



CONNECTICUT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION

Partners Integrating Efforts and Improving Population Health

HEALTHY CONNECTICUT 2020

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Summary
November 30, 2017
9:30 am - 11:30 am

Meeting Purpose and Outcome:

Welcome and meet new Council members; discuss emerging issues that impact statewide health improvement and work toward finalizing the 2018 policy agenda; and discuss status and future of priority implementation efforts.

Attendees:

Comr. Raul Pino, CT Dept. of Public Health; Patricia Baker, CT Health Foundation/Advisory Council Chair; Robyn Anderson, Advanced Behavioral, Inc.; Andrea Boissevain, Connecticut Association of Directors of Health; Mehul Dalal, CT Dept. of Public Health; Judy Dicine, Office of the Chief State's Attorney; Phyllis DiFiore, CT Dept. of Transportation; John Frassinelli, CT. Dept. of Education; Robyn Gulley, North Central Area Agency on Aging; Brenetta Henry, Consumer Representative; Lynne Ide, Universal Health Foundation; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; George McDonald, Consumer Representative; Marcus McKinney, Trinity Health-New England; Terry Nowakowski, Partnership for Strong Communities; Elaine O'Keefe, Yale School of Public Health; Scott Sjoquist, Mohegan Tribal Health; Nancy Yedlin, Donaghue Foundation; Marijane Carey, Carey Consulting; Ann Gionet, CT Dept. of Public Health; Cathy Sisco, Wheeler Clinic; Mario Garcia, CT Dept. of Public Health; Augusta Mueller, Yale New Haven Health; Brie Wolf, CT Dept. of Public Health; Donna Burke, Health Resources in Action; Kristin Sullivan, CT Dept. of Public Health; Sandy Gill, CT Dept. of Public Health; Melissa Touma, CT Dept. of Public Health; Laurie Ann Wager, CT Dept. of Public Health; Chantelle Archer, CT Dept. of Public Health

Welcome and Introductions:

The Advisory Council welcomed two new members – Robyn Anderson, a Multidimensional Family Therapy Training Coordinator with Advanced Behavioral, Inc., and Marcus McKinney, Regional Vice President and Chief Health Equity Officer with Trinity Health New England. Additionally, Terry Nowakowski, Chief Operating Officer with Partnership for Strong Communities will replace Christi Staples who is no longer with the organization.

2018 Policy Agenda:

DPH Legislative Proposals:

- DPH is proposing to move forward with several legislative initiatives as follows including a few that did not pass in 2017:
 - Tobacco Control: DPH is proposing legislation that would expand the Clean Indoor Air Act, such as prohibiting smoking in any retail establishment and on any school property; prohibiting the use of electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) or vapor product; and prohibiting smoking in the workplace.
 - Seatbelts in all positions: DPH will be introducing a bill for seatbelts in all positions, and DPH will be supporting a similar bill sponsored by the CT Dept. of Transportation (DOT) that also mandates helmets for motorcyclists.



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- Immunizations: DPH will propose a bill that will allow the Department to release aggregate immunization data for each school in Connecticut. This will allow the parents of school children who have requested access to school-specific immunization data to be granted access to it.
- Safe Drinking Water: DPH will propose a bill that will require public drinking water systems to review the age and condition of the water system's infrastructure and determine the amount of funding needed to upgrade. There is also a receivership component – larger companies could receive smaller companies that have had difficulty meeting standards.
- Lead Assessment Fee: DPH will propose a bill that will require manufacturers of architectural paint to pay a 25 cent assessment fee on each gallon sold to a distributor in the state. The fee will fund eligible lead paint abatement projects including: rental properties that house one or more families who are recipients of a Section 8 Housing Voucher, rental properties that house families whose income is less than two hundred and fifty percent of the federal poverty level and housing where children under age six have been found to have elevated blood lead levels.

Other comments/important policy proposals:

- Property Maintenance Code (PMC): DPH will not put forward an agency proposal but will be supporting it. Legislation is expected to be introduced by the same sponsor as last year.
- Sugar Sweetened Beverages: DPH will not introduce a bill unless a tax is built into the governor's budget. The agency might be able to support the policy piece.
- Opioids: A comprehensive bill is expected to be introduced. There is a lot of collaboration between various agencies on this topic and policy.

Discussion by Advisory Council Members:

- Immunizations:
 - Connecticut has the best immunization rates in the country; we need to make it easier to vaccinate children. There is more opposition to vaccinate children in suburban areas than in urban areas.
 - Currently data is being released by county. DPH's proposal is for data to be posted on each school. The State Dept. of Education recommends data is released by school district for confidentiality and other issues. The district is encouraged to find out why children are not being vaccinated and figure out how to get them into school. How can parents use data to make sure kids are being vaccinated?
- We are failing to advocate for funding for DPH and local health districts/departments. There has been discussion on developing a score card for public health for the legislature. We need to do a better job at selling the message about public health and prevention. DPH's fiscal staff will come to an Advisory Council meeting and show members how the budget works.
- We need to tap into what is being done, not duplicate efforts.
- It is important to sell SHIP as a state plan, not a DPH plan.
- Continued support for the Property Maintenance Code (PMC) and improved housing conditions is needed.

Action Item: AC members are encouraged to contact Brie Wolf (brie.wolf@ct.gov) if they have any questions regarding the DPH legislative proposals being put forth/supported by the agency. Members are strongly encouraged to testify at public hearings as well as submit testimony.

