



Jessica Kristy, MPH
Director of Health
October 2024

Miscellaneous

Interns, Emily S. and Emilija G., continue to work on various projects and supporting several initiatives. Both Emily and Emilija are MPH students at the University of Bridgeport.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Health hosted the in-person meeting for Directors of Health on October 9th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wallingford/Meriden. The agenda included presentations on Social and Structural Determinants of Health and Health Equity, Public Health Legislation, DPH Organizational Updates, and Microbial Source Tracking of Bacterial Contamination in Recreational and Aquaculture Waters.

National Association of County and City Health Official (NACCHO)

On October 24th, I attended the National Association of County and City Health Official's (NACCHO's) Monthly All-Local Health Organizations Call, which is a standing meeting meant to build connections across the Local Health Official community and connect local health department leaders with federal decision-makers. Each month local health department leaders will discuss updates on guidance and initiatives from CDC, FDA, and other federal partners and hear timely updates to support our work in the community.

CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH)

Positions held: Member; Elected to Board of Directors; Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair; Advocacy Committee Member

The CT Association of Directors of Health continues to co-host statewide local health calls with DPH. The CADH Board of Directors meetings are held monthly; this month's meeting was on October 15th.

The CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH) recently held its in-person meeting at Stony Creek Brewery in Branford, CT. Our agenda included updates from our standing and ad hoc committees, discussions on under-funded or un-funded mandates, introductions with our new lobbyist that we will be working with and a preview of the upcoming legislative session, a guest presentation on the BRACE grant pilot project and climate change, and more!

CT is lucky to have intelligent, skilled, passionate, and professional directors of health that collaborate and lead the public health field together!





Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Committee

Paulina continues to chair the IDEA committee.

The Spanish-language flu clinic discussed last month will be tabled until next year; however, Ansonia Public Schools may potentially collaborate with Griffin to host mid-year physicals for students with English and Spanish-speaking staff. The committee discussed possibly partnering to provide childhood immunizations at event (to be determined).

Jess met with Vector Solutions about potential staff training options.

Paulina and Vanessa put together a directory of various community resources geared at Hispanic Valley residents to close out Hispanic Heritage Month. Resources offered are located in and around the Valley. The Hispanic Resource Directory was shared with the Valley Council for Health & Human Services network and posted on our website and social media. It is available at:

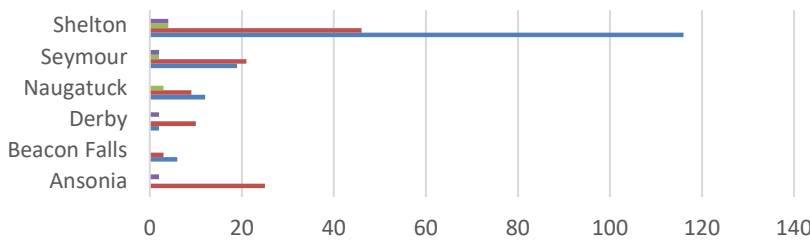
Each month, the IDEA committee features one term or concept from NVHD’s IDEA Glossary as the “IDEA of the Month” in order to better acquaint staff with the contents of the glossary; the term is also featured in NVHD’s monthly newsletter. October’s “Idea of the Month” suggested “undocumented immigrant” as an equity-based alternative for the widespread term “illegal immigrant”. Please see definitions and explanations below:

“‘Illegal’ is a dehumanizing, derogatory term used to describe a person who resides in a country without proper documentation. No human being is illegal. “Undocumented” is a common and widely accepted term. Migrant rights literature also includes “informally authorized migrant,” a term that disrupts the idea that someone is missing or has failed to acquire proper documents (a discourse that individualizes the underlying issue), revealing that some migrants are actively denied resources (a structural issue).”

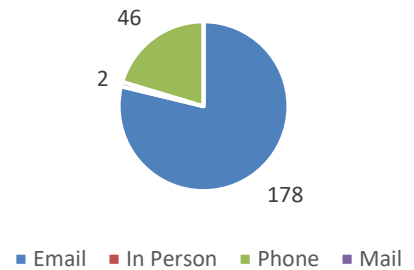
Records & Information Requests

Judi and Rose, Administrative Assistants, have been helping track the number of records and/or files requested by town, category of request (excludes housing), and method of requesting.

