



THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2013



Stephanie G. Knutson, MSN, RN School Nurse Consultant

Special Point of Interest:

- *New School Nurse Workshop - November 18 and December 5, 2013*



CNA Diamond Jubilee Recipient of the Florence S. Wald Award

The Florence S. Wald Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Practice recognizes achievements and innovations in nursing practice or health care delivery to a patient population that may include: improved quality of care; new or innovative models of care; increased availability of care; improved access to care; potential or demonstrated impact on the prevention of illness, accidents, or other threats to health; improvement in the overall health status of a patient population(s); improvements in the quality of human life; or relief of human suffering.

Stephanie Knutson, MSN, RN, is the Connecticut State Department of Education's School Health Consultant. Her significant contributions to the practice of school nursing and its effects on the delivery of health care to over 550,000 Connecticut students, state-level policy development, resource development and the promotion of the evidence-based practice of school nursing and its significant value to the physical and mental health outcomes and academic achievement of students, are just some of Ms. Knutson's noteworthy accomplishments.

Ms. Knutson is acknowledged as an expert in the specialty of school nursing on state, regional and national levels. As the sole State Consultant for the discipline of school nursing practice, her expertise is visible in the collaborations she engages in with state agencies such as the Departments of Public Health and Social Services, as well as others in the health care field, in order to promote current and effective nursing practice to Connecticut school children. Of significance is the annual two-day school nurse orientation/professional development opportunity that she provides as a framework for nursing practice within an educational environment. The state-wide professional development is the primary source for communicating the scope and standards of school nursing practice, as well as the legal, confidential, delegatory and other focus area that are unique to this specialty.



As the recognized authority in the specialty of school nursing, she represents the State of Connecticut in her membership at the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC) Organization. She further extends her leadership as NASSNC's Director-at-large. Her leadership, accomplishments, vision and dedication to the practice of school nursing, as well as her diligent focus on health outcomes for all Connecticut students exemplify those same qualities associated with the work of **Florence S. Wald**. Ms. Knutson is a true transformational leader in the field of school nursing and the care of students.

Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

The Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program is a federally funded grant program implemented through the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to bring home visiting services and support to high-risk pregnant women in identified communities in Connecticut. Because of young age, poverty, mental health or substance abuse issues, and domestic violence these women are very high risk for premature birth and other poor outcomes for mother and baby. The program's goal is to initiate services as early as possible in pregnancy. Home visiting services continue throughout early childhood in an effort to reduce child maltreatment and improve school readiness. In communities identified as being at very high-risk for these negative outcomes agencies are implementing one of four evidence-based home visiting models shown to improve the health and well-being of families.

Outreach to the young women most at risk is challenging. Many young women and teens who become pregnant do not seek prenatal care until late in their pregnancies. Access to care is also a problem. School nurses are often teens' most accessible and trusted health professional.

Below are direct links to the DPH MIECHV outreach materials that may be useful to school nurses including a brochure with the toll-free number to the Connecticut Child Development Infoline. Anyone can call this number to make a referral or seek services. The link also includes a list of the towns and the contact information for the Home Visiting implementing agencies.

For additional information about the Home Visiting program please contact Mary Emerling, RN at 860-509-7769 or mary.emerling@ct.gov or Monica R. Jensen, RN at 860-509-8194 or monica.r.jensen@ct.gov. The MIECHV program's Web page is located at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3138&q=503124>.

Partnering to Create Healthy School Communities for Successful Students

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) are pleased to announce an exciting new opportunity for school districts. This e-mail provides an overview of the partnership opportunity. The deadline to apply is November 15, 2013. An informational conference call will be held on November 7, 2013, at 2 p.m. (Dial in number: 888-469-3088 Passcode: 2702926 followed by the # sign.) To learn more, visit the Healthy School Communities for Successful Students Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&pm=1&Q=335222>.

Select school districts have the opportunity to partner with the CSDE and the DPH to implement practices that will improve students' health and academic outcomes. This five-year partnership will build the capacity of local school districts to address school attendance and academic achievement related to critical health problems that interfere with student learning. The two components are: 1) HIV/STD and Teen Pregnancy Prevention; and 2) Healthy Eating and Physical Activity.

Component One: HIV/STD and Teen Pregnancy Prevention

The CSDE will provide professional development, resources and individualized technical assistance, at no cost for 15 Connecticut partner school districts that want to improve their school-based HIV/STD and pregnancy prevention efforts. Partner districts will receive many benefits including substitute reimbursement and travel.

Component Two: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

The CSDE and DPH will provide professional development, resources and individualized technical assistance, at no cost, for the eight (8) Connecticut partner school districts that want to create policies and practices that promote increased physical activity, healthy nutrition environment and supports for students with chronic health conditions. Currently, there is no direct funding for partnering districts; however, there may be future funding opportunities.

For More Information:

- Component One: contact Dr. Bonnie J. Edmondson at 860-713-6936 or bonnie.edmondson@ct.gov
- Component Two: contact Donna Heins at 860-807-2082 or donna.heins@ct.gov and Kari Sullivan at 860-807-2041 or kari.sullivan@ct.gov.

Professional Development Opportunity



The Association of School Nurses of Connecticut

Presents

NEW SCHOOL NURSE WORKSHOP

This program will provide an overview of state laws and regulations regarding school health. The program will also address standards of practice for school nurses, competencies and supervisory issues. Finally, the program will present an overview of the school nurse's role in student achievement, special education and Section 504.

Date: Monday, November 18 and Thursday, December 5, 2013

Location: Courtyard by Marriott Cromwell, 4 Sebeth Drive, Cromwell, CT 06416
Facilitator: Stephanie Knutson MSN, RN, School Health Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education

CEUs: 1.2 (attendance at both sessions is mandatory)

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$100 per person

As a result of attending these sessions participants will:

- ◊ Understand state laws and regulations regarding school health;
- ◊ Learn state mandates for immunizations, health assessments and screenings;
- ◊ Learn about the school nurse's role in academic achievement;
- ◊ Learn about documentation in school health services; and
- ◊ Become knowledgeable about special education and Section 504 issues related to school health.

Registration: <https://schoolnurseorientation.eventbrite.com>

Register by: November 11, 2013

Contact: Pat Krin at patkrin@snet.net

No refunds or reimbursements!

**STEPHANIE G. KNUTSON, MSN, RN
SCHOOL NURSE CONSULTANT**

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and
Adult Education
25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-807-2108

E-mail: stephanie.knutson@ct.gov

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