



# THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH VOPHN NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the Virtual Office of Public Health Nursing (VOPHN) newsletter, winter 2011 issue. VOPHN represents a cross section of all Nurses working within the Department of Public Health. The mission of VOPHN is to strengthen and support the role of Nurses working in the public health arena to improve the health and safety of Connecticut's population.

Please visit the VOPHN website to learn more about public health nursing at DPH and beyond.

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&q=413026>

The newsletter is published four times per year, Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. To submit an article, contact Barbara Dingfelder in the Local Health Administration Branch at 860-509-7202

## VOPHN HONORS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NORMA GYLE, RN, PhD, and CELEBRATES WITH NURSES AT DPH

On September 29, 2010, the VOPHN honored Dr. Norma Gyle, Deputy Commissioner, on her anticipated retirement from DPH in January 2011. Joining us in the surprise celebration, were Dr. Gyle's husband and Governor M. Jodi Rell, pictured above.



Dr. Gyle joined DPH after a long career as a state representative from Brookfield. As a state representative, Dr. Gyle had a special interest in Maternal and Child Health. She has been a very active participant in the VOPHN and a true champion for the nurses at DPH. The VOPHN members will miss her positive

“can do “attitude and ability to work around any obstacle that was presented. We wish her health and happiness as she moves on to her next life adventure.

See the link below to the VOPHN web page to view the video presentation, showcasing DPH nursing personnel, developed for the event by Eileen Boulay under <archived conference presentations>

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&q=413026>

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## Wendy Furniss HCS Branch Chief at DPH Wins Prestigious Award of Merit for Service to Elderly and Disabled Citizens

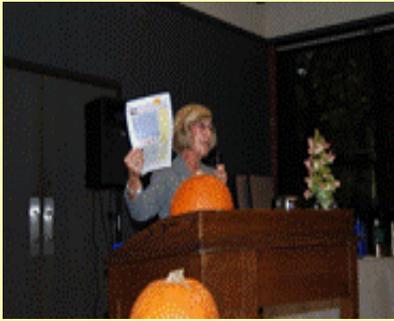


PHOTO: WENDY FURNISS, RNC,MS

Wendy H. Furniss was presented with the 2010 Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers for the Aging (CANPFA) Rick Wallace Award of Merit on October 12 at CANPFA's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station in Haddam. Ms. Furniss is employed as Chief of the Health Care Systems Branch for the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

"Wendy is truly deserving of this prestigious award given her remarkable leadership and contributions to public health," stated Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. J.

Robert Galvin. "She is an outstanding example of the modern leader, using both her nursing and executive skills serving the elderly and disabled citizens across the continuum of care in Connecticut."

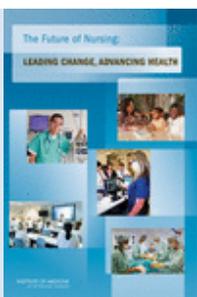
Ms. Furniss is a Registered Nurse who received her Baccalaureate degree from Duke University, her Master's degree in nursing and Certificate in Public Health from the University of Connecticut. She holds professional membership in the American and Connecticut Nurses Associations, Sigma Theta Tau and Phi Kappa Phi. She is certified by the American Nurses Association in gerontologic nursing.

As Branch Chief, Ms. Furniss is responsible for the management of federal and state regulatory activities for all Connecticut health care facilities, including both institutional and community-based entities. She also oversees the licensing and discipline of 56

healthcare professions, as well as license applications for environmental and emergency medicine professions.

The Rick Wallace Award of Merit is for an individual whose service, project work, committee work or a public policy effort is worthy of special recognition and is presented annually to an individual who has performed outstanding service for CANPFA or on behalf of its members.

Founded in 1961, CANPFA is Connecticut's leading membership association of not-for-profit and Quality First aging services organizations. Committed to excellence and to innovation, CANPFA is nationally recognized for expertise in aging services issues related to long term care, senior housing and supportive services. CANPFA is dedicated to creating the future of aging services.



### Hot Topics in Nursing News: The Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) launched the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action initiative at the National Summit on Advancing Health through Nursing on November 30, 2010. Organizations including the National League of Nurses and Connecticut League of Nurses, the American Nurses Association and Connecticut Nurses Association,

and the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) and ONE-CT are collaborating with RWJF to launch this campaign. These groups hosted meetings across the nation to participate in the National Summit via webcast to foster simultaneous discussions locally. The Connecticut groups co-hosted one of these meetings at the Connecticut Hospital Association and they are encouraging nurses working across the spectrum of health care, academia, and public health to participate in these conversations.

