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# Bringing the Pieces Together: Emergency Preparedness & Vulnerable Populations

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*Barbara Dingfelder, RN, BSN, MPH, PHCNS-BC,  
CHES*

*Nurse Consultant & Project Coordinator  
Local Health Administration Branch*

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Public Health Nursing 2010

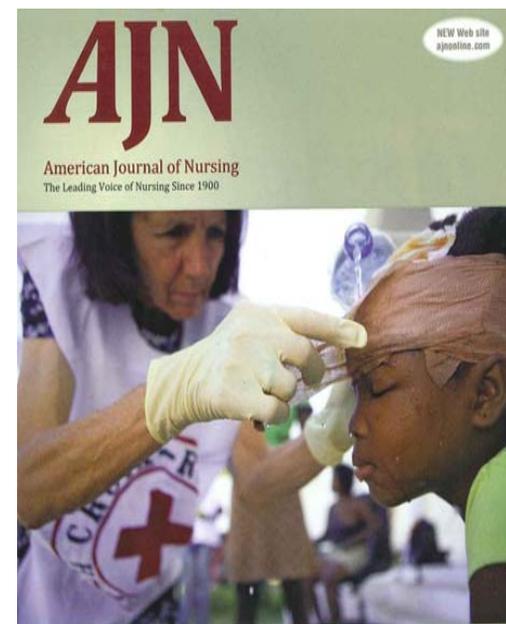
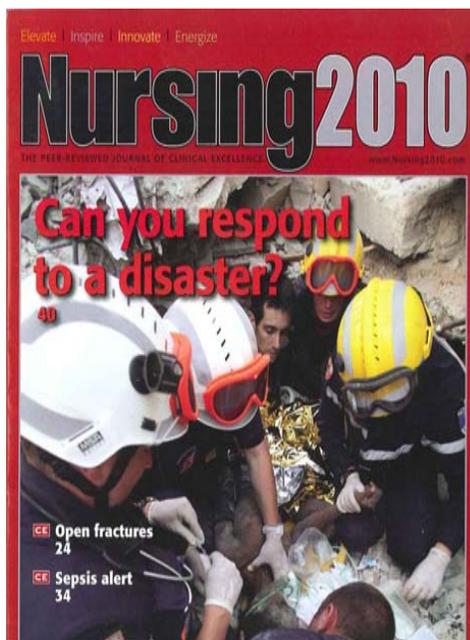


# Nursing Care Across Settings and Situations

American Journal of  
**PUBLIC  
HEALTH**

April 2010

Using Electronic Medical Record Data to Drive Decisions | Prescription for a Planet | Health Impact Pyramid | Selection Effects in Community Dissemination of Prevention Programs | Do Work Permits Protect Youth Workers From Illegal Employment? | Physical Activity Resources and Changes in Walking | HEALTHIER AMERICA: ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME | Financial Strain and Smoking Cessation | How Effective Is an HIV/STD Intervention When Implemented by Community-Based Organizations?



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# Learning Objectives

- Describe three functions of public health in relation to emergency preparedness
- Discuss a collaborative effort related to emergency response planning focused on provisions for vulnerable populations who are not residing in institutional care settings (i.e., long term care and correctional facilities)
- Describe diverse roles of public health nurses related to emergency response and preparedness

# Consider Community Residents' Capacity and Challenges During Emergencies



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# Process Overview

- Discuss context and scope of special project
- Introduce an Inter-Agency Workgroup
- Review a Special Project's Activities
- Opportunity for Questions and Answers

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# Guidance and Responsibility

## Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 368a, Section 19a-7

*“The DPH shall be the lead agency for public health planning and shall assist communities in the development of collaborative health planning activities which address public health issues on a regional basis or which respond to public health needs having state-wide significance.”*

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# Public Health & Emergency Preparedness

## Core functions

- 1) Assessment, 2) Policy Development, and 3) Assurance  
*... prevent, promote, and protect ... the health of CT's residents*

## Implications

- Integrated and coordinated response of federal, state, regional, and local agencies
- Protection of lives and properties
- Continued operations and services as normally and effectively as possible in the event of a public health emergency



