

The Challenge and Passion: Nurses Working in Public Health



Keeping Connecticut Healthy

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What might happen from...



Building bridges and strengthening links

*Virtual Office of Public
Health Nurses*



Acknowledgements

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- Pamela Kilbey-Fox, MPH,
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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 strengths 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
- PT?



- 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

■ PT?

■ 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





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

- Institute of Medicine 1988 – “The Future of Public Health”
- 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)

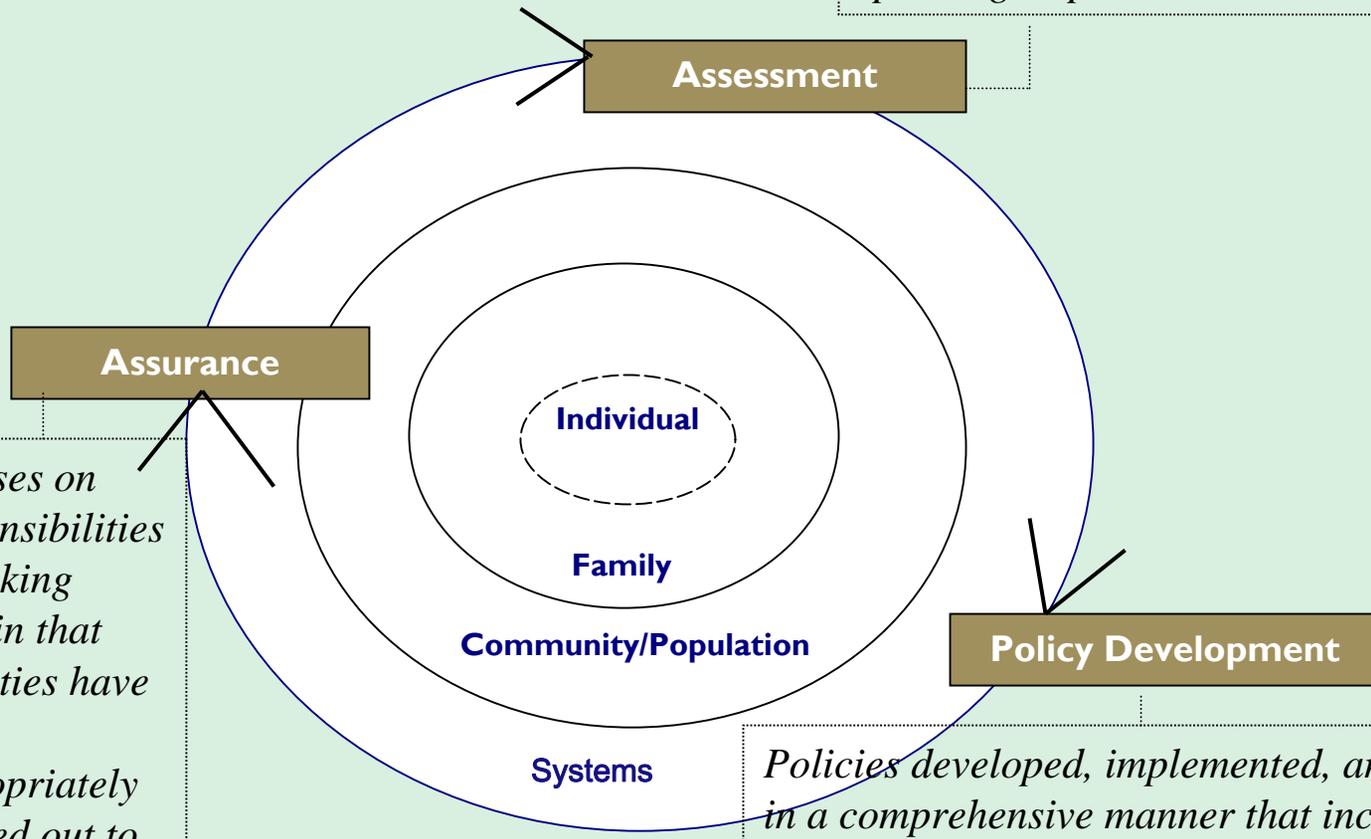
“the practice of promoting and protecting the health of **populations** using knowledge from **nursing, social, and public health** sciences.”