The National Summit engaged the nation's top health leaders from government, business, public health, aca-

demia and others sectors to discuss implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Institutes of Medicine's unprecedented report the *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* (October 2010). Discussions focused on:

- Preparing and enabling nurses to lead change;
- Improving nursing education;
- Removing barriers to practice;
- Creating an infrastructure for interprofessional health care

(Continued on page 4)



**BRINGING IMMUNITY TO EVERY COMMUNITY**

Every Child By Two (ECBT) and the American Nurses Association (ANA) have announced the availability of a new, on-line continuing education course aimed at increasing immunization competency among nurses by offering practical knowledge and skills on vaccine safety and patient communication. ANA President Karen Daley noted that, "Nurses are integral in vaccine research, safety, education, policy, and advocacy. As the most trusted profession, nurses take pride in being vaccinated to protect themselves, their patients, and their communities..."

Highlights of the course include a discussion of the scientific findings regarding the safety of vaccines; systems in place to ensure the ongoing safety of vaccines and adverse event reporting requirements; methods to eliminate the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as influenza and pertussis; and the critical role of vaccination of adults and, in particular, healthcare workers to reduce the spread of deadly diseases. The course features several video dramatizations where nurses take part in a dialogue with friends, co-workers and parents regarding the importance of Tdap vaccination, influenza vaccination and adherence to the recommended immunization schedule. The course, which provides 2.5 contact hours, was developed through the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care, an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Colorado Nurses Association, and an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

To view and/or take this online course, please visit: [www.yourcesource.com/ecbt/](http://www.yourcesource.com/ecbt/)

The on-line course takes approximately two hours to complete. It does not have to be completed in one session.



Photo: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**PEDIATRIC VACCINE ADMINISTRATION**

The Department of Public Health, through the Planning and Workforce Development Section, is offering training for nurses and physicians in administering vaccines to children. One two hour session is being offered at various times and locations listed below. Registration is on TRAIN ([www.ct.train.org](http://www.ct.train.org)) and will open in January for February and March dates. Additional venues will be added over the next several months, so if the dates or places below are not convenient, continue to check with [ct.train.org](http://ct.train.org). Training in pediatric vaccinations is important to assure readiness for another influenza pandemic.

Please take advantage of these free offerings.

March 31, 2011: Danbury Library, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

May 3, 2011: South Central VNA/New Haven, 10 am - 12PM

May 11, 2011: American Lung Association, East Hartford, 10:00 am–12:00 PM

June 7, 2011: New Milford VNA, 1 pm – 3PM

June 13, 2011: Torrington Health District, 10:00 am- 12:00 noon

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE READY**

Public Health Nurse Ready is a free on-line certificate for RNs who are new to public health. Sponsored by the University of Albany School of Public Health, the courses in this certificate provides a foundation of core public health nursing concepts and practices. Topics include: cultural competency, public health literacy, public health policy, basic epidemiology, and the core functions and essential services of public health. These courses reflect the core public health competencies set forth by the Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations.

[http://www.albany.edu/sph/coned/phn\\_ready1.htm](http://www.albany.edu/sph/coned/phn_ready1.htm)



(Continued from page 2 Hot Topics)

workforce data collection; and

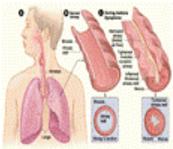
- Fostering interprofessional collaboration.

The IOM report is a thorough and frank assessment of the nursing workforce, which was initiated in 2008 through a collaborative effort with the RWJF. According to the RWJF website, the report includes recommendations that focus on the critical intersection between the health needs of diverse, changing patient populations across the full continuum of care and diverse settings, and the actions of the nursing workforce. The IOM recommendations are centered on four main issues:

1. Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
2. Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progress.
3. Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.
4. Effective workforce planning and policy-making require better data collection and information infrastructure.

The IOM report recognizes that the health care reform legislation speaks to traditional and current strengths of the nursing profession in such areas as care coordination, health promotion, and quality improvement. According to Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA, President and CEO of the RWJF, "This Initiative is vital to the strength of our nation's health, and will remain so for generations to come." Sue Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, RWJF's senior adviser for nursing, is directing the Campaign for Action. To stay informed sign-up for updates at [www.thefutureofnursing.org](http://www.thefutureofnursing.org) and stay tuned for announcements regarding Connecticut's efforts related to this Campaign.

### ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY DPH ASTHMA PROGRAM



The DPH Asthma Program published an article, Effect of Smoking on the Association Between Environmental Triggers and Asthma Severity Among Adults in New England, in the Journal of Asthma and Allergy Educators August 2010 issue.

