – better shared information between banks/attorneys/insurance and code enforcement agencies

Andrea - Page 18 – establish sub-standard housing, have a # of houses, get buy-in from bank/mortgage company, then see if that # goes down

Judy – how much money is spent in a geographical area?

Mike - # of foreclosures, time it took to foreclose, how many started but not finished? Not being able to locate the property owners still a big problem

Andrea – try into PMC – having this data will support the PMC

Roger - Arson Immunity Statute – fire in building, request from insurance all documents from fire investigation and they have to give it to them. Maybe develop something like that for other housing issues. Need to define a trigger to request this information from the insurance company.

Janita – define “properties” to include so there is a focus

Judy – need to pick type of properties

Next meeting August 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00am – 12:00, location TBA

All members asked to plan to attend!!!