Information Requests Between July - October 31, 2024



Method of Request



	Ansonia	Beacon Falls	Derby	Naugatuck	Seymour	Shelton
■ Nuisance						
■ Food	2		2		2	4
■ Wells				3	2	4
■ Title Search	25	3	10	9	21	46
■ Septic		6	2	12	19	116

■ Nuisance ■ Food ■ Wells ■ Title Search ■ Septic





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: October 2024

Quality Improvement

Carissa has taken over as Chair of the QI Committee. A new QI project is in the process of being developed. The new project will be a Reconstruction of the Temporary Event Process. Carissa and I have re-opened our “Quick QI” project of evaluating and improving our billing and payment tracking for flu vaccines.

Workforce Development

Lisa continues to chair the NVHD Workforce Development Committee. Staff continue to work on completing the required two online training courses this quarter.

Air Quality and Climate Change

Grant: EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant

Status: Awaiting Approved Revised Budget and Sub-Contract from CT DPH; Budget Revision submitted

Naugatuck Valley Overdose Prevention & Education (NOPE) Program

Grant: Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A)

Status: Year 2 Sub-contract Pending Execution with New Haven Health Department

Our two full-time Overdose Prevention Navigators will be onboarding in early November! Please welcome Austin Telford, MPH and Tracy Tenesaca! Austin will be covering the Naugatuck Valley jurisdiction and Tracy will be covering the Milford, Orange and West Haven area but will also spend some time working from NVHD.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services, Chair

I facilitated the Region 5 ESF 8 meeting on October 4th and was elected to continue to serve as Chair. I attended and provided updates at the Region 5 REPT meeting on October 7th. I attended the Region 2 REPT meeting on October 18th. I had a follow up meeting with DEMHS Region 2 Coordinator to discuss the possibility of taking on the fiduciary role for the Region. This would be a major undertaking with a lot of resources needed so I am weighing this opportunity very thoughtfully.

Medical Reserve Corps

Thank you to NVMRC volunteer Nurse Janet for helping support two Ansonia flu clinics! I attended the Region 5 CERT/MRC meeting on October 23rd and provided the regional update on behalf of the MRC. I also attended a meeting with the other Region MRC Lead Coordinators on October 30th to discuss our statewide BLS and First Aid Training program that is being funded through a CT HCC grant. We will be hosting these training courses across all 5 regions after the New Year.

CT Healthcare Coalition (HCC)

Public Health Representative & Voting Member; Elected to the Executive Committee

The HCC held a special meeting to review the special projects FAQ on October 9th. The bi-monthly membership meeting was held on the 23rd.





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: October 2024

NACCHO Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)

We are currently in the process of trying to narrow the focus of the top ten priority focus areas for this current project year, which the rankings will be unveiled at our first meeting in November. The ten priority areas include (in no order):

1. **Advocacy for Preparedness and Response:** Advancing local capability to advocate for preparedness and response programs, including funding and value demonstration.
2. **Collaboration between Emergency Management and Public Health:** Aligning capabilities and roles between Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and Emergency Management Agencies (EMA). Exploring opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration to enhance preparedness efforts.
3. **Capturing and Consolidating Lessons Learned from COVID-19:** Supporting state and regional reviews and creating a national process for consolidating lessons learned.
4. **Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning and Improvement:** Updating COOP planning with lessons learned from COVID-19 to strengthen preparedness strategies.
5. **Cybersecurity and Data Modernization for Public Health:** Developing benchmarks, strategies, and resources to protect public health systems from cyberattacks. Addressing EPR-related needs for data modernization.
6. **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Utilization and Workforce Development:** Sharing best practices for MRC utilization, recruitment, and retention strategies.
7. **Public Health and National/Global Health Security:** Reviewing strategies and contributions to national and global health security, including public health authorities and responsibilities.
8. **Public Health Communication and Messaging:** Developing strategies for effective public communication during emergencies and promoting preventive measures.
9. **Risk Assessment, Recovery, and Public Health Authorities:** Supporting public health participation in risk assessments like jurisdictional risk assessment. Enhancing recovery efforts and understanding preparedness-related public health authorities across states.
10. **Training, Skill Development, and Resource Library Enhancement:** Defining training needs for preparedness professionals and strengthening resources for preparedness and response.

ELC Grant: Surveillance & Outbreak Response Team (SORT)

- COVID-19 – Status: Endemic Response
 - *An endemic means a disease is spreading in a community at normal or expected levels*
- Mpox – Status: Response - Surveillance for cases and dissemination of education
- Flu, RSV, and Pertussis – Surveillance for cases and dissemination of education
- H5N1 Bird Flu – Status: Monitoring; low public health risk
 - Please visit the CDC webpage dedicated to H5N1 Bird Flu updates here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-flu-summary.htm>
- Marburg virus disease: Monitoring; no cases outside of Rwanda and the risk of infection with this virus in the United States is low
 - DPH held a statewide meeting for local health on October 23rd.