Authors are: Kimberly Nguyen MS, MPH, Justin Peng, MPH and VOPHN member Eileen Boulay, RN,BSN

To identify environmental triggers associated with asthma severity and the potential modifying effect of cigarette smoke, the authors examined the relationship between sociodemographic characteristics, controller medication use, environmental triggers, and actions taken to reduce triggers on asthma severity among adults (≥ 18

years) residing in New England using the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) Asthma Call-Back data.

The effect of environmental triggers on asthma severity differs among smokers and nonsmokers, even after controlling for sociodemographic factors, medication use, and actions taken to reduce triggers. Targeting smokers with asthma and making modifications to the environment may be important for reducing asthma severity among a high-risk population.

For comments, questions about the article, you may contact Eileen Boulay at DPH 860-509-7298

A link to the article is provided below <http://jaa.sagepub.com/content/early/2010/08/19/2150129710377348>

### NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL ARTICLES

The December 16, 2010 New England Journal of Medicine had several articles about the future of nursing , as the potential health care reform issues are enacted. Below are links to these three articles. The content of all three articles also build on the concepts identified in the IOM report,

**The Future of Nursing, Campaign for Action** (see story beginning on page 2 of this newsletter)

1. The Broadening the Scope of Nursing Practice

(Continued on page 5)



### GOVERNOR– ELECT DAN MALLOY NOMINATES NEW COMMISSIONER FOR THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

As reported in the press release, Dr. Jewel Mullen is a primary-care physician who shifted her focus from treating individual patients to shaping systems of delivering care. Governor Malloy noted, “She is a practitioner, a teacher, a community leader, and she has first hand experience with neighborhood-based health delivery, as well as managing a large department within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.” For more information go to: <http://www.ctmirror.org/story/8744/choices-dps-and-dph-malloy-keeping-promise-diversity>



### CONNECTICUT DPH RECEIVES CDC FUNDS TO LAUNCH PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CDPH) is one of 75 state, tribal, local and territorial health departments funded to implement projects to systematically increase performance management capacity and improve their ability to meet national public health standards. The program is part of the National Public Health Improvement Initiative that builds a “first ever” national network of performance improvement managers in each jurisdiction dedicated to improving the public health system; analyzing and acting on the existing data (systems) to assist in prioritizing and maximizing existing resources; accelerating the use of national standards; and adopting, implementing and evaluating best or promising practices in performance management, cross-jurisdictional cooperation, leadership development, public health system redevelopment, evaluation and workforce development.

### CONNECTICUT RANKED AMONG THE TOP STATES FOR HEALTH



According to the latest national survey by The United Health Foundation, Connecticut is the fourth healthiest state in the nation in 2010. That’s an improvement from seventh in 2009.

The annual report, *America’s Health Rankings: A Call to Action for Individuals and Their Communities*, ranking Connecticut fourth in the nation in overall health for 2010, focuses on four groups of health determinants:

- Behaviors
- Community and environment
- Public and health policies
- Clinical care received

To review the whole report:

<http://www.americashealthrankings.org/2010/AHR2010Edition-compact.pdf>

*(Continued from page 4 ,New England Journal Articles)*

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1012121?query=TOC&>

2. Nurses for the Future <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1011639?query=TOC>

3. Nurses' Scope of Practice

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc1013895?query=TOC>

Some of the specific activities of CDPH Performance Management Office that will be carried out include:

- Conducting an assessment of QI activities;
- Reviewing evidence based frameworks to QI;
- Recommending a QI framework for the agency;
- Developing and implementing a five-year improvement plan that addresses performance management systems within CDPH;
- Providing QI training to the public health workforce;
- Link CDPH performance management efforts with local public health systems; and
- Participation in CDC Performance Management activities and national network.

Stay tuned for announcements regarding continuing education opportunities, progress updates and highlights from success models. More information on the National Public Health Improvement Initiative can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/ostlts/nphii/>.



## THE NURSING INITIATIVE PROMOTING IMMUNIZATION TRAINING (NIP-IT)

This Training was made possible by a cooperative agreement between the **University of Oklahoma College of Nursing**, a National League Center of Excellence in Nursing Education since 2006, and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. This web-based curriculum about immunizations and vaccine preventable diseases is intended to inform and educate nursing students and nurses nationwide. For information go to: <http://www.nip-it.org/>

## VOPHN STATEWIDE CONFERENCES



The Next VOPHN statewide conference will be April 26, 2011. For information on the conference and to register, go to: [http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/legends\\_save\\_the\\_date\\_1-20-11.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/legends_save_the_date_1-20-11.pdf). For information, you may also e-mail [barbara.dingfelder@ct.gov](mailto:barbara.dingfelder@ct.gov) or call Barbara at 860-509-7202

## New Web Portal Provides Data For Connecticut

The environment plays an important role in human development and health. Researchers have linked exposures to some environmental hazards with specific diseases. One example is the link between exposure to lead and central nervous system health problems. However, most other links remain unproven, as it is often difficult or impossible to estimate the exact impact of environmental exposures on disease at the local level. In some cases, environmental or health data and tracking systems do exist, but are not linked together.

