

Department of Public Health



At a Glance

J. ROBERT GALVIN, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., *Commissioner*

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Established – 1878

Statutory authority - CGS Chap. 368a, Sections 19a-1a et seq.

***Central office - 410-450 Capitol Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06106***

Number of employees – 843

Recurring operating expenses -

Federal: \$135,955,219

State: \$84,002,801

Additional Funds: \$24,377,075

Organizational structure -

- **Administration Branch**
- **Affirmative Action Office**
- **Communications Office**
- **Government Relations Office**
- **Health Care Systems Branch**
- **Laboratory/Mobile Field Hospital Liaison**
- **Local Health Administration Branch**
- **Operations Branch**
- **Office of Health Care Access**
- **Oral Public Health Office**
- **Planning Branch**
- **Public Health Initiatives Branch**
- **Public Health Laboratory**
- **Regulatory Services Branch**
- **Research and Development Office**

Mission

To protect and improve the health and safety of the people of Connecticut by:

- Assuring the conditions in which people can be healthy;
- Promoting physical and mental health, and
- Preventing disease, injury, and disability.

Statutory Responsibility

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is the state's leader in public health policy and advocacy. The agency is the center of a comprehensive network of public health services, and is a partner to local health departments for which it provides advocacy, training and certification, technical assistance and consultation, and specialty services such as risk assessment that are not available at the local level. The agency is a source of accurate, up-to-date health information to the Governor, the Legislature, the federal government and local communities. This information is used to monitor the health status of Connecticut's residents, set health priorities and evaluate the effectiveness of health initiatives. The agency is a regulator focused on health outcomes, maintaining a balance between assuring quality and administrative burden on the personnel, facilities and programs regulated. The agency is a leader on the national scene through direct input to federal agencies and the United States Congress.

Public Service

Administration Branch

The Administration Branch assures that department-wide administrative activities are coordinated and accomplished in an effective and efficient manner. The branch provides the following services across the agency:

Human Resources Section

The Human Resources Section provides comprehensive personnel management to the department, including labor relations for seven bargaining units and managerial/confidential employees, recruitment, merit system administration, performance appraisal review, statistical personnel status reports, payroll, fringe benefit administration, classification work for appropriate job titles, and Performance Assessment and Recognition System for managers.

Public Health Hearing Section

The Public Health Hearing Section presides over hearings and renders decisions concerning:

- Licensing actions involving individual healthcare providers who do not have licensing boards
- Appeals of orders issued by local health directors
- The Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) program
- The need for new or expanded emergency medical services
- Disciplinary actions against day care, youth camp licensees, and health care facility licensees (e.g., long term care facilities)

- Voluntary and involuntary transfers of water companies/appeals of orders issued to water companies
- Involuntary discharges from long-term care facilities

The office also investigates Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) claims, provides support for 15 professional licensing boards, responds to ethics questions, provides ethics training, and ensures compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996.

Contracts and Grants Management Section

The Contracts and Grants Management Section prepares, issues, and manages contracts and/or grants between the Department of Public Health and for-profit/non-profit service providers, federal/local governments, and individuals. The services funded by these contracts/grants provide otherwise unavailable health and/or support services to underserved residents of Connecticut.

The section provides:

- oversight and administration of approximately 900 contracts and loans totaling approximately \$385 million, \$170 million annually, in state and federal funds
- support services to the department in the following contracting areas: training/education, fiscal oversight, compliance with state and federal regulations, contract budget planning, and approval processing
- a liaison function between the department and the Office of Policy and Management, Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Administrative Services, the Office of the Treasurer the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Office of the State Comptroller concerning contracting and bond fund matters.

Fiscal Services Section

The Fiscal Services Section administers budget planning and preparation, monitoring of 19 state and 137 federal accounts for expenditures, revenue accounting, accounts payable/receivable, and purchasing, including emphasis for procurement activities from small and minority-owned vendors; provides mail services and inventory control; provides agency grantees and their auditors a single point of contact for accounting and audit issues related to grants and over 650 contracts; provides technical assistance to contracting units within the department and monitors the final financial settlement of agency grants and contracts, including adherence to cash management and all applicable federal regulations for financial reporting.

Equal Employment Opportunity Office

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office, also known as the Affirmative Action Office, is responsible for ensuring that the department guarantees equal opportunity for all individuals, in all programs and services, without regard to race, color, religious creed, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, mental disability or history thereof, mental retardation, learning disability, physical disability-including but not limited to, blindness, pregnancy, genetic information, criminal record and/or previously opposing such discriminatory practices (regardless of substantiation).