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# Public Health Partners

- Governmental agencies (Federal, State and Local)
- Emergency response coordinators, planners, and responders
- Health care providers
- Service providers
- Community based organizations
- Community constituents



# Broad Considerations



*DPH's mission is to protect the health and safety of the people of Connecticut and actively work to prevent disease and promote wellness through education and programs.*

# Roles of Public Health Nurses & Emergency Preparedness



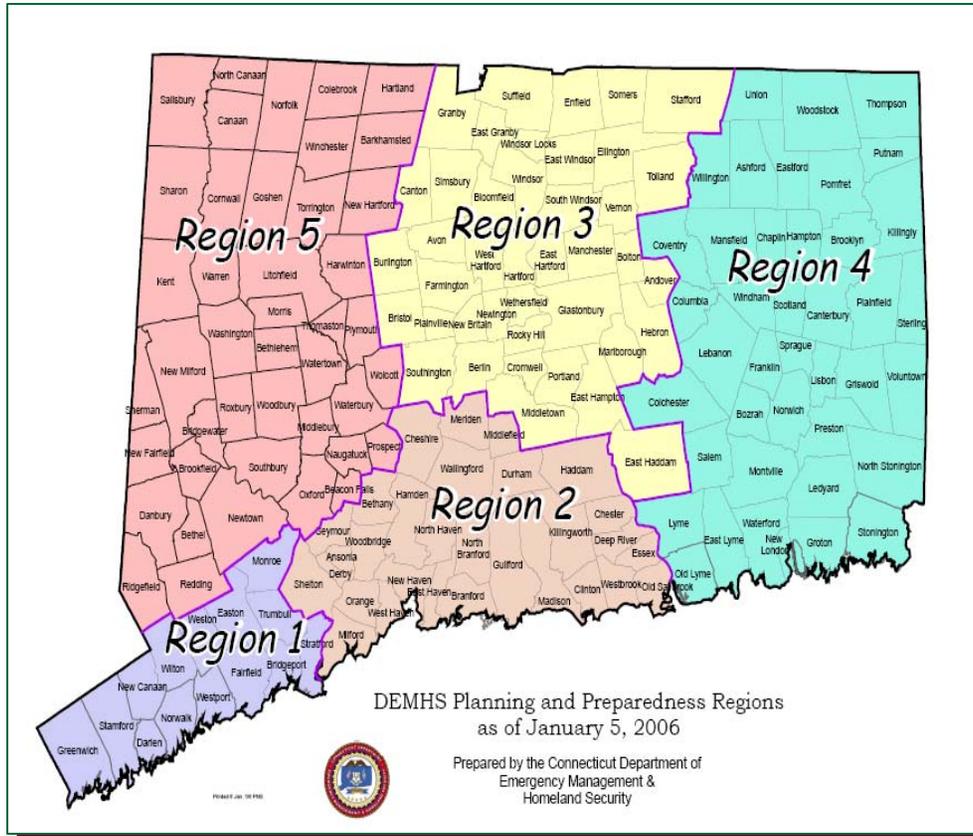
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# Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

## Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 517, Section 28-1a

*“... shall have the responsibility for providing a coordinated, integrated program for state-wide emergency management and homeland security.”*

# Collaborations and Partnerships



- DEMHS Emergency Response Regional Coordinators
- Regional Emergency Planning Teams (REPTs)
- Emergency Support Function (ESF) Workgroups
  - Discipline-oriented regional workgroups
  - Engaging Other Essential Stakeholder Groups

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## Context for Initiative

- Governor's Directive (2005)
  - Universal Access Guidance (2007)
  - Inter-Agency Emergency Supportive Care Shelter Workgroup
  
- Awarded competitive grant funds from CDC-RFA-TP08-802
  - Stand-alone funding through supplemental appropriations for awardees of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement AA154
  - Option 6 – Addressing Vulnerabilities in Populations
  - One Year Grant Period starting September 30, 2008 extended to June 30, 2010

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# People with functional considerations include those who ...

