The Challenge and Passion: Nurses Working in Public Health

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What might happen from…

Building bridges and strengthening links …..

Virtual Office of Public Health Nurses
Acknowledgements

Special thanks for …

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• Deputy Commissioner Norma Gyle, RN, PhD
• Pamela Kilbey-Fox, MPH, Chief, Local Health Administration Branch
• Wendy Furniss, Chief, Health Care Services

Mentoring:

• Judith Sartucci, RN, MSN Public Health Nurse Consultant

Their contributions:

VOPHN Members

• Andrea Lombard, RN, MPH Epidemiologist
• Debbye Rosen, RN, Epidemiologist
• Kristin Sullivan, ---- Workforce Development Section Chief

Facilitators

You – for your interest and attendance!
Our Agenda

- Introduce a public health nursing initiative
  - Our Vision…
  - VOPHN: What it is; what it is not?
  - Possibilities …

- Background information

- Identify opportunities to work together
VOPHN’s Vision …

… is to strengthen the role of nurses working within DPH to enhance their capacity, responsiveness, and effectiveness to better serve CT’s residents.
Our charge?

*To strengthen connections across our agency by:*

- Recognition of roles and distinction of nurses’ contributions
- Enhancing peer support and information sharing
- Assuring a competent PHN workforce and network with foundation based on core public health competencies
- VOPHN and the CAPHN
  - Augments/complements efforts of the CAPHN
  - Provides a governmental entity focal point
  - Embraces roles of State for influence
  - Enhance/strengthen current networks
  - Supportive and participant in processes vs. duplicate efforts
- Partnerships and collaborations
  - Integration of practice based on core PHN competencies
  - Identifying and promoting practice based on “best practice”
Think of the possibilities?

**Opportunities for…**

- Building on strengthens and mutual core knowledge base
- Fostering increased networking and information sharing
- Peer support
- Facilitating pooling of resources
- Participation in decision making
- Recognition of contributions
- Experiencing a sense of accomplishment
- Collective response
The Tale of Three Nurses

Scenarios

Traditional Medical Model vs. Public / Community Health

Characteristics

✓ Fundamental designs
✓ Priorities
✓ Complexities
✓ Unique challenges
Nursing and Public Health

- Nurse’s roles?
- Distinctions?
- Why it’s important?
- Challenges?
- What the possibilities might be?
- What might be our charge?
- What’s available to help?
Case 1

Emergency Dept  57 y/o African American female w/ c/o chest pain, SOB, HR 124, BP 210/130, Arrhythmias, BS 350, A&Ox2, ambulatory w/ irreg gait, c/o shoulder pain, BLE edematous, wt 185.6 #

Med. Hx: HTN, Adult Onset Diabetes, Obese, s/p colon CA, repeat visits to ED & hosp admit (last within 3 wks)

Admit DX: R/O CVA, Uncontrolled HTN, Hyperglycemic

Complex health care system

Patient Focused
- Assessment
- Diagnosis
- Plan
- Interventions
- Evaluation for discharge planning

Professional identity linked with setting
Case 2

- LTC facility in community “X” w/ c/o increased incidence of falls and injury

- Facility
  - JACCHO Accredited Facility for 150 beds
  - Pop = 65:95 y/o mixed pop w/ diverse:
    - Med. DX and personal care needs
    - Ethnic and Racial identities
    - Skill levels

- Regulatory authority with complex health care and public health systems

- Population-based focused care
  - Assessment
  - Diagnosis
  - Plan
  - Interventions
  - Evaluation for safety of residential care setting

- Professional identity based on authority

PT?
Case 3

Community “Z”
- State and LHD notified about resident as D/C’d from local prison

Concern:
- 44 y/o W/Male immigrant positive for TB
  - Med Hx: ETOH
  - D/C Hx: Unknown
  - Rx: Status?

PT?

Mandates and complex health care / public health systems

Focused on individual, family, and implications for community
- Assessment
- Diagnosis
- Plan
- Interventions
- Evaluation for discharge planning

Professional identity based on scope of practice
Distinctions?