Program responsibilities include:

- *Equal Employment Best Practices*: manage and direct department equal employment best practices for compliance with the law including, supplier diversity and outreach/recruitment programs
- *Affirmative Defense*: establish, disseminate (and enforce) department prevention policies (anti-harassment policies) and facilitate department diversity, sexual harassment and related training to provide strategies and remedies available including the department's internal discrimination complaint procedure
- *Enforcement and Auditing*: strategies and compliance monitoring in conformance with employment discrimination law and department policies
- *Internal Investigation*: of complaints/allegations of discrimination/harassment, Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Coordination and monitoring the internal investigation program for patterns or practices which may impede full and fair participation
- *Affirmative Action Plan*: responsible for the annual department plan submitted to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) in July of each year

Communications Office

The Communications Office provides a full range of communication activities that serve the department and its stakeholders. Key functions of the office include public information, freedom of information, media and community relations, marketing communications, issues management and public affairs, Internet services, internal communications, and crisis and emergency risk communications. These and other communication activities serve to manage the department's reputation as the state's leader in public health policy and advocacy, and achieve its mission to protect and improve the health and safety of the people of Connecticut.

Government Relations Office

The Government Relations Office is responsible for the full range of legislative and regulatory information and referral activities, including:

- Management and development of the department's legislative and regulatory programs and the implementation of strategies to achieve the goals of the department's legislative agenda.
- Track and analyze public health related legislation. Once codified into statute, ensure the implementation of approved legislation.
- Coordinate the development of the agency's regulations.
- Acts as the commissioner's liaison to the General Assembly, congressional delegation, community-based organizations, private sector organizations and other public interest groups.
- Coordinate the maintenance and answer questions concerning the Public Health Code.
- Assist in the development of the department's informational materials and publications.
- Participate in special projects, workgroups and taskforces.

Health Care Systems Branch

The Health Care Systems Branch regulates access to health care professions and provides regulatory oversight of health care facilities and services. The branch protects public health by ensuring competent and capable health care service providers. The branch consists of three major program components, which have responsibility for implementing state licensure and federal certification programs. The branch has the authority to investigate and take disciplinary action against providers who are in violation of the law or otherwise pose a risk to public health and safety.

The branch consists of the following sections and programs:

Facility Licensing & Investigations

- Licensing, certification and investigation of healthcare institutions, including:
 - Ambulatory care services
 - Clinical laboratories
 - Dialysis facilities
 - Home care and hospice services
 - Hospitals
 - Intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded
 - Nursing homes
 - Substance abuse and mental health treatment facilities

Practitioner Licensing and Investigations

- Licenses, certifies and registers health practitioners in 55 professions
- Investigates consumer complaints and other practice related issues involving licensed/certified/registered health care practitioners
- Administers the Connecticut Nurse aide registry
- Maintains the Physician Profile program

Legal Office

- Criminal background checks program
- Prosecution of regulated entities
- Legislative and regulatory support

Laboratory/Mobile Field Hospital Liaison

The Laboratory/Mobile Field Hospital Liaison is the commissioner's liaison for agency infrastructure projects. Initiatives are ongoing to: design and build a new state-of-the-art Public Health Laboratory; implement a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS); support the operational development of a Mobile Field Hospital (*Ottolie W. Lundgren Memorial Mobile Field Hospital*); and improve isolation care capacity in acute care hospitals statewide.

Local Health Administration Branch

The Local Health Administration Branch is the primary interface and liaison between the department and Connecticut's local health departments/districts (LHDs). Responsibilities include:

- Advising the commissioner on the approval of appointments of local directors of health and acting directors of health
- Coordinating and providing an orientation for new directors of health
- Providing technical assistance and consultation to Department of Public Health programs, local health directors, local officials and residents on local public health issues and health promotion activities
- Administering per capita grants-in-aid for LHDs
- Planning and coordinating the commissioner's semi-annual meeting for local directors of health
- Maintaining a current local health department/district database
- Collecting annual reports from local health departments and analyzing data to monitor activities to assure compliance with Connecticut statutes
- Working with local health departments to integrate and promote integration of the National Public Health Performance Standards
- Maintaining and developing Connecticut's Health Alert Network (HAN) and assisting local health departments with the development of local HANs
- Strengthening Connecticut's public health infrastructure by collaborating with other Department of Public Health programs, state and federal agencies and professional organizations
- Providing guidance to part-time health departments to become full-time health departments or to form or join other health districts
- Participating in regional emergency preparedness planning initiatives
- Maintaining the virtual Office of Public Health Nurses to collaborate and coordinate public health nursing activities at the state and local level