Background information: Marburg virus, similar to Ebola virus, is a filovirus that can cause viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF). Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle/joint pain, rash, chest pain, gastrointestinal distress, and unexplained bleeding. Marburg has an incubation period of 2 to 21 days. Transmission is through direct contact with blood, bodily fluids, or contaminated objects from an infected person, including the recently deceased. Transmission is not airborne.





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: October 2024

Current outbreak situation: There is currently an outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) in the Republic of Rwanda. Cases in Rwanda as of October 15, 2024, include 62 ill and 15 deaths, with the first case reported on September 27, 2024. At this time, no cases have been reported in countries outside of Rwanda, including the United States.

Public health action: Effective October 16th, CDC is conducting public health entry screening of travelers (who have been in Rwanda in the prior 21 days) entering the United States. CDC will notify DPH of all travelers, and DPH will create a record in CTEDSS and notify the Local Health Department (LHD). Similar to previous VHF outbreaks, LHDs will be responsible for monitoring travelers according to CDC recommendations.

Congratulations to Beatriz, who has been promoted to a full-time Program Specialist with the SORT! Bea will also be working a few hours on the Block Grant with the Community Health staff teaching evidence-based programs.

The following update is provided by Paulina:

Beatriz continues to do community outreach; this month, she attended events such as the Naugatuck Senior Center Health Fair, Spooner House Trunk or Treat (pictured to the right are Bea in the top photo and Intern Emilja in the bottom photo) and Storytime at Howard Whittemore Library, where she read “Achoo! Achoo! I’ve Got the Flu” by Andie Michaels. Beatriz also co-facilitated a Respiratory Virus Season Webinar with Vanessa Lopez and Lisa Trupp.



NVHD has run out of COVID-19 tests but will be repurchasing more with hopes will be have them to distribute ahead of the holidays. If you would like to be put on the waitlist, contact Paulina at (203) 881-3255, ext. 118.

The ELC team has the following projects pending:

- Release and promotion of the Long COVID video PSA
 - o Preview on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zh7-HRPZzgU>
- Printing and distribution of NVHD-branded respiratory virus guidance posters to community partners
- Printing and mailing of promotional postcards featuring winners of NVHD’s 2024 Public Health Art Contest encouraging Valley residents to get their flu shot

Table 1. Adult Case Statistics (18+)

	September	October
Total Cases & Contacts Managed	67	74
Attempted Contact: Letters Mailed	44	64
Consultations with Residents	4	6

Table 2. Youth and Teen Case Statistics (0-17)

	September	October
Total Cases & Contacts Managed	11	6
Attempted Contact: Letters Mailed	9	8
Consultations with Residents	n/a	0

*Please note that “Total Cases & Contacts Managed” also includes reports of self-tests originating from various sources such as schools, childcare centers, congregate living facilities, etc. and as such do not always come with contact information and/or do not always warrant further follow-up by NVHD staff.





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

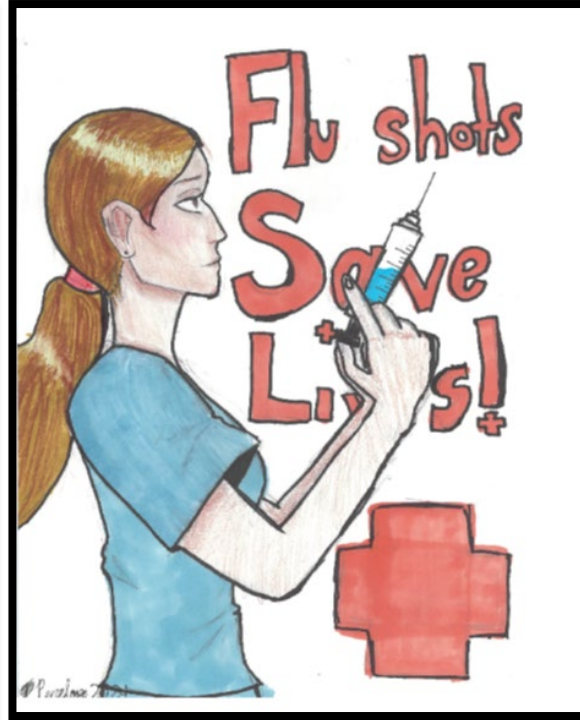
**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: October 2024

The winners of NVHD's 2024 Public Health Art Contest were announced this month—thank you to NVHD staff for voting!
Please see winning artwork below:



By Caleb G. (Grade 6)



By Penelope F. (Grade 6)



By Isabella H. (Grade 8)



By Olivia S. (Grade K)



COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
Carissa Caserta, MPH
Assistant Director
October 2024

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Jess, Lisa T., Kristie and I continue to work on CHIP initiatives and attend monthly meetings. We have begun discussing the process for the next CHIP which will start next year after the new health assessment is released.

