



# CONNECTICUT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION

*Partners Integrating Efforts and Improving Population Health*

## HEALTHY CONNECTICUT 2020

**Coordinating Call/Meeting Summary**  
**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**2:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

Conference call # 1-800-857-9873  
Passcode: 7011878

### AGENDA

**Purpose:**

Discuss 2018 SHIP Policy Agenda and opportunities to get involved with educating local partners and elected officials on these important issues impacting Connecticut residents.

**Attendance:**

Approximately 59 Coalition members participated by call, including DPH staff: Comr. Raul Pino, Kristin Sullivan, Sandy Gill, Laurie Ann Wagner, Melissa Touma, Chantelle Archer, and Brie Wolf.

**SHIP Updates:**

Due to the budget crisis and subsequent extended 2017 legislative session, the overall results of the legislative session were not available until November. Two of the seven policy items on the Coalition's 2017 SHIP Policy Agenda passed including the Community Health Worker bill (Public Act 17-74) that provides for a report in 10/2018 on the feasibility of creating a certification program for community health workers. Also, the budget bill included funds for DPH to pay for HPV vaccinations.

New Advisory Council Members

The Advisory Council welcomed three new members in 2017 – Robyn Anderson, a Multidimensional Family Therapy Training Coordinator with Advanced Behavioral, Inc.; Marcus McKinney, Regional Vice President and Chief Health Equity Officer with Trinity Health New England; and Terry Nowakowski, Chief Operating Officer for Partnership for Strong Communities. New membership was based on recommendations accepted from the full Coalition with final review and input by the SHIP Executive Committee.

HCT 2020 Interim Report

DPH staff is working to complete the Healthy CT 2020 Interim Progress Report to identify progress in meeting health improvement targets for priority areas that the coalition has been working on for the past several years. This is the midway progress report for 2020 and it will be completed over the next couple of months.

Update of the Connecticut State Health Assessment

DPH is conducting initial planning to update the Connecticut State Health Assessment previously released in 2014. Coalition members are invited to partner on this project by participating in key



# CONNECTICUT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION

*Partners Integrating Efforts and Improving Population Health*

informant interviews and advising on contents and format. Some members may be contacted in early spring, as a key informant or for other targeted input for launching the planning.

## **2018 SHIP Policy Agenda:**

The 2018 SHIP Policy Agenda will include proposed legislation for ten policy issues.

## **Highlights of the proposed legislation and requests for assistance if needed:**

### **1. Property Maintenance Code (PMC): Judy Dicine (Chief State's Attorney's Office)**

In 2017 Representative Chris Rosario proposed the PMC code which would create a new law to establish statewide requirements for standards of maintenance for the property of persons. The PMC code will be proposed again in 2018. The law would require people who own property and rent to others to maintain certain conditions for health and safety of the occupants. There is currently no maintenance code for Connecticut. Support is needed from the coalition.

**Contact Persons:** Judy Dicine- [Judith.Dicine@ct.gov](mailto:Judith.Dicine@ct.gov); Andrea Boissevain- [aboissevain@townofstartford.org](mailto:aboissevain@townofstartford.org); Krista Veneziano- [Krista.Veneziano@ct.gov](mailto:Krista.Veneziano@ct.gov)

### **Question: Is Rep. Rosario sponsoring legislation on the PMC again this year?**

Judy Dicine indicated she was not certain if Rep. Rosario is proposing the code again. She has not spoken with him but she is hoping that he is interested in supporting it. Commissioner Pino added that he is in full support of implementing the code.

A representative from the Commission on Equity and Access asked for more information and ways to support the effort. Judy Dicine will follow up with her directly.

### **2. Medicare Shared Savings Program & Medicaid Eligibility Cuts: Lynne Ide (Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut)**

In the recent state budget that passed there were cuts to the Medicare Savings Program that helps people with multiple health issues, afford to get the care they need. These cuts will affect at least 113,000 people statewide. Due to the outcry in response to these cuts there is a delay in people losing coverage for two months but around March people are scheduled to lose coverage. In addition to cuts to the Medicare Savings Program, there were cuts to the income eligibility for parents who are on Husky Medicaid which will affect 13,300 parents. On December 14<sup>th</sup> there was a rally held at the LOB from 3-4pm to repeal the cuts. Coalition members are asked to find ways for the legislature to find funding for the program. Advocacy efforts are being led by the Medicaid Strategy Group. There is a Coalition called Protect Our Care Connecticut Campaign ([www.protectourcarect.org](http://www.protectourcarect.org)) that will be working on these issues in 2018 and it has a legislative agenda around them. Individuals can sign up to receive action alerts and organizations can also sign on to the campaign as a supporting partners at no cost. Connecticut Voices for Children ([www.ctvoices.org](http://www.ctvoices.org)) is another great resource to use.



# CONNECTICUT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION

*Partners Integrating Efforts and Improving Population Health*

**Contact Persons:** Lynne Ide – [lide@universalhealthct.org](mailto:lide@universalhealthct.org); Pat Baker – [pat@cthealth.org](mailto:pat@cthealth.org)

### **3. Opioids:** Shawn Lang (AIDS CT)

The Governor's Office is focusing on implementing the laws that had previously passed on opioids in 2015, 2016, and 2017. There was discussion on the need to put forth legislation that establishes a system for uniform data collection on the administering of naloxone by first responders and community groups. There is legislation about who can dispense naloxone but language is needed to make naloxone more easily available and acceptable for distribution in community settings. There has also been discussion on whether or not institutions would be protected from civil or criminal prosecution if someone administers naloxone at a college or university. Civilians are already exempt from civil or criminal prosecution but it is not clear whether institutions/organizations are also exempt. This will also be explored.

