

Connecticut Healthy Homes Inter-Organizational Partners Meeting

Full Partners meeting

CT DOT Headquarters, Newington, CT

June 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Francesca Provenzano, Healthy Homes Program Coordinator and Workgroup 2 facilitator, called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Fran asked that everyone reintroduce themselves and describe their job titles and organizations so that all partners understand each other's role and function within the group. The agenda was reviewed and a brief update of the DPH internal work plan was presented. A draft version of the HH Strategic Plan had been previously circulated among focus group members for comment. A final version will be drafted after receiving feedback. Local Health Department (LHD) funding initiatives were briefly reviewed including DPH block grants with Milford HD, UNCAS HD, Torrington Area HD, and Quinnipiac HD. These LHDs will be performing HH inspections as part of their required tasks utilizing their own customized assessment tool. The DPH is currently waiting to hear on the status of the HH grant application with CDC. Awards should be announced in late June or early July. Eileen Boulay discussed the "Providers Consensus Statement". A meeting with legislators Harp and Cook is pending. Elements include Medicaid restructuring, best practices for asthma, and reimbursement for asthma self-management. Major associations are in support thus far.

Work Group Reports:

1. Public Awareness

Joan Simpson reported on the activities of the HH Public Awareness Group. Joan stated that the group discussed the comments from the last partner's meeting re: public awareness goal in the strategic plan. They reordered strategies 2 & 3, added social media to the "CORE" educational package and a PR intern as an additional partner. The new HH poster, in English and Spanish, was unveiled. The Lead Program intern will distribute the 300 copies to libraries, community health centers, town halls, etc.. Edith Pestana suggested that the Hispanic Council receive a poster. The poster will be the basis for a one page fact sheet requested by the DSS weatherization program that the group will draft. Both will be available electronically. The workgroup has completed the identification of HH activities that each workgroup member can incorporate into their existing activities and are in the process of identifying, categorizing, and prioritizing target audiences.

2. Workforce Development

Francesca provided an overview of recent activities of the HH Workforce Development Group. A 2 day HH training session was recently held May 24th-25th and attended by fifty code enforcement officials, consultants, non-profits, and contractors. It is hoped that a future training be held and possibly sponsored by DECD depending on their budget. Webinars were conducted on Mold and Moisture and

Bedbugs. These can be viewed on CT Train since they are archived. A third webinar is pending on Radon. New topics for future webinars are needed on asthma, tobacco, and energy efficiency.

Judith Dicine discussed the CCAB and emphasized that bedbugs had become a major issue. It was suggested that CCAB (Gail Ridge?) may want to partner with the HH group.

3. Policies, Guidelines, Practices

Mark discussed the highlights of the HH Policies, Guidelines, Practices groups' recent May 3rd working meeting. At the meeting, worksheets were distributed to 8 sub-committees to draft "issues vs. best practices" for each of the 7 core HH principles plus energy efficiency. The results were compiled into charts to assist in identifying and defining components associated with HH.

Break Out Sessions:

1. Public Awareness Workgroup #1

Workgroup members will receive training in "Go To Meeting" to learn how to moderate future web trainings coordinated by Kathi Traugh at Yale. The group will continue to identify partners that can fund Healthy Home trainings. Fran Provenzano gave an update on the meeting with DSS Weatherization and Energy Audit programs for possible collaboration with Healthy Homes. DSS is reticent to combine Healthy Homes principles into their current framework.

2. Workforce Development Awareness Work Group #2

The group discussed the next steps, one of which is developing some primary resources for each of the 7 HH principles. Also discussed was enhancing the current DPH HH website, refining the key messages, and adapting the poster materials to different formats, literacy levels and audiences.

3. Policies, Guidelines, Practices Work Group #3

The work sheets were reviewed and all felt that it was a good start. No. 6 Contaminants worksheet needed to be expanded and completed. Judith Dicine headed the discussion on what the next steps were with regard to the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). The group reached consensus that it be presented to DPH Commissioner Dr. Mullen and the OPS Commissioner to get their buy-in and support. Lisa Humble presented a summary on the previous effort to adopt the IPMC several years ago. At that time the cost to initially implement was \$1.5M. This included staffing, framework, structure, etc. but then the financial crisis occurred. OPS may be combined with other agencies at present due to the reorganization. Ron Kraatz brought up a question on whether it should be health or housing officials to eventually enforce hh related codes. Some discussion ensued and most thought that both housing and health would have to work together. Marco Palmieri put together a draft list of existing statutes that may have applicability to HH issues that Judith will review. The group was reinstructed to "read the IPMC document and 2008 supplement" and compare to the core HH principles to ensure that everything is captured. Then, at the next workgroup 3 meeting July 5th, possible revisions to the IPMC can be

suggested. If an attempt is made to adopt IPMC, then it must be on an agency (OPS, DPH?) list of legislative proposals in August.

Upcoming Meetings/Activities:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next full partners meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 15th 1-3:30 PM at the DOT in Newington.

The upcoming Workgroup #3 meeting will be held July 5th, 1-3:30 PM at the LAMPP office, 232 Pitkin Street in East Hartford.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Aschenbach