A new resource is available to help Connecticut scientists, health professionals, and the public address this problem. The Connecticut Department of Public Health recently launched the Environmental Public Health Tracking Portal (<http://dphepht.ct.gov>). The Tracking Network lets people know the health risks possible from contaminants such as air pollution and its potential relationship to asthma.

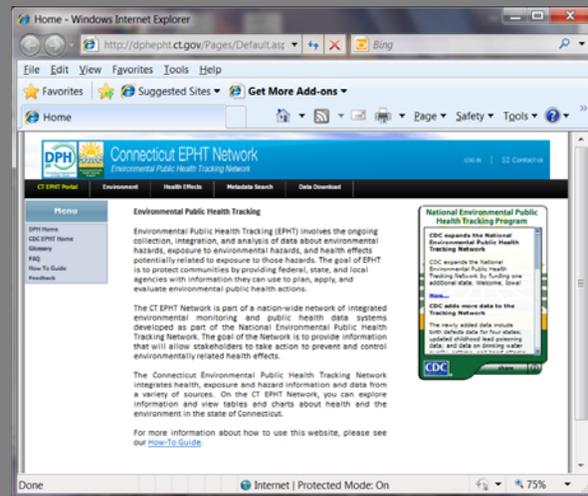


Do you have a story to tell, notes from the field, pictures or other information about public health nursing? Please share it with other public

health nurses through this newsletter.

Contact Barbara Dingfelder at: 860-509-7202 or Debbye Rosen at 860-509-7729

Don't forget to visit the VOPHN web site: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&q=413026>





**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING WORD SEARCH**

Enjoy the challenge of this word search developed by Andrea Lombard, Hepatitis C Coordinator,

Answers in the spring VOPHN newsletter

H E A T H E P I D E M O E L P O E P Y H T A E H  
 Y E E H E S A E S I D E L B A C I N U M M O C E  
 G R A N T S T E A M M X B U D G E T S F N U O A  
 S D P L E A C H I N G I N E N V I N N L O T M L  
 V I V I T A L O E X I D A E H T O R O D I B M T  
 O S V L P H P E E N N L N U R S E U T O T R U H  
 P E I I O V S N O I T A L U P O P R R R A A N D  
 H A T R U S T E D U T W F E N B E S A E C K I E  
 N S A N H F E P I P E N L S K A E R B T U O A T  
 H E L T E A C I N G H A O U T B R K A S D U B E  
 N E S F N M D G L T G I E U V O C M R N E T L R  
 O K A R O M N C L N E L V D T X A O A I A B E M  
 I V I L I N E O I A E I O N A A V M L G S R D I  
 T O G V T G A T R G A L E C N E D I C N I E X N  
 N P N O A H H I R I E M P P T D Y V F H D L I A  
 E H S J N G A A L O V T I C E E I A O T I K D N  
 V S F D I E R T B L M N D E V E E P E C Y S D T  
 E J E N C T H Y E K I E E C F O E E E T A O E S  
 R T W D C K I N D T C L M C T A D N A E I T T A  
 P R E V A L E N C E E A O C T N S A R T T L E D  
 T I N E V B G A B K C A L B Y E E H T E M D U V  
 C O D P A S S I O N B G O B D E P O H P M B A O  
 E R Y C Y T I L A U Q A G P R E T A W I O A T C  
 N O R M A G Y L E R E B Y T I N U M M O C G T A

ADVOCATE	HEALTH	POPULATIONS
BLACK BAG	HEALTH DETERMINANTS	PREVENTION
CLARA BARTON	HEALTHYPEOPLE	PREVALENCE
COMMUNITY	INCIDENCE	PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	LILIAN WALD	SAFE (water)
DOROTHEA DIX	LICENSED (Registered Nurse)	TEACHING
EDUCATION	NIGHTINGALE (Florence)	TRUSTED
ENVIRONMENT	NORMA GYLE	VACCINATION
EPIDEMIOLOGY	(Public Health) NURSE	VOPHN
GRANTS	OUTBREAKS	WENDY (Furniss)