

6/13/19 Environmental Health Risk Hazards Working Group Meeting

- Andrea Boissevain
- Sandy Gill
- Ruth Canovi
- Tasha Pereault
- Marie Christine Bournaki

STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES:

- Kristin Sullivan departed from DPH and went to ASHTO in Washington, DC. Her position has been posted. In the meantime, PHSI staff will continue to “steer” the SHIP.
- The Summit scheduled for June 28th has been postponed. Stay tuned for date for early fall. This will be the second iteration of collecting data and presenting the State Health Assessment. The focus will be more on how to engage non-traditional public health partners to help get at the social determinants of health (SDOH). Further, this next evolution of the will be to start aligning local and state initiatives
- Sandy reiterated that the coalition work is like a “Cake not baked yet . It is not DPH’s plan it is the coalition, where strategies and associated activities should be coalition-driven, by the coalition for the coalition. Issues at the neighborhood level should be addressed and have involvement at organizational level, the regional level, and the state level. Sandy referred to having a vision akin to Public Health 3.0—Health in all Policies in order to get an integrated approach. For example, urban planners should be at the SHIP table, transportation agencies—we are trying to be more inclusive as we move forward.

AIR ISSUES:

- Tobacco 21 passed. The no-smoking language for outdoor spaces, beaches and parks did not make it into the final bill. It died in the house when it was made a “talker”: raising possible issues of how to enforce, signage, potential opportunity to harass people of color.
- All schools (K-12) and their campuses will be smoke-free/vape-free
- Tobacco Bars (where 50% or more of their sales has to be from tobacco products) are not allowed with New Haven’s Owl Bar being grandfathered in.
- There are 3 upcoming webinars that Ruth will share with group on how climate change is effecting health ??
- Ruth presents 6/17 at the CT Nurses Association on air quality and impacts on lung health; she will do some “flag waving” on the AirNOW.
- Ruth also reported on another webinar (?): Climate Change, Health & Equity bridging the gap between health and climate health.
- We need to follow-up on the data collected from the added question on asthma/air quality in the BRFSS asthma.
- Marie reported that her division submitted their 5-year CDC Asthma grant. Fingers crossed.
- POA programming continues.
- The POA work being done through the SIM/PSI grant also continues where contracts are being developed between health care providers and community-based organizations to provide the in-home asthma self-management services.
- Information coming out of the NE Asthma Climate Conference highlighted how vulnerable populations are impacted by climate change, noting that we lack surveillance data. Need to assess where we stand in comparison (to what??).

- CHA held its annual Asthma Conference which focused on strategies to improve asthma by focusing on improving the quality of housing (Housing Quality: A Strategy to reduce Asthma Disparities). GHHI was again mentioned with its pilot programming that might some day include a “prescription” for health housing!
- Stratford surpassed its target of partnering with 60 organizations in its AirNOW grant program. Over 65 groups have joined. They gotten some great media traction with a piece on WTNH.

HEALTHY HOUSING

- While the PMC did not move forward in the legislature this session, there are other movements focusing on healthy housing. The GHHI initiative is looking at how to address hoarding, mental health, prenatal birth-to-one programming, falls, asthma and bring in additional resources (???)
- There is a housing code official in Southington who opposes having a statewide PMC who is influential.
- Tasha discussed EVERSOURCE’s One-Touch referral pilot program they are running in Frog Hollow neighborhood (Hartford) in conjunction with CCMC. They are working to connect residents with programs to resources.
- There is a concern that not enough people know about what resources EVERSOURCE can bring to the table. For instance, a tenant is income eligible they can apply for window replacements on behalf of the landlord, effectively addressing a major source of lead. Income eligible single-family home owners can also apply (??).
- Tasha provided her work 860-665-5444 number for inquiries.

With apologies to our Krista, in her absence, there were no updates on Lead.