Operations Branch

Emergency Medical Services

The Emergency Medical Services section administers and enforces emergency medical services statutes, regulations, programs and policies. Responsibilities include:

- Developing the Emergency Medical Services Plan and training curriculum
- Providing regulatory oversight of licensing and certifying emergency response personnel and licensing and certifying provider organizations, facilities and approving sponsor hospital designations
- Conducting complaint investigations
- Coordinating emergency planning with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)
- Integrating statewide electronic EMS data collection
- Issuing trauma center designations

Informatics

The Informatics section directs information technology functions of the agency. Responsibilities include strategic planning, maintaining critical agency infrastructure and

providing help desk services to agency employees along with outside organizations with interfaces to agency systems. The section works with the Department of Information Technology to provide service level support for application development and infrastructure to support programs. The section also provides oversight and maintenance of over 100 application support agency programs.

Public Health Preparedness

The Public Health Preparedness section is responsible for the design, development and implementation of the department's public health emergency plans and initiatives. The section ensures compliance with state and federal mandates with respect to public health preparedness, and is responsible for identifying and securing grants in support of the state's public health preparedness efforts. Within the department's incident command structure, the section provides operational management. This section also coordinates the federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Hospital Bioterrorism grant submissions. This function includes outfitting and operations of a 100 bed mobile field hospital.

Office of Health Care Access

The Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) oversees the state's health care delivery system to ensure that access to affordable, quality care is available to the residents of the state. The office's major functions are administration of the certificate of need (CON) program; health care data collection, analysis and reporting; and hospital financial review and reporting.

The agency is responsible for managing the CON program in order to promote appropriate health facility and service development that addresses a public need. The CON process ensures service accessibility while limiting duplication or excess capacity of facilities and services. The process also allows for public opportunity to comment during health facility/service project development.

OHCA has statutory authority to gather and analyze significant amounts of hospital financial, hospital, billing and discharge data. Information collected, verified, analyzed and reported on includes hospital expenses and revenues, uncompensated care volumes, and other financial data as well as hospital utilization, demographic, clinical, charge, payer and provider statistics.

OHCA consists of the two program areas: Facilities and Services Planning and Certificate of Need, and Compliance and Hospital Financial Reporting.

Oral Health Office

The Office of Oral Health strives to promote health and reduce disease and health disparities in Connecticut through enhanced oral health and oral health care access. The office works to build the public health infrastructure for oral health within the Department of Public Health and throughout Connecticut in order to reduce the prevalence and impact of oral diseases and conditions and to enhance oral health care access. Goals of the office also include implementing effective, culturally appropriate oral health promotion and disease prevention programs that adopt, adapt and enhance best practices. The office also works to centralize, coordinate, enhance

and integrate oral health data, information and monitoring systems to detect disease, inform policy, and evaluate programs.

Planning Branch

The Planning Branch is responsible for the promotion, enhancement, and protection of health data collection, processing, analysis, and reporting; effective implementation of health information exchange; public health planning and policy development; training and professional development activities; and eliminating health disparities. The branch responsibilities directly support the department's mission to protect and promote public health in Connecticut. The branch provides information and data compendiums, as well as support for collaborative, multicultural health policy decisions, integrated state health planning, and coordinated training programs. The Planning Branch goal is to improve the assessment of Connecticut's health services and the health status of Connecticut residents to develop proactive planning and policy development initiatives that are supported by a competent workforce.

The branch consists of three offices and three sections:

Office of Multicultural Health

The Office of Multicultural Health is responsible for providing leadership in promoting, protecting and improving the health of all Connecticut residents by eliminating differences in disease, disability, and death rates among ethnic, racial and culturally diverse populations. The office promotes access to quality health education and health care services; facilitates presence of diverse populations in health planning, program development, policy formation, and outreach and awareness initiatives. The office functions largely through collaboration with statewide partners through the Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership. The office recommends policies, procedures, activities and resource allocations to improve health among the state's underserved and diverse populations, and to eliminate health disparities.

Genomics Office

Developed in response to the DPH "Connecticut Genomics Action Plan," the DPH Genomics Office (DPH-GO) has as its aim: *To promote the responsible and effective translation of current and emerging genome-based information into health benefits for the population of Connecticut.* Goals of the office include: 1) facilitating the integration of genomics into DPH programs; 2) fostering needed collaborations on the local, regional and national level; 3) contributing to genomic policy development; assuring the availability of a competent genomics workforce; and 4) assuring access to quality genetic services. The DPH-GO is supported by a collaborative cross-agency Council of Genomics (COG) and an external Expert Genomics Advisory Panel.