**Contact Person:** Shawn Lang – [SLange@aids-ct.org](mailto:SLange@aids-ct.org)

#### **Question: Is there any information in regards to the use of naloxone among middle school and high school students?**

Shawn indicated that comprehensive data on the use of naloxone is not available. According to the CT Chapter of the National Association of School Nurses, about two years ago naloxone was available to every high school nurse's office for free, but each school district operates independently and those school districts determine whether school nurses can carry naloxone or not. Shawn does not have an idea of how many school nurses have naloxone in their possession. The National Association of School Nurses believes it should be standard practice that naloxone be available in school nurse's offices.

### **4. Tobacco Control:** Pat Checko, MATCH Coalition; Brie Wolf, CT Dept. of Public Health

Tobacco control successes during the 2017 legislation session include a 45 cent increase in the cigarette tax which ranks Connecticut number one along with New York for the highest state taxes in the country. Also, the tobacco product snuff saw a by-weight increase from \$1 to \$3. Additionally, Connecticut will be the only state in the country to establish a new law regarding modified risk products. This new law will decrease the tax of certified modified risk products in the future by 50%.

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.

**Contact Person:** Brie Wolf- [Brie.Wolf@ct.gov](mailto:Brie.Wolf@ct.gov)

#### **Question: Will smoking restrictions in schools also include colleges?**

That is the hope. Some colleges have already volunteered to restrict smoking on their campuses. Help is needed at the grassroots level. Members can submit testimony and email their legislators.



# CONNECTICUT

## HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION

*Partners Integrating Efforts and Improving Population Health*

**5. Seatbelt use for all positions/motorcycle helmets:** Brie Wolf (CT Dept. of Public Health) 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. The two bills may be helpful in the event helmet mandates do not pass like last year.

**Contact Person:** Brie Wolf- [Brie.Wolf@ct.gov](mailto:Brie.Wolf@ct.gov)

**6. Safe Drinking Water:** Brie Wolf (CT Dept. of Public Health)

DPH will propose a bill that would 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. **Contact Person:** Brie Wolf- [Brie.Wolf@ct.gov](mailto:Brie.Wolf@ct.gov)

**7. Immunizations:** Brie Wolf (CT Dept. of Public Health)

DPH will propose a bill that would allow the Department to release aggregate immunization data for each school in Connecticut. This would allow the parents of school children who have requested access to school-specific immunization data to be granted access to it.

**Contact Person:** Brie Wolf- [Brie.Wolf@ct.gov](mailto:Brie.Wolf@ct.gov)

**8. Lead paint assessment fee:** Brie Wolf (CT Dept. of Public Health)

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. This legislation is modeled after New Jersey's legislation. The idea is to develop funding similar to the drinking water fund and to provide assistance with remediation in communities of greatest need.

**Contact Person:** Brie Wolf- [Brie.Wolf@ct.gov](mailto:Brie.Wolf@ct.gov)

**9. Paid Family Medical Leave:** *Maddie Granato, CT Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)* CWEALF fully expects the general assembly to introduce paid leave legislation for the fourth consecutive year. The campaign on paid leave recommends a program that's affordable for workers and businesses, provides a high wage replacement, is accessible and provides all types of leave for all types of care and all types of families. The campaign also recommends a definition of family that is expansive and covers leave to take care of a sibling, a grandparent, a grandchild, a child of any age, and your children's family. Furthermore, the campaign recommends a program that is adequate and provides appropriate time to heal and recover which is a minimum of 12 weeks. The campaign has proposed a program of paid leave that is funded by small employee payroll contributions and is administered through the State Department of Labor – all workers would contribute to the fund and would receive 100% of their weekly earnings up to a cap of \$1,000 for 12 weeks. A documentary titled *Zero Weeks* was recently produced to explore paid leave in America – [www.zeroweeks.com](http://www.zeroweeks.com). Although it has not been released yet five exclusive sneak peek screenings were held across the state in the fall of 2017, and they are looking to host more screenings in January and February of 2018. The documentary makes the business, social, and emotional case for



# CONNECTICUT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION

*Partners Integrating Efforts and Improving Population Health*

paid leave. The trailer is currently available online and the dates of upcoming screenings are available on the 'Upcoming Events' tab of the CWEALF website. If members 'like' CWEALF on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CampaignforPaidFamilyLeave](http://www.facebook.com/CampaignforPaidFamilyLeave)) they will be able to see the list of upcoming screenings. Coalition members can also sign up to receive action alerts on the issue by visiting [www.paidfamilyleavect.org](http://www.paidfamilyleavect.org). **Contact Person:** Maddie Granato-[mgranato@cwealf.org](mailto:mgranato@cwealf.org);

**Question: When will there be showings of the documentary *Zero Weeks*?**

There will be showings on January 23, 2018 at the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury and on January 25, 2018 at the Fairfield County Community Foundation in Norwalk.

**10. Advocacy for state and local public health funding:**

At the last SHIP Advisory Council meeting on November 30, 2017 members discussed the need to advocate more strongly for funding for state and local public health agencies. To support this and help member advocacy efforts, DPH staff will provide information on DPH's budget at the February Advisory Council meeting. It will include what's in the agency's budget and why, and how the agency's budget currently works.

**Other Comments:**

Judy Dicine told Coalition members about the CT Green and Healthy Homes Housing Project that will involve a productive way of addressing needs in substandard housing through health and energy improvement. To make this program a reality for the state there will need to be support for state and local health and other safety and health officials at state and local levels.

**Next Steps:**

DPH staff will be sending out a follow-up on advocacy contacts and where to find more information to support the proposed legislation. Throughout the course of the legislative session DPH staff will provide members with periodic updates.

*All Coalition information and proceedings can be found at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/SHIPCoalition>*