Jess attended a NACCHO webinar on local health can harness artificial intelligence (AI), strategize and shift resources to enhance the CHA/CHIP process. The training also included insights on how AI can streamline data processes and improve operational efficiency. She will continue to research and train in the utilization of AI for public health programming.

Community Health Assessment: The Valley Index (CHA)

Lisa and I continue to collaborate with the CHA Steering/Planning Committee, which also includes the Executive Director of the Valley Council for Health and Human Services, Griffin Hospital, and the Valley Community Foundation. DataHaven was hired by NVHD, utilizing grant funding, to conduct the Well-Being Survey, which is one piece of data that is included in The Index. Jess will be attending the unveiling of the data at DataHaven's event in November.

Community Health Programs

Community Health staff have held a program meeting to discuss meeting the deliverables of the Block Grant and have scheduled two programs starting for January.

Lisa completed a three-session, 9-hour Self-Management Resource Center (SMRC) Chronic Disease Master Training. As of October 17th, she is now certified to train new leaders in Chronic Disease Self-Management, Chronic Pain Self-Management, and Diabetes Self-Management. We will be offering a leader training soon!

Mental Health Programs

Suicide Prevention & Postvention

Lisa attended an in-person Region 2 Suicide Advisory Board roundtable meeting in Meriden on October 15th. Several community partners, stakeholders and suicide prevention program providers met to share best practices.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

On October 28th and 29th, Lisa partnered with Elizabeth "Liz" DeMerchant to provide virtual Mental Health First Aid training to Meriden area MRC volunteers and community partners. Liz has co-led MHFA with Lisa to support reaching our community, so it has been nice to continue to partner as leaders for both of our catchment areas.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead case management continues to grow and is being completed by Lisa daily. There continues to be an increase in lead on-site inspections and epidemiological investigations done by several of our staff.

Immunization Grants & Clinical Services

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Grant Program

Elizabeth completed 5 site visits at local pediatric offices to ensure they are following the guidance for storing and maintaining vaccinations from the state's Vaccines for Children Program. She also completed 3 IQIP visits with pediatrician offices.






Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: October 2024

CDC Immunization Grant October Outreach Events Summary

<p>American Public Health Association Annual Conference 2024 Minneapolis, Minnesota</p>	<p>Vanessa was sponsored by NVHD to attend this year’s annual APHA conference In Minneapolis, Minnesota. Vanessa participated in sessions that addressed critical issues in public health including vaccines, the role of AI, community health workers, and innovative strategies for opioid overdose prevention.</p> <p>Key topics included the impact of long COVID on community health, vaccination trends in youth, and methods to combat vaccine hesitancy.</p> <p>The knowledge gained will be valuable in enhancing the CDC Immunization grant. Vanessa is excited to apply these strategies to improve our community health efforts!</p> 
<p>CT Public Health Association 2024-2025 Respiratory Illness Season: What You Need to Know, Lunch & Learn</p>	<p>In collaboration with Beatriz Allen, Lisa Trupp, and Kristie D'Averso, Vanessa presented the updates for this respiratory illness season to health educators and students who are associated with CPHA.</p>
<p>Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish Derby Foodshare</p>	<p>Vanessa attended the Derby Foodshare this month and provided reusable bags filled with seasonal vaccine information.</p>
<p>The Abundant Life Ministries, LLC. CT Foodshare</p>	<p>Vanessa and Beatriz attended the Abundant Life Ministries, LLC biweekly food pantry giveaway, they provided the community with NVHDs upcoming Flu clinic schedule, and important information for keeping safe during the upcoming respiratory virus season.</p>
<p>Howard Whittmore Public Library NVHD Storytime & Hand Washing</p>	<p>Beatriz and Vanessa hosted a table at the library and read the book "Achoo Achoo, I've Got the Flu" to children aged 6 months to 3 years old. We also demonstrated how dirty hands can be, with a special gel and blacklight, all in preparation for staying safe in this upcoming respiratory virus season.</p>
<p>NVHD Flu Clinics</p>	<p>Along with other NVHD staff, Vanessa attended weekly flu clinics hosted by NVHD. Some clinics were at Seymour Board of Education, Shelton Senior Center, City of Shelton Employees, Ansonia Board of Education, Ansonia Senior Center, and Seymour Community Center. She helped with the registration of the participants.</p>





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: October 2024

Translation:

The month of October was busy due to the continued need for vaccine catch-up for children on their back-to-school immunizations, Vanessa assisted Kristie many times with translating from Spanish to English and vice versa. Vanessa also translated for various other staff.