Health Information Exchange Office

The 2009 Connecticut General Assembly designated DPH as the lead health information exchange organization responsible for the State of Connecticut Health Information Technology and Exchange Development Project with advice and counsel from an appointed advisory committee. In June 2009, DPH published the Connecticut State Health Information Technology Plan, setting the baseline agenda for health care information exchange and technology in the state. DPH worked with the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the

National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to secure \$7.29 million for a multi-year Cooperative Agreement to plan and build a coordinated, sustainable statewide health information exchange system for Connecticut.

The Health Information Exchange Office is responsible to coordinate the development of a statewide health information exchange strategic and operational Plan; support the Advisory Committee activities; collaborate with health information exchange systems with DPH, Connecticut Department of Social Services, physician groups, hospitals, insurers, and practitioners.

Planning and Workforce Development Section

The Planning and Workforce Development section provides support and technical assistance to the department, state and local agencies and policymakers in determining health status and public health resource needs, setting public health priorities, and developing a comprehensive and coordinated State Health Plan. In addition, the section works to assure a competent public health workforce by offering professional development and continuing education through distance learning and other modalities, training evaluation, and participating in workforce development initiatives including recruitment and internship activities.

State Health Planning

The State Health Planning section provides general guidance and individualized assistance to programmatic statewide initiatives for health improvement planning via a written manual on plan development and a standardized template; coordinates the Healthy Connecticut initiative; develops instruments (e.g., directories and online libraries of state plans) to facilitate coordination of planning efforts and efficient utilization of resources; serves as liaison on planning advisory groups and steering committees.

Workforce Development Initiatives

Workforce initiatives include a graduate student intern program including a formal MPH Rotations Program with the University of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University, a preventive medicine residency program with Griffin Hospital/Yale University, and a collaboration with the Yale Office of Community Health to place Yale MPH candidates in governmental public health practicum sites. Section staff works collaboratively with various coalitions, boards, and committees to address important workforce issues such as shortages, leadership, mentoring, recruitment and retention for the public health workforce. Partners include other state agencies, local public health agencies, health care providers, academic institutions, and professional organizations.

Distance Learning

DPH participates in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Training Network to provide satellite programming to the public health workforce. Other distance learning capacities include WebEx virtual conferencing, web-based learning accessible through an online learning management system (TRAINConnecticut), a library of archived programs that can be viewed from an employee's workstation through a portable DVD/VHS monitor and head phones, a mobile computer laboratory and webcasting technology.

Public Health Preparedness Planning

This program is authorized under Authority: 42 U.S.C. 247d-3 and is supported by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program supports the development of state and local public health emergency response plans, the integration of public health planning into an all-hazards approach, and coordination of public health resources with other emergency responders.

Learning Management System

Since January 2005, DPH has managed an online learning management system, TRAINConnecticut. TRAINConnecticut provides a centralized resource of national and local public health training opportunities as well as a mechanism to identify and track training of Connecticut's public health workforce. There are currently over 15,000 user accounts and during 2009 over 240 training sessions were posted on the system.

Health Information Systems and Reporting Section

The Health Information and Reporting section's mission is to inform the public and to conduct community health assessment, planning, and policy development through: collection of health data and the enhancement of statewide registries for births, deaths and marriages in Connecticut; analysis and interpretation of vital statistics, adult and youth health surveys, hospital discharge and hospital quality of care data; and, monitoring trends and disparities in vital statistics and hospitalization of Connecticut residents; surveillance of cardiovascular disease and diabetes; and monitoring of health professional shortage areas.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Maintains the statewide registry for births, deaths, marriages and civil unions
- Provides vital record data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics as part of the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program
- Maintains the state paternity registry and collaborates with the Department of Social Services and obstetric hospitals to encourage unwed couples to establish paternity
- Processes all adoptions for Connecticut-born children, foreign-born children adopted by Connecticut residents, and adoptions finalized in Connecticut
- Analyzes and reports on vital statistics, hospital discharge, and hospital quality of care data
- Collects medical and demographic data for morbidity and mortality research, public health planning, and the annual registration report
- Manages all federal and state reporting for the Preventive Health and Health Services block grant
- Administers the national Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey
- Administers the Connecticut School Health Survey
- Manages the Biomedical Research Program
- Calculates, certifies, and publishes the annual population estimates of 169 Connecticut municipalities for years between the decennial U.S. census enumerations
- Provides surveillance of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes
- Improves the infrastructure for data and surveillance related to health disparities