- Need
  - Assistance with activities of self-care
  - Mobility
  - Chronic home medical care
  - Supervision
  
- Experience difficulty
  - Maintaining independence
  - Communicating and processing information
  
- Are not residing in an institutional setting

# Achieving Coordinated, Standardized Services for Provisions for Populations At-Risk to Negative Consequences of Large Scale Incidents

## Goals:

Strengthen and sustain health and emergency response capacity  
Build community resilience



## Strategic Objectives

Develop conceptual, inter-connected response plans through inter-agency collaborations (government, public and private entities)

Develop State guidance materials defining expectations and identifying resources

Situational awareness and integrated systems (e.g., communications, data exchange, activation)

Develop community response plans, exercise, train, and refine plans (NEXT STEPS)



## Operations Capabilities

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# **Inter-Agency Emergency Supportive Care Shelter Workgroup Members' Affiliations:**

American Red Cross

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee

Commission on Aging

Connecticut Association of Home Health Services

Connecticut Community Care, Inc.

Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Connecticut Department of Public Health (convener)

Connecticut Department of Social Services

Hartford Hospital

Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

Regional Emergency Planners

Yale-New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

Yale Office of Public Health Preparedness

Local Health Partners & Consumer Population

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# Needs Assessment

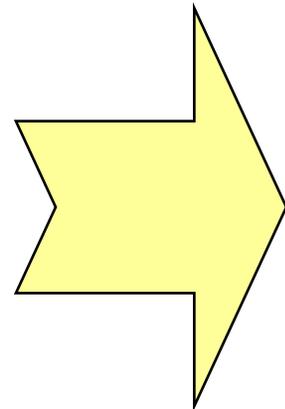
- Data
- Terminology
- Common Definitions
- Defining Use and Scope
- Specifications
- Approvals



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# Emergency Support Functions (ESF)

- **ESF 1: Transportation**
- **ESF 2: Communications**
- **ESF 3: Public Works**
- **ESF 4: Firefighting**
- **ESF 5: Emergency Management**
- **ESF 6: Mass Care & Sheltering** .....
- **ESF 7: Resource Support**
- **ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services** ...
- **ESF 9: Urban Search & Rescue**
- **ESF 10: Oil & Hazardous Waste**
- **ESF 11: Agriculture & Natural Resources**
- **ESF 12: Energy**
- **ESF 13: Public Safety & Security**
- **ESF 14: Long Term Community Recovery & Mitigation**



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## ESF 6: Mass Care & Sheltering

- Focus is on 'Wellness Care' in congregate emergency shelters
- Overlapping jurisdiction responsibility
  - Local Emergency Managers (i.e., municipalities)
  - American Red Cross
- ***Universal Access Shelter Recommendations (2007)***
- For individuals that can be maintained independently or those who have available assistance from family member(s) or other care assistant(s)

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## ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services

- *Emergency planning and response*
  - Surveillance and coordination of the public health system's response efforts
  - Continuum of medical care for ill population(s)
    - Maintain services for acute and long term care
    - Considerations for increased surge of patients (e.g., those with acute illness or injury) and building capacity to meet needs
    - Alternate care facilities to provide medical services for displaced ill patients during an emergency or natural disaster that results in hospital(s) needing to be shut down or for a public health emergency such as Pandemic Influenza