Clinical Services

In October, Kristie provided 30 vaccines to children in the Valley.

Flu clinics have begun! In October, we hosted 24 flu clinics at schools, senior centers, community centers, local businesses and homebound. We have vaccinated 850 people so far and have two more scheduled flu clinics in November at Shelton Senior Center and Christ Church Food Pantry. Thank you to all the community health staff that helped at each clinic!

Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) & Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI-AR)

DPH continues to host a monthly meeting with the CT DPH HAI-AR staff and local health departments/districts building capacity in Infection Prevention & Control (IPC). Jess attended the meeting on October 15th which covered the respiratory viral season resources and a review of two recent alerts and advisories from the CDC Health Alert Network: 1. Disruptions in Availability of Peritoneal Dialysis and Intravenous Solutions from Baxter International Facility in North Carolina and 2. First Marburg Virus Disease Outbreak in the Republic of Rwanda.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Kristie continues to monitor two residents with Tuberculosis.

Miscellaneous

Health Education Outreach Presentations

On October 18th, Lisa co-led a community health presentation on respiratory viral illness for the CPHA Health Education Committee with Vanessa and Bea. They presented to about 15 people, mostly from area colleges. This same presentation was provided for interested staff members on October 17th.

On October 31st, Lisa ran tech support for a Health Education presentation to celebrate Health Education week (October 21st to October 25th). Speakers discussed mental health and wellness, public health workforce development, using social media.

TEAM, Inc. 59th Annual Meeting and Celebration

Jess, Lisa, Vanessa and I attended the meeting and had a great time networking with different organizations in the valley. We heard about TEAM's work serving thousands of residents in the past year, they honored the Echo Hose Ambulance Training Center and we also heard from the special guest speaker, David Kooris, the Executive Director of the new CT Municipal Redevelopment Authority.

Pictured to the right are Lisa, Jess, Carissa, Vanessa, and John Zikaras of Echo Hose Ambulance who is also a Shelton representative on NVHD's Board of Directors and serves as the current Board Chair.





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Melanie Dokla, BS, RS
Assistant Director
October 2024

Food Service Establishments

Preparations are being made to send out applications for the renewal of all licensed food service establishments. Coordination with the town/city Tax Collectors and Water Pollution Control Authorities to identify establishments that owe overdue personal property taxes or have grease interceptor violations will be made again this year. These establishments will need to get a release from the town/city before their license can be renewed. Applications will be mailed by mid-November.

Glenda Buenaventura, per diem food inspector, continues to assist in conducting food service inspection after hours and on the weekend up to 20 hours a week.

Body Care

The renewal of all existing body care permits has been completed. There was a total of 14 (23 last year) establishments that were required to pay a late fee totaling \$1,000 (\$1,500 last year). Annual inspections of the salons have been completed (total of 224) with 3 failed inspections and 3 closure orders. (216 inspections and 4 failure last year). All routine inspections have been completed and staff continue to conduct plan views for body care establishments that are new or changing ownership.

The inspectors conduct annual inspections of the salons as the applications are received and processed. Staff continue to conduct plan views and inspections for body care establishments that are new or changing ownership.

Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (SSDS)

Staff continue to conduct SSDS inspections, B-100 visits, soil testing, B-100 plan reviews, new SSDS plans reviews, and issue permits to construct/discharge.

Laurel continues to train staff in the SSDS program.

Housing Complaints

As the temperature becomes cooler the department is receiving more housing complaints regarding no heat, no hot water and/or heat that does not reach the required 65°F (Connecticut General State Statues Section 19a-109).

Lead

An on-site inspection is conducted by NVHD staff when a child under the age of 6 has a blood level ≥ 5 ug/dL but < 10 ug/dL (effective 1/1/2024).

A comprehensive inspection is conducted by NVHD staff when a child under the age of 6 has a blood lead level ≥ 10 ug/dL.

October 21st – 25th was national Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. The Department of Public Health held daily training courses on some topics which included administrative search warrant applications, chelation, ARPA funding, and non-environmental sources of lead.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: October 2024

Miscellaneous

On October 16th and 17th Laurel, Amanda and Amy attended the Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA) Yankee conference held in Mystic, Connecticut. There were a variety of training topics such as food safety, wastewater treatment systems, pest control measures and so much more.

On October 29th Laurel attended Connecticut Environmental Health Association’s (CEHA) virtual Food Committee update meeting.



Emergency Responses

	Date/Time	Location	Description of Event
1.	10/16/24	57 Anson Street, Derby	Lack of utilities due to a gas leak