Connecticut Tumor Registry and Epidemiological Research Section

The Connecticut Tumor Registry is a population-based resource for examining cancer incidence and trends in Connecticut. The registry's electronic database of over 820,000 cancers includes all reported tumors diagnosed in Connecticut residents from 1935 through 2008, as well as treatment, follow-up and survival data. All hospitals and private pathology laboratories in Connecticut are required by law to report cancer cases to the registry. State confidentiality laws restrict access to the identities of all patients reported to the registry. The registry is also one of only 10 statewide, federally funded Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) sites in the country, selected by the National Cancer Institute for their ability to manage a cancer reporting system. SEER data are believed to be generally representative of cancer rates for the entire United States.

A major initiative of the section is to enhance the research capacity of the tumor registry by increasing collaboration between university and other health care researchers and DPH cancer epidemiologists. The unit also provides epidemiologic support to ongoing investigations that involve collaboration between multiple agencies.

Public Health Initiatives Branch

The Public Health Initiatives Branch improves and protects the health of Connecticut's residents through promotion of primary and preventative health care using a life course approach; monitors trends to improve the needs of the maternal and child health population; provides education to individuals and target population groups to make choices in diet, exercise and personal protective measures that enhance health, promote wellness and reduce risk of injury and preventable disease, collects data to assess chronic and infectious disease and injury risk factors, and identifies and responds to emerging infections, conducts outbreak investigations and surveillance.

The branch consists of the following four sections:

1) AIDS and Chronic Diseases

- HIV/AIDS Prevention Program
- AIDS Health Care and Support Services Program
- HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Program
- Chronic Diseases Program
 - Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
 - Diabetes Prevention and Control
 - Hepatitis Prevention

2) Family Health

- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program
 - Medical Home Initiative
 - Early Hearing, Detection & Intervention
 - Sickle Cell Disease
- Primary Care and Prevention Programs
 - Community Health Centers
 - School Based Health Centers
 - Family Planning
 - Sexual Violence & Rape Prevention Education
 - Case Management for Pregnant Women
- Immunizations Program
- Registry & Program Support

3) Health Education, Management and Surveillance (HEMS)

- Women, Infant and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC)
- Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention Program
- Asthma Prevention Program
- Epidemiology
- Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program
- Injury Prevention Program
- Comprehensive Cancer Program
 - Breast & Cervical Cancer
 - WISEWOMAN
 - Colorectal

4) Infectious Diseases

- Emerging Infections Program
 - Foodborne Disease
- Epidemiology
 - Public Health Preparedness
 - Vectorborne and Zoonotic Diseases
- Healthcare Associated Infections
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program
- Tuberculosis Control and Prevention Program

Public Health Laboratory

The Public Health Laboratory supports the needs of all communities in the state by the analysis of human clinical specimens and environmental samples submitted by federal and state agencies, local health departments, clinical laboratories, the health care providers, utilities and environmental engineering firms. The laboratory provides over 2 million test results on approximately 250,000 specimens and samples it receives each year. Although the laboratory does not charge sister agencies or local health departments, the value of these testing services is over \$7 million per year. Analytical data are used to monitor for agents harmful to the public, identify the cause of outbreaks, and assure that control measures (i.e. vaccines, antibiotics, insect spraying) are effective. The laboratory is comprised of the following testing sections:

Biological Sciences – tests for infectious agents in humans, animals, food and water, provides reference testing in support of epidemiological surveillance and outbreak investigations. Laboratory services exclusively provided by the Public Health Laboratory in this section include testing for emerging infectious diseases, rabies testing, DNA fingerprinting of foodborne pathogens, identification of agents of bioterrorism, and testing of all Connecticut newborns for the presence of 40 inherited disorders that cause severe mental and/or physical illnesses.

Environmental Chemistry – tests for over 100 toxic chemical agents in public drinking water supplies and private wells; in rivers, lakes and streams; in wastewater, landfills, spills, soils and air; in consumer products and other materials where there is human exposure. This section provides analytical support by testing environmental samples collected for investigations involving elevated blood levels in children. This section also provides monitoring of the nuclear power industry and is part of the state’s nuclear response team and maintains preparedness to respond to radiation emergencies.

Biomonitoring – tests approximately 55,000 children each year for the presence of elevated lead from exposure to old paint, folk medicines or other environmental sources.

This section also tests for the presence of toxic chemicals in human clinical specimens and serves as the state’s Chemical Terrorism response laboratory in an event where the public is exposed to a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) or other toxic chemicals. Supports the Connecticut Poison Control Center and the department biomonitoring studies.

Regulatory Services Branch

The Regulatory Services Branch has regulatory oversight of the state’s drinking water systems, child day care facilities, youth camps and environmental services. Programs include licensure, investigation, and enforcement action against suppliers/providers that are in violation of the law or otherwise pose a risk to public health and safety. The branch also operates prevention programs focusing on health education. Technical assistance to licensed providers is a priority.

The branch consists of:

Community-Based Regulation Section

Licensing, technical assistance, and investigations of facilities, including:

- Child Day Care centers
- Group Day Care homes
- Family Day Care homes
- Youth camps

Environmental Health Section

The Environmental Health Section is comprised of ten programs, which are diverse in their scope, and oversight of both regulated and unregulated professions/entities. The section works closely with local health departments and a licensed workforce of practitioners to provide technical assistance, training, and risk assessment on emerging environmental health issues, assure regulatory activities are executed, and license environmental health practitioners.

- Asbestos Program
- Environmental Engineering Program (On-Site Subsurface Sewage Systems, Mausoleums, Crematories, Private Burial Grounds)
- Environmental Laboratory Certification Program
- Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program
- Environmental Practitioner Licensure Unit
- Food Protection Program
- Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program
- Private Wells Program
- Radon Program
- Recreation Program
 - Bathing areas
 - Beaches
 - Public pools
 - Family campgrounds

Drinking Water Section

The Drinking Water Section (DWS) is responsible for the administration of state and federal drinking water regulations and is dedicated to assuring the purity and adequacy of our State's public drinking water sources. The Drinking Water Section provides technical assistance, education and regulatory enforcement to over 2,600 public drinking water systems, which provide public drinking water to approximately 2.7 million persons on a daily basis. The section maintains a continuing commitment to drinking water treatment and monitoring, drinking water source protection, and consumer education in order to assure and maintain the high standard of drinking water Connecticut's residents have come to expect and enjoy.

The section is comprised of seven functional units, which include:

Planning Unit

Potable water supply options for contaminated areas
 Water Planning Council
 Water Supply Plan Process & review
 Water Utility Coordinating Committee
 DEP Consumptive Diversion Permit Review
 Water conservation, water use restrictions, & drought planning
 Sale of excess water
 Source Abandonment
 Certificate Phase 1A feasible interconnection evaluation
 Reservoir capacity monitoring
 Proposed Legislation review

Source Water Protection Unit

C&D Plan reviews
 DWQMP development
 Stormwater Discharge permitting

CEPA, CEQ, CSC and DOT project reviews
SWP Training, workshops, presentations, stakeholders meetings
DEP Diversion Permit review (Source Water Protection)
Well Site, CPCN Phase 1A permitting
Recreational Land Use permitting
Pesticide permits
Watershed surveys
Spill/Bypass Response
Water Company Land permitting
Class III land WCL verification

Compliance Regions (North & South)

Sanitary Surveys (Routine & Priority)
Sanitary Survey Response Compliance
Project Reviews & DWSRF/STEAP/STAG Technical Reviews
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Phase 1B and 2
General Technical Assistance to Public Water Systems/Consumers
Consumer Complaints
Emergency Response
Cross Connection Control
GWUDI reviews
Guidelines & Technical Standards

Enforcement and Certification Unit

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Violation letters
Drinking Water Standard Exceedance Violation letters
Action Level Exceedance letters and follow-up requirements
Monitoring and Reporting Violation letters
Treatment Log Compliance
Public Notification Rule Compliance
Consumer Confidence Reports
Formal Enforcement Actions and Tracking
Attorney General Referrals
Significant Non-Complier (SNC) response
Certification of Backflow Personnel
Certification of Operators
Processing Operator Disciplinary Actions
System Operator Compliance
Technical Assistance to Operators
WTP Classification Form reviews
Investigations

Information Systems Unit

Data Systems Management (SDWIS, ESS, GIS, DWSCAD)
Rule Implementation and Compliance Determination
Monitoring Requirements and Schedules

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
Data Quality Control and Assurance
Water System Inventory Maintenance
Water System Contact Information
Geographic Information Systems
CT and EPA Reporting Requirements
Document Management and Archiving (Laserfiche)
Website Design and Maintenance
Bottled Water Review and Approval
Fluoridation
Workstation Support
Annual PWS Violations Report

Capacity Development Unit

Capacity Development
Training
Contracts
Grants and Workplans
Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund
Small Town Economic Assistance Program
State and Tribal Grant Program
Security/Emergency Response Coordination
Outreach and Education
Regulations Coordination
FOI Request Coordination
Records Retention

Research and Development

The Office of Research and Development (ORD) oversees the management of cross branch initiatives to drive strategic priorities of the Department of Public Health. Programs are conceptualized, resourced and implemented by bringing together internal and external subject matter experts under the direction of the ORD. Effectiveness is measured by the timeliness of program start-up, compliance with statutory mandates, and the sustainability of programs and initiatives within the agency. The current programmatic areas of focus and administrative responsibility include:

- Connecticut Stem Cell Research Program
- Connecticut Umbilical Cord Blood Banking Program
- Connecticut Biobank Feasibility Study
- Genomics and Public Health
- Legal and Ethical Aspects of Public Health Preparedness
- Health Information Exchange

Improvements/Achievements 2009-10

Government Efficiency and Performance

- Streamlined the process for the initial licensing of child day care centers and group day care homes as well as the renewal of licenses for family day care home providers, child day care centers, and group day care homes by reducing the documentation required prior to initial licensure and licensure renewal.
- In collaboration with the Departments of Social Services and Education, the department adopted a common standard for determining 12 credits in early childhood education or child development as part of the requirements for head teachers and educational consultants.
- Processed and reviewed over 418,000 water quality analytical results to evaluate the regulatory compliance status for all public water systems in Connecticut
- Awarded the prestigious data reliability certificate from federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Administered approximately \$19.5 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to provide low interest loans with partial subsidization for Connecticut drinking water infrastructure projects. The department's Drinking Water Section reviewed and processed 165 project eligibility applications from Connecticut public water systems seeking approximately \$320 million in infrastructure funding. Twelve (12) of these projects received ARRA funding and were able to successfully execute construction contracts before the ARRA deadline. These projects, some of which have been completed, will resolve public health problems and infrastructure deficiencies in many areas of Connecticut by improving the purity and adequacy of public drinking water.
- In cooperation with all other Connecticut human service agencies the department implemented standardized content and format to be used for Human Service Requests for Proposal. The standardization is intended to eliminate contractor confusion when applying for funding from multiple agencies and allow reuse of application information already compiled.
- The department continues to work with elected officials in communities with part-time public health departments to review options for providing full-time public health services to their communities.
- The department designated a Chief Accountability Officer to coordinate reporting and assure transparency for the 13 public health projects funded under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Created DPH Recovery website, contributed to Governor's Recovery website and information materials, submitted quarterly reports to the US Office of Management and Budget.
- Completed a year-long planning process with external advisory committee to publish the "Connecticut Health Information Technology Plan." The plan provides a roadmap to transform the state healthcare information sharing network. It includes recommendations on the implementation of health IT and information exchange in the state, descriptions of current regional and statewide approaches to using health information exchange, and an overview of the technical standards for health IT established by the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology.

- Completed design and construction for a Connecticut Electronic Death Registry System to provide immediate death reporting from hospitals, funeral directors, and medical examiners. This electronic system replaces the current manual system that allows up to 3 months for in-state reporting and 1 year for out-of-state deaths of Connecticut residents.
- The Public Health Laboratory is now in the construction phase; the project is currently on schedule and under budget.
- Over half of the more than 300 tests performed by the laboratory are in production on the new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), with the remaining tests scheduled to go into production by the end of the current calendar year.

Public Health Preparedness

- In response to the outbreak of the H1N1 influenza virus, the department's Community Based Regulation section offered nine regional training forums on Preventing Infectious Diseases in a Child Care Setting to 533 child care providers and health consultants throughout the state. Educating child day care and youth camp providers has also been provided through informational fact sheets, conference calls, and web site updates.
- Successfully updated the department's emergency communication and incident management systems, and other information systems to monitor diseases.
- Launched *Standards of Care: Providing Health Care during a Prolonged Public Health Emergency*, an initiative that provides an ethical framework for decision-making during lengthy public health emergencies. A draft document will be used as the framework for an ongoing discussion with health care providers and the public to determine how scarce resources will be allocated and standard practices will be modified during such emergencies.
- The department successfully implemented its pandemic influenza plan in response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic. Department actions focused on public education and strategies to vaccinate high risk groups and the general population.
- The department's Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program used multiple surveillance systems to track the influenza pandemic of 2009 and provide weekly updates on the impact of the pandemic to health care providers and state and local policy makers.
- Secured over \$9.3 million in federal funds for public health emergency preparedness and response efforts in Connecticut. Held and participated in 8 drills and exercises for DPH and partners, including the Continuity of Operations Plan exercise.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

- The department's Asthma Program successfully expanded the "Putting On AIRS" (Asthma Indoor Risk Strategies Program) statewide using a regional approach. AIRS is an in-home asthma education and environmental assessment visitation program designed to increase asthma self-management skills and reduce emergency room and hospitalization utilization among the most disparate populations with the highest rates of utilization.
- The department implemented a colorectal cancer control initiative utilizing federal funds. The initiative works to increase population level screening among all persons aged 50

and older, and to reduce health disparities in colorectal cancer screening, incidence and mortality.

- The department launched a campaign to promote tobacco use prevention and cessation. The youth prevention component included a video contest that received 75 entries from Connecticut residents 13-24 years old and the winners were aired in a statewide media campaign.
- The department's Nutrition Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention Program is working with the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs to promote increased physical activity by focusing on policy changes that improve access; providing subsidized pricing for participation in recreational programs; and encouraging social support and services leading to increased use of community-based organizations.
- The Connecticut Women Infants and Children Program implemented the United States Department of Agriculture's new federal Food Package Rule in October 2009. Through negotiated rebate contracts with infant food providers, significant market research on food products costs, and careful planning, the program successfully made these changes to improve the diets of WIC clients at a 4% savings in overall food costs per participant. The total savings in food costs for fiscal year 2010 was \$1.2 million over the prior year, when adjusted for enrollment in the WIC program.
- In 2009, cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea decreased by 3% and 9% respectively compared to 2008. In response to an increase in early syphilis cases, DPH field staff are aggressively attempting to interview each person with early syphilis.
- During 2005-2009, the average annual incidence of TB in Connecticut was 97 cases which represented a 10.7% decline from the average annual incidence of 109 cases per year for the previous five year period, 2000-2004. Compared to the average national TB incidence of 4.3/100,000 during the same period, Connecticut's average annual incidence was 2.8/100,000.
- The Environmental Health Tracking Portal was launched this year. The portal provides health, exposure, environmental hazard data and information that can be used by communities to improve their health.
- Significant improvements were made to the department's Mortality Statistics website. The site includes enhanced documentation and content. The site provides a wide range of single and multi-year statistics useful for assessing trends and health disparities in overall and premature mortality.
- The department completed the fifth year of Biomedical Research awards with eight researchers funded a total of \$2,327,305 in 2010.

Health Care Quality and Regulatory Standards

- The department produced the report *Hospital Performance Comparisons, 2006: A Report on Quality of Care in Connecticut Hospitals* in an ongoing effort to provide standardized, useful, and valid information to the public about hospital quality of care and to promote quality improvement efforts within hospitals.
- Published *Report to the General Assembly: An Act Creating a Program for Quality in Health Care, Adverse Events, October 2007*.
- Licensed physicians, dentists and nurses in Connecticut can now renew their professional licenses online through the Department of Public Health's eLicense system, another

enhancement of the user-friendly system that already allows the public to verify whether a doctor has been disciplined. The new system will also allow the DPH to collect valuable work force data that is currently unavailable but needed to identify and address health care work force shortage issues

- The Environmental Health Section spearheaded an agency wide Healthy Homes Initiative that resulted in training for environmental practitioners and nurses and a strategic plan for the implementation of a statewide plan
- The department's Office of Health Care Access worked successfully to pass legislation that, effective October 1st, 2010, reforms the Certificate of Need (CON) process to be more responsive to the changes in the health care delivery system that will take place with health care reform, focusing less on volume-driven behavior and more on value-driven outcomes. Major policy shifts of the new CON law include the elimination of all capital expenditure thresholds, the removal of the "additional function or service" requirement and the elimination of CONs for "termination of services." This reform will reduce the number of CON applications and will expedite the review process.
- The department's Office of Health Care Access produced a number of utilization and financial reports aimed at providing policymakers and the public with detailed analyses of health care trends: *Annual Report on the Financial Status of Connecticut's Short Term Acute Care Hospitals for Fiscal Year 2008*; *Preventable Hospitalizations and Associated Costs in Connecticut, 2007*; *Preventable Hospitalizations in Connecticut: A Current Assessment of Access to Community Health Services 2004 - 2008*; *Connecticut Acute Care Hospital Uncompensated Care Trends (Fiscal Years 2006-2008)*; *Health Care Services in Connecticut -- Availability, Utilization and Access*.
- The department developed and produced the 2009 Quality in Health Care Report and the 2009 Adverse Events Report.