



**Jessica Kristy, MPH**  
**Director of Health**  
**SUMMER 2024**  
**June | July | August**

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**Miscellaneous**

Welcome back, Board of Directors! I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer. I appreciate your attendance at our two Special Meetings held this summer and am excited to embark on our major renovation project with ID3A, LLC! ID3A and Attorney Stanek are currently in contract negotiation.

As we wrapped up last fiscal year and entered a new, our public health professionals have remained ever busy providing environmental health services, chronic disease prevention and other evidence-based programs, performing opioid and infectious disease surveillance, continuing our response to COVID-19 and mpox, continuing the implementation of our strategic and community health improvement plans, building internal capacities, and more! This report will highlight work accomplished by the district during the months of June, July, and August 2024.

**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.

**de Beaumont Foundation 40 Under 40 in Public Health**

I attended a fully sponsored in-person leadership summit that was held August 13-16<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio. The agenda topics included a three-part series with Forward Partners on Centering Self in Leadership; writing workshops; acknowledging and addressing burn out, fatigue, and other challenges facing the field of public health; an uncensored question and answer and open discussion with Dr. Brian Castrucci, CEO of the de Beaumont Foundation; a presentation by Dr. Claude Jacob, San Antonio Health Director and Michelle Vigil, San Antonio Health Department Chief of Staff; a presentation by the CEO of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), Dr. Joseph Kanter; functional individual and group reflection exercises; and networking.





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

Paulina continues to chair the IDEA committee. The committee completed the internal IDEA Assessment in July, which measured NVHD's internal and external operations in the framework of IDEA tenets. The committee reconvened again in August with new members Lisa Trupp and Vanessa Lopez to discuss the results of the assessment and what further action should be taken. The overall result showed that NVHD currently exists squarely in the "Getting There" category, to borrow the language of the assessment; the committee will continue to analyze each portion of the assessment and discuss areas for improvement.

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. Please see definitions below:

- June – "LGBTQ+": "An acronym that collectively refers to individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer, sometimes stated as LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) or, historically, GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender). The addition of the Q for queer is a more recently preferred version of the acronym as cultural opinions of the term queer focus increasingly on its positive, reclaimed definition. The Q can also stand for questioning, referring to those who are still exploring their own sexuality and/or gender. The "+" represents those who are part of the community but for whom LGBTQ does not accurately capture or reflect their identity."
- July - Weathering: "A hypothesis first proposed by Arlene Geronimus positing that Black Americans experience early health deterioration as a consequence of the cumulative impact of repeated experience with racism, social or economic adversity, and political marginalization. The hypothesis has been explored with other groups, including American Indian and Alaska Native elders, documenting the structural roots of weathering."
- August – "Person with a substance use disorder (SUD)/Person with an opioid use disorder (OUD)/Person in recovery vs Addict/ Drug Addict/ Junkie/ User/ Former Addict": "Using person-first language—that is, focusing on the person, not their illness—works to remove words that define a person by their condition or have negative meanings, which can further existing stigma. Feeling stigmatized can make people with SUD less willing to seek treatment. The commonly used terms surrounding SUD and OUD undermine the fact that it is a medical condition, and insinuate the individual is the problem, as opposed to having a problem."

**Quality Improvement**

Carissa has taken over as Chair of the QI Committee which met for its quarterly meeting on June 13, where the annual QI Plan review was conducted. QI Plan was reviewed and sent to Steering Committee for approval. A new QI project is in the process of being developed. The new project will be a Reconstruction of the Temporary Event Process.

**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.

The staff completed the 180 question assessment aligned with the national Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, a consensus set of foundational skills for the broad practice of public health, as defined by the [10 Essential Public Health Services](#). The Core Competencies, and the assessment, are organized into eight skill areas or domains that cut across public health disciplines and include:





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Domain One: Data analytics and assessment skills

Domain Two: Policy development and program planning skills

Domain Three: Communication skills

Domain Four: Health equity skills

Domain Five: Community partnership skills

Domain Six: Public health sciences skills

Domain Seven: Management and finance skills

Domain Eight: Leadership and system thinking skills

Lisa presented the summary of findings to the staff at our June staff meeting. The FY23-24 Individual Training Plan was created in consideration of the responses to the 2022 assessment, with suggested trainings chosen for each domain based on strength or weakness of overall staff knowledge of a subject area. As the assessment questions in each domain remained the same for this iteration, the Workforce Development team was able to show that in offering the trainings over the course of the year, staff knowledge improved in almost every domain (see details in attached PDF). Therefore, the determination was made to continue with the Individual Staff Training Plan for FY24-25, with a few small adjustments:

- In FY23-24 staff were allowed to substitute optional training courses for the suggested trainings, as long as they completed two trainings per quarter. For FY24-25, we removed suggested trainings from the FY23-24 list that a large portion of staff accessed and expanded the list of trainings per domain. We are now requiring staff to complete at least four of the suggested training courses from the list, across different domains, as part of their eight required individual training courses for FY24-25. We believe this will further enhance staff knowledge of the topics in the assessment by ensuring that the carefully chosen training courses are accessed by more staff members.
- Staff will still be able to substitute optional training for four of their eight trainings, with idea that the options will still be applicable to the eight domains in the assessment.
- The Workforce Development team did a crosswalk of the list of FY 24-25 suggested trainings to ensure that they not only satisfy the PHF assessment domains but also meet NVHD PHAB institutional knowledge and staff training requirements, in compliance with our accredited status.

The Workforce Development Team feels this plan will continue to add to staff knowledge and capabilities for both our individual NVHD team members, as well as the organization as a whole.

Lisa attended the virtual CT Public Health Workforce Development Partners on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Prior to the meeting, the committee chairs asked if there were any updates or accomplishments local health departments/districts wanted to share. In response, she provided details about the FY23-24 NVHD Individual Staff Training Plan and the successes we were able to demonstrate via the improved metrics in the 2024 Tier One Staff Assessment (compared to the 2022 assessment). She was asked if the committee could feature this “impressive” program at the virtual meeting, which they did. The discussion was great and there were some suggestions made regarding trainings that could be added to the suggested list for FY 24-25 that would satisfy both the 2021 Public Health Core Competencies the Tier One Assessment is based on, as well as our PHAB required trainings. Other topics discussed at the meeting were continued recruitment in public health, including available internships and fellowships as well as additional training options available for public health staff.





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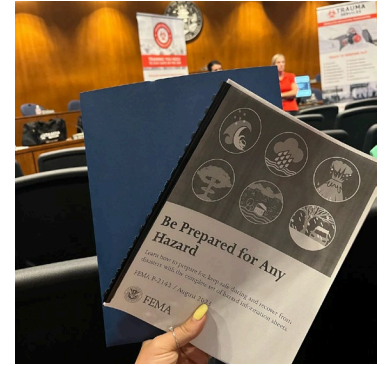
### Trainings

#### Biohazard Safety Training Workshop

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, staff from Public Health Emergency Preparedness (Barbara and Paulina), Community Health (Vanessa), and Environmental Health Divisions (Laurel, Amanda, Amy) joined regional colleagues to attend this important Biohazard Safety Training Workshop that was tailored for local government personnel. Danbury Department of Health & Human Services hosted the training, and it was taught by New England Trauma Services.

The overall goal of the workshop was to provide us with a working knowledge of the necessary steps to safely and correctly navigate bio-hazardous scenes. Attendees examined various types of bio-hazardous environments: the proper methods to assess risk; how to navigate safely within a bio-hazardous scene and what tools are necessary to properly mitigate bio-hazardous threats. All blood-borne pathogens and biological/biohazardous threats were touched upon including HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, MRSA, hoarding situations, feