



CONNECTICUT

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION

Partners Integrating Efforts and Improving Population Health

HEALTHY CONNECTICUT 2020

Coalition Coordinating Call
August 14, 2019
10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Purpose of the Call:

Provide brief update for coalition members on SHIP Coalition activities and 2019 Policy Agenda results. Also, to share preliminary findings and solicit feedback and input on the most current Connecticut State Health Assessment.

Attendance:

Forty-five Coalition members participated on the call, including DPH staff: Laurie Ann Wagner, Sandy Gill, Melissa Touma, Orlando Velazco, Chantelle Archer, Brie Wolf, Jill Kennedy, and Deputy Commissioner Janet Brancifort.

Welcome and SHIP Update:

Since the last Coalition Call, DPH has welcomed Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell as the new Commissioner and Heather Aaron as the new Deputy Commissioner. Also, Kristin Sullivan, who spearheaded the development and implementation of the SHIP has moved on to another opportunity. In this fourth and final year of implementing the Healthy CT 2020 State Health Improvement Plan, the seven Action Teams have continued to meet and implement the SHIP priorities indicated in their ACTION Agendas. The 2018 Annual Report is currently available on the SHIP website and includes updates on the Action Teams as well as status updates on the data indicators. Anyone who is interested in being involved with the SHIP Coalition can send an email to HCT2020@ct.gov.

Policy Agenda Update:

During the 2019 legislative session, several items on the SHIP Policy Agenda passed, including Tobacco 21 which increases the age of sale as well as fines of tobacco products – **Public Act 19-13**. It will go into effect on October 1, 2019. Paid Family Medical Leave finally passed after several attempts. The law will allow employers to provide employees paid, job-protected leave (12 weeks) for health-related reasons. It also expands the definition of a family to include LGBTQ families. Several bills passed related to opioids including one that would increase the penalties for the sale of fentanyl. Seatbelts in all seating positions did not pass again this year. Universal Motorcycle Helmet law had some strong advocacy support of a grassroots coalition led by Gary Lapidis; however, the proposed bills did not make it through to a final vote. The coalition continues to support updating to a statewide Property Maintenance Code (PMC), which was proposed to be raised as a committee bill, but time ran out before the bill could be drafted. No bills were introduced during this session related to REL (Race, Ethnicity, and Language) Data Collection Standards.

The 2019 Policy Agenda table provided in the PowerPoint presentation will be sent out to the coalition. Action Teams are currently proposing ideas for the 2020 Policy Agenda which will be shared at the November Advisory Council meeting. If anyone on the call has any ideas for items to include on the Policy Agenda you can send them to HCT2020@ct.gov. Also, if anyone has questions about the policy agenda update they can contact Brie Wolf at Brie.Wolf@ct.gov or Jill Kennedy at Jill.Kennedy@ct.gov.



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Preliminary Findings of the SHA:

Community Input

On February 20, 2019, the *Connecticut Community Health Priority Survey* was disseminated to the entire SHIP Coalition with the goal of having as many Connecticut residents, including partners and community organizations, identify health issues that are priorities for their communities. In addition, 11 focus groups were conducted to learn more about the health issues affecting specific populations in the state. These populations included the recently incarcerated, the developmentally disabled, the LGBTQ community, African American Women, the Hispanic Community, Veterans and Families, Immigrants/Refugees and many more. Overall, the survey received 1,388 responses. The results from the survey, as well as input received during the focus groups, have been incorporated into the State Health Assessment (SHA).

The preliminary findings of the SHA include information on population changes, leading causes of death, the teen birth rate, lead poisoning among children under 6 years of age, asthma, trends in suicide, syphilis rates, health insurance coverage and much more (See the Power Point Presentation Slides). More details on the preliminary findings will be shared at the SHIP Summit on September 20th.

Discussion

Call participants were asked to comment on anything that stood out from the preliminary findings and whether there was anything they saw that members of their community could come together to address.

Comments/Questions

- **Q: *There was mention of the hold-harmless law for use of Naltrexone located with an AED. Where are we in getting Narcan co-located with AEDs throughout the state?***
 - **A:** Continued support is needed for lead prevention efforts (e.g. screening). We need to link it to a property maintenance code to make sure property owners are keeping up their homes.
- **Q: *Is there a possibility that CT's reduced birth rate could be principally due to our efforts to reduce teen births?***
 - **A:** The Maternal, Infant, Child Health Coalition hopes to look at Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to address trauma related to mental health. The coalition has been educating the public on the role toxic stress plays in the lives of children and ways to protect them through the Resilience film – "Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope," which has been screened throughout the state.
- **Comments:**
 - I would be interested in learning about whether school districts are training their teachers and staff about trauma and ACEs and whether there might be opportunities to sponsor the Resilience films across the state targeting schools in particular.
 - It was surprising that only a little over half of women had a dental cleaning during their most recent pregnancy. This number is even less for women of color.
 - Local Health Departments have brought stakeholders together to address the opioid epidemic.
 - Already addressing opioids but we need to address social determinants of health to hit things like mental health issues.

Next Steps:

- The State Health Assessment will be released for public comment in the fall. The coalition will be notified through HCT2020 when this happens.
- The SHIP Coalition Summit has been rescheduled to September 20th. It will be held at the Chrysalis Center in Hartford from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Additional findings from the SHA will be presented at the summit.



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Furthermore, we plan to prioritize the framework for the next phase of the SHIP, looking at the social determinants of health and their impact on health outcomes.

- An Ad Hoc Communication Committee will be created to communicate the work of the Action Teams and work of partners across the state. The committee will also be used to discuss how to reach out to partners.
- In planning next steps for the development of HealthyCT 2025 we plan to offer opportunities to engage partners and leverage resources to further reach the coalition.

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