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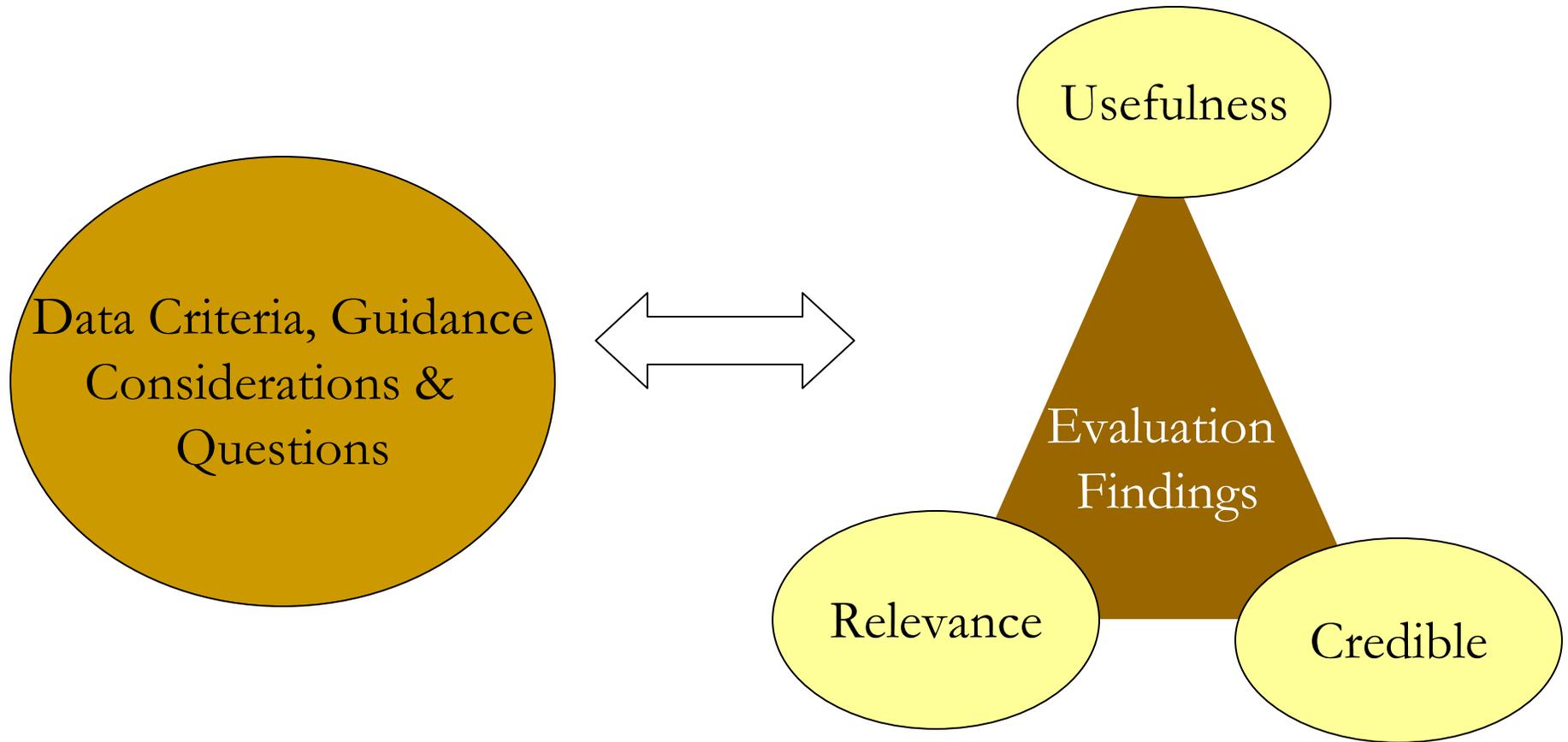
# Health Data

- Information, recorded in any form or medium, that relates to:
  - Health status of individuals
  - Determinants of health and health hazards
  - Availability of health resources and services, or the use and cost of such resources and services.

*Source: Matthew Cartter, MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist  
Presentation November 18, 2008 for CAPHN*

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# Relationship Between Criterion



Every effort shall be made to limit the disclosure of identifiable health data to the minimal amount necessary to accomplish the public health purpose.

*Source: Matthew Cartter, MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist  
Presentation November 2008 for CAPHN*

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# Project's Database and Guidance Materials



- Mapping fields
- Integration of multiple sources of data
- Review
- Refinements
- More Refinements
- Maintenance

# Data Sources Integrated

- Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS)
  - Centers of Medicaid and Medicare Services
  - A set of data items designed to enable systematic comparative measurement of home health care patient outcomes at two points in time.
- Department of Developmental Services
- Title V - Children and Youth with Special Needs Program

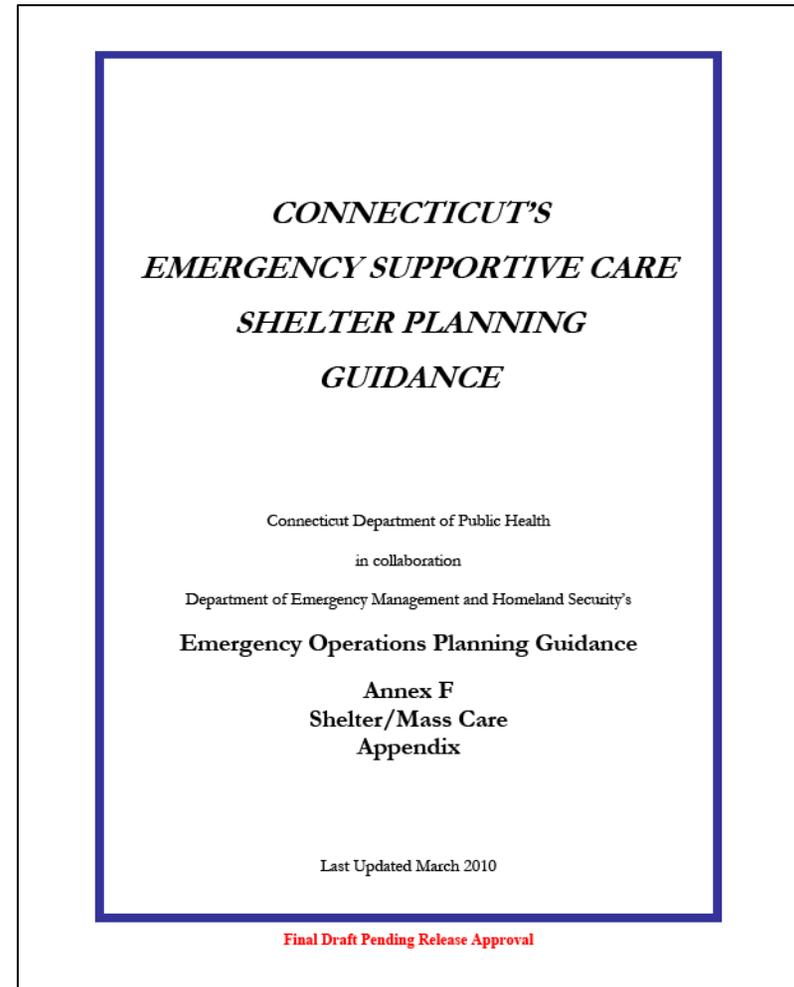
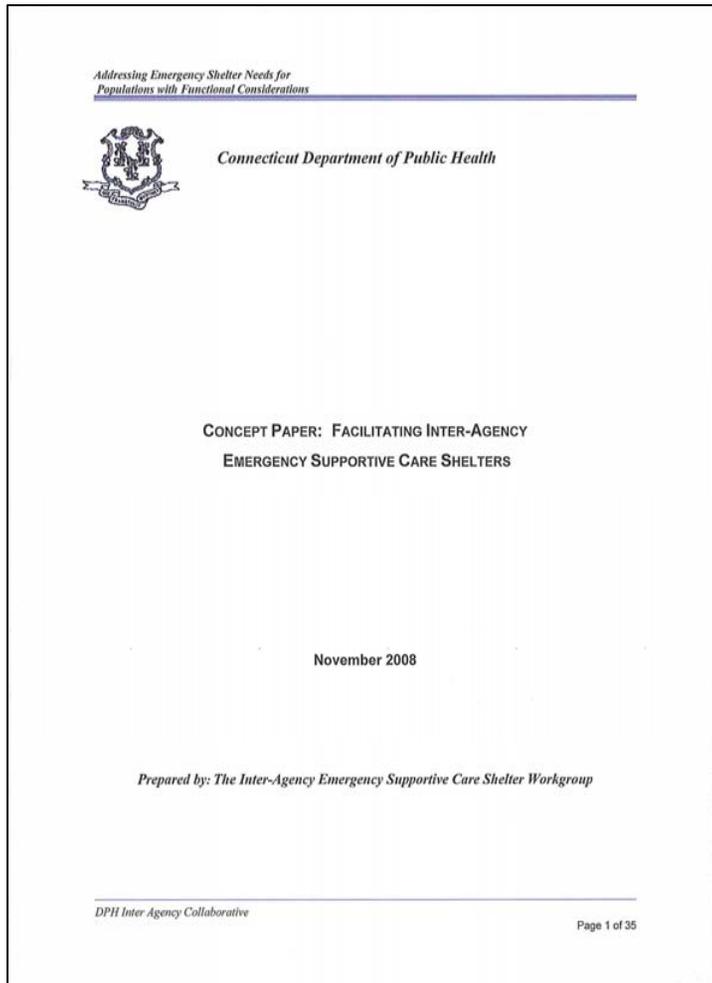
Town ID	Town Name	Date	Able to bathe & May need help	Requires hand.	Eats with remil. cutting up food	Requires hand.	R
1	Andover	Dec-09	0	0	0	0	1
2	Ansonia	Dec-09	21	21	21	0	1
3	Ashford	Dec-09	0	0	0	0	1
4	Avon	Dec-09	14	10	14	0	1
5	Barkhamsted	Dec-09	0	0	0	0	1
6	Beacon Falls	Dec-09	0	0	0	0	1
7	Berlin	Dec-09	11	19	14	0	1
8	Bethany	Dec-09	16	0	16	0	1
9	Bethel	Dec-09	16	20	23	0	1
10	Bethlehem	Dec-09	0	0	0	0	1
11	Bloomfield	Dec-09	39	53	52	0	1

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# DPH's Emergency Communication System

- Health Alert Network (HAN)
- Transition to Local Health Management System (LHMS)
  - Web-based data gathering tool to obtain info from LHDs
  - Secure network
  - Users must be authorized access
- WebEOC
  - An incident mgmt system that shares info between public health partners during incident
  - Two-way communication functionality
  - Adjunct to DEMHS WebEOC

# Guidance & Framework



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# Emergency Supportive Care Shelter Guidance Content Basis

- Federal Mandates and Guidance
- Connecticut General Statutes
- Literature Review
  - Lessons Learned & After Action Reports
  - Other States' Guidance
  - Peer Reviewed Journals
- *Workgroup and Stakeholder Groups' Input*

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# Scope of Emergency Shelter Services

- Assistance with activities of daily living (i.e., eating, dressing, transferring, toileting, bathing, positioning, mobility)
- Limited supportive basic nursing care
- Provisions of basic personal care supplies
- Environmental considerations



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# Project's Progress To Date



- **Fostered situational awareness**
  - ❑ Continuous data orientation loop
  - ❑ Timeliness of communication
  - ❑ Two way utility
  - ❑ Integrated for inter-agency communication
- **Developed Guidance Materials**
  - ❑ Emergency Supportive Care Shelters
  - ❑ Standards of Care in Prolonged Emergencies
- **Education – Buy-In**

# Recap

## Public Health Nursing Standards of Practice

- Assess
- Population Diagnosis and Priorities
- Outcome Identification
- Planning
- Implementation
  - Health Educator
  - Collaborator
  - Coordinator
- Evaluation

## Standards of Professional Performance

- Collegiality and Professional Relationships
- Resource Utilization
- Leadership
- Advocacy



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## In Conclusion

*“Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises.”*

Demosthenes



*“Chances favor the prepared mind.”*

Essays by Harlan Ellison

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# Thank you!



*Barbara Dingfelder, RN, BSN, MPH, PHCNS-BC, CHES*  
*Nurse Consultant & Project Coordinator*  
*Connecticut Department of Public Health*  
*Local Health Administration Branch*  
*860.509-7660*  
*via e-mail at: [barbara.dingfelder@ct.gov](mailto:barbara.dingfelder@ct.gov)*

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