- **Scope of care …**
  - “Patient”
  - Settings
  - Interventions and priorities

- **Other thoughts to consider …**
  - Common - mutual core professional standards
  - Differences?
    - Academic preparations and experiences
    - Preparation and education for transitions
    - Varied support systems and regulations
  - Supporting resources:
    - Standards and regulatory responsibility
    - CT Public Health Code and Statutes
    - Scope and Standards of Practice Guidelines
    - Expected outcomes and affect to patient care and community
What is the link between nursing and public health?

- **Historical Perspective**
  - Florence Nightingale (1890’s)
  - Lillian Wald (1915)
  - Margaret Sanger (1910’s)

- **Public Health Systems**
  - Defining Core Functions
    - Assessment
    - Assurance
    - Policy Development
  - 10 Essential Services

- Implications for Nurses
- PHN Scope and Standards of Care
Public Health Nursing is …

“a specialty practice of nursing defined by scope of practice and not by setting.”

(Quad Council of Public Health Nurses, APHA - Nursing Section, 1999)

“the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences.”

(APHA, PHN Section 1996)
PHN Core Functions

Assessment
- Collecting, analyzing, and dissemination of info on both health and health related aspects of community or special groups.

Assurance
- Focuses on responsibilities of making certain that activities have been appropriately carried out to meet public health goals and plans.

Policy Development
- Policies developed, implemented, and evaluated in a comprehensive manner that incorporates both qualitative and quantitative scientific information and community values.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services

National Public Health Performance Standards
VOPHN’s mission …

… is to foster professional development through collaborations and include the nursing perspective in Connecticut’s public health systems through assessment, planning, policies, initiative, mobilization and evaluation.
Why it’s important?

✓ Nurses are the biggest workforce in health care systems and PH.

✓ The potential of PH practice to assure healthy communities depends to a great extent on the skills and abilities of our PH workforce.

✓ Initiative recognizes contributions of nurses working in PH systems, facilitates peer supported relationships, and promotes best practice based on core competencies.

✓ One of the primary indicators of organization performance is the capacity of system to perform.

✓ Timeliness of initiative; complements other national efforts
Founding Team

- Norma Gyle, Deputy Commissioner, DPH
- Pamela Kilbey-Fox, Chief, LHAB
- Barbara Dingfelder, Local PHN Liaison, LHAB
- Andrea Lombard, HIV/AIDS Surveillance
- Debbi Rosen, Adult Immunizations Program
- Kristin Sullivan, Section Chief, Workforce & Professional Development
- Wendy Furniss, Chief, Health Systems Branch
- Lora Shannon, Administrative Asst (LHAB)
- Eileen Boulay, Supervisor, Asthma and Injury Prevention Programs
- Mary Emerling, Office of Emergency Management
- Linda Bailey, Lead Program
- Linda Cooney, AIDS Health Care/Social Services
- Lisa Davis, Section Chief, Family Health
- Donna Heins, School and Adolescent Health Coordinator

We’re missing?
Hurdles?

- Ability to engage “team” for shared vision
- Culture of “change” (and challenges)
- Gaining agreement on expectations and priorities
- “Silo” phenomena
- Competing needs, demands, and limited resources
- Range of professional experience(s) and academic preparation
- Gaining stakeholders’ input
In conclusion…

Building foundations starts …. one step at a time.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Helen Keller
We need your input….

Questions to ponder…

- How can the VOPHN support you?
- Where do you see yourself in relation to the VOPHN?
Thank You!

For more information contact:

- American Nurses Association (ANA) via http://nursingworld.org/books
- American Public Health Association (APHA), PHN Section via http://www.apha.org/extranet/phn
- Association of Community Health Nursing Educators via http://www.achne.org
- Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nurses (ASTDN) via http://astdn.org
- Connecticut Association of Public Health Nurses via http://caphn.org
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