(APHA, PHN Section 1996)



PHN Core Functions

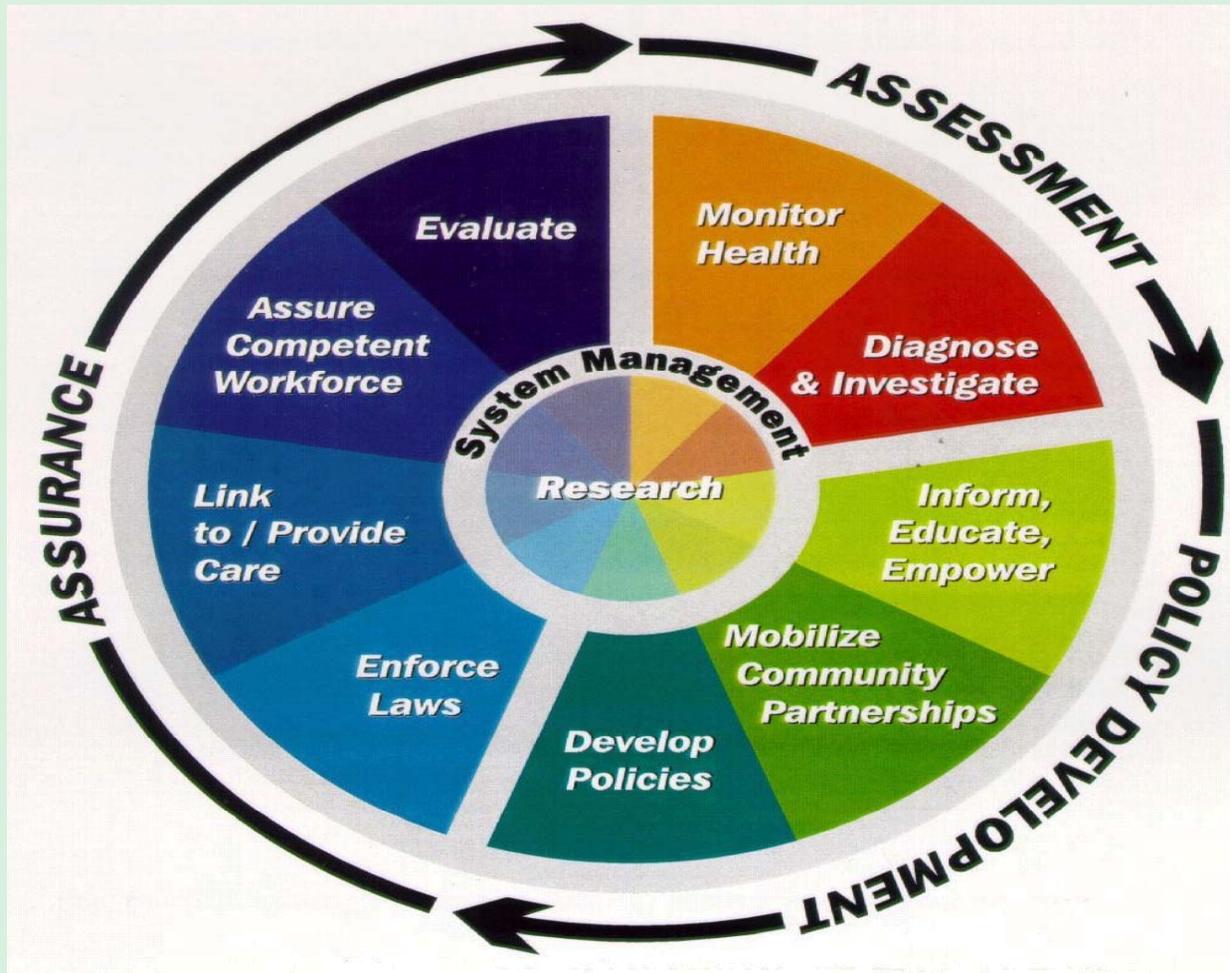
Collecting, analyzing, and dissemination of info on both health and health related aspects of community or special groups.



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

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



VOPHN

Founding Team

- Norma Gyle, Deputy Commissioner, DPH
- Pamela Kilbey-Fox, Chief, LHAB
- Barbara Dingfelder, Local PHN Liaison, LHAB
- Andrea Lombard, HIV/AIDS Surveillance
- Debby 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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