2018 Policy Agenda

Advisory Council members were asked to identify other policies/advocacy issues that were critical to support during the next legislative session. A list was created and members were provided with five dots and asked to



place the dots next to policy items that they felt needed urgent attention. Those receiving the least number of dots should not be interpreted as unimportant public health issues.

Policy Issue	# of Votes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare & Medicaid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medicaid eligibility (Jan. 1 effective date): Access, education, restore cuts, reverse decision ○ Medicare Shared Savings Program: 113,000 people impacted; it's important to coordinate with others working on this issue 	12
• Opioids	12
• Property Maintenance Code (PMC)	7
• Paid Family Medical Leave	7
• Advocate for additional funding for local and state DPH	6
• Tobacco control	5
• Safe Drinking Water	4
• CHIP Funding (federal level)	3
• Immunization Rates – Transparency, Sharing data	3
• Seatbelts in all positions	2
• Advisory Council needs to be more nimble to speak up about what is happening to the health system and doing contingency planning	1
• Sugar Sweetened Beverages	1
• Helmets	1
• Cancer Prevention/Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV): The Commissioner emphasized that the CDC recommends the vaccination before age 15. Also, more work needs to be done with males and in particular males of color.	0

Select Action Team Action Agendas, Progress and Key Questions:

Maternal, Infant and Child Health, Marijane Carey

- The Action Team will support the Property Maintenance Code (PMC) and Paid Family Medical Leave. The team will also discuss possibly supporting the lead assessment fee proposal.
- The team is working closely with the CT Coalition on Birth Outcomes. A documentary titled *Zero Weeks* was recently produced to explore paid leave in America – www.zeroweeks.com. Sneak speaks of the screenings were held in the fall of 2017. Additional showings will be held on January 23, 2018 at the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury and on January 25, 2018 at the Fairfield County Community Foundation in Norwalk.
- The Every Woman Advisory Committee (EWCT) has completed nine trainings. A total of 232 people were trained from 130 organizations.
- One Key Question (OKQ) is being introduced to women of childbearing age.
- The team is also working on addressing implicit bias.
- Both co-leads of the team (Marijane Carey and Jordana Frost) presented EWCT as a collective impact initiative at the 2017 APHA conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Health Systems, Mario Garcia and Augusta Mueller

The HS Action Team is working to identify and select a priority topic to support health system change without duplicating other state initiatives taking place in the state. At previous meetings they have discussed the



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evolving health systems reform in the state including various issues related to affordability, funding, data etc. The group has agreed that it is important for the team to continue meeting to: 1) share information among stakeholders, 2) monitor reforms that impact Connecticut's population, and 3) identify initiatives that the team can advance. Suggestions from the team have included: developing a data use case for social determinants of health and investigating ways to improve health at the neighborhood level through data sharing and analysis.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Cathy Cisco

- There have been opportunities for people to participate in mental health first aid trainings. Wheeler Clinic has trained 700 people.
- Regarding opioids, the team has relied on the work of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC).
- Cathy discussed a handout titled 'Language Matters' which emphasizes the importance of language when discussing addictions. When talking about substance abuse people should not use stigmatizing language that perpetuates negative perceptions. People should use "person first" language which focuses on the person, not the disorder. For example, many use terms such as 'addict', 'user' or 'drug abuser'. A better way is to say 'patient with opioid use disorder or opioid addiction.'
- **Action Item:** AC members were asked to disseminate a handout that was provided to them in their packets. The handout provides information on what someone can do if they are struggling with addiction.

Healthy CT 2020 Interim Report:

Advisory Council members were asked to provide initial feedback on the layout of the Interim Report. They were also asked to help identify emerging issues and changes in community assets that may be considered moving forward in SHIP planning. Members were provided with index cards so that if they thought of something after the brainstorm, they could write it down and leave with staff on their way out.

Council Feedback on the Report

- The report does not contain a lot of writing; it allows readers to take a quick glance
 - The links will take you to additional information on the dashboard
- Include a caution that hitting the target doesn't mean the work is over
- Need to think about the audience for the report
- Need to have an executive summary, at-a-glance section
- Add to introduction some history to precede year two (i.e. What is the SHIP and why?)
- Create a high level list of actions and strategies to address

Council input on emerging issues to consider as part of statewide health improvement planning

- Housing related issues:
 - Sober houses (clarification needed on how to deal with this)
 - Hoarding in residential facilities
 - 3 fatalities in 2017; 2-5% of the state population has a hoarding disorder
 - A taskforce was created in 2016 but it has not met
 - Need local coordination and state support
 - Housing for homeless population
- Less capacity, many community based partners who could help will be under duress
- Guidelines for classification of hypertension have changed meaning more people will be classified with hypertension. The current classification is 140/90 but will change to 130/80.
- National landscape – tax bill, approach to health; proactive vs. defending
- State financing and infrastructure



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- Undocumented immigrants

Council input on new community assets to consider as part of statewide health improvement planning

- Open data portal
- Data Haven
- CT Data Collaborative
- Community engagement activities taking place in the state that captures the voice of the individual

Next Steps/Next Meeting Dates:

- Next SHIP Advisory Council Meeting: February 8th, 10:00am-12:00pm
- Healthy Connecticut 2020 Interim Progress Report: *Due in January 2018*