



# **DPH**

## **Nursing Student Practicum**

**UConn**

**September 9, 2008 – October 28, 2008**

**University of Hartford**

**November 1, 2008 – May 5, 2009**



# DPH Student Nurse Practicum

## The Players:

- **University of Connecticut - undergraduates**
- **University of Hartford- Master's Program**
- **DPH Staff Development**
- **DPH staff from across the agency**
- **Instructors from UCONN and U of H**
- **Local Health Department nurses**
- **Community partners**



# **UConn Student Nurse in the Public Health Nurse Setting**

## **Project Description:**

- **A beginning clinical practicum covering sub-acute and chronic health issues**
- **Three-week experience**
- **CT DPH general understanding**
- **Role of the PHN**

**Observe and actively participate in the Asthma and Injury Prevention Program under the guidance of their assigned preceptor.**



# Initial Practicum Plan

- **Asthma Control Program**
- **Injury Prevention Program**
- **Immunization Program's**  
**Vote and Vax Program**



# The Approach

## Overview of the mission, goals and objectives of the Asthma Control and Injury Prevention Programs

- Statewide Plans
- Surveillance and role of the epidemiologist
- Tools, educational materials and resources
- Specific and general audiences
- Best Practice standards

### VOPHN

- Core Competencies
- Community Assessment Guide



# Beyond Asthma and Injury

- Chronic diseases
- Regulatory issues
- DPH Workforce & Professional Development
- VOPHN
- CAPHN
- Local Health Administration



# The Bigger Picture

**A broader view needed to meet course description goals**

## **Chronic Disease Programs:**

- Cardiovascular and Stroke Disease Prevention
- Diabetes Program
- Comprehensive Cancer
- Tobacco Cessation

## **Regulatory Programs:**

- Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- Local Health Administration



# Educational Trainings

- Health Screening Adolescents  
in Clinical Practice
- Yale – Train-the-Trainer Fall Prevention
- What is Public Health video:  
<http://www.thisispublichealth.org/>



# Meetings

- Asthma Program overview
- Injury Community Planning Group
- Asthma Statewide Plan revision
- LHD visit to a flu clinic
- LHD nursing perspective



# What we learned

## Undergraduate level

### **Undergraduate:**

- **Initial clinical experiences- observational role appropriate**
- **A broader view on chronic disease matched current and next clinical areas**
- **More helpful to attend trainings and meetings and become involved.**



# What we are learning

## Graduate level

### **Graduate:In process**

Project identified to assess an existing asthma intervention for a Hispanic urban population

Participation in our Statewide Asthma Plan revision meeting

VOPHN new LHD nurse training helped shape understanding of PHN role at state and local level

### **Next Step:**

Applying the Public Health Nursing Core Competencies to Asthma



# Topics Covered

- **Primary prevention role DPH fulfills**
- **Importance of “best practice” standards**
- **Statewide Plans**
- **Role of surveillance**
- **Outreach and education to diverse audience**
- **Evidenced-based interventions**
- **Advocacy and legislation**

# Take Away Message

## Challenges:

- **Scheduling of experiences**
- **Tailoring experiences to match the students' needs**
- **Evaluating what was presented and what they learned**





## **Take Away Message cont...**

- **Would I do it again? YES!**
- **Working across programs was a benefit**
- **BSN level students new to DPH and me**
- **It actually offered content they were studying and being tested on**
- **Highlighted what is happening to assist Patients outside of the hospital**
- **Encourage others to precept**



**THANK YOU!**

**Eileen Boulay, RN**

**Supervisor**

**Asthma Control**

**and**

**Injury Prevention Programs**

**Telephone: 860-509-7298**

**E-mail: [eileen.boulay@ct.gov](mailto:eileen.boulay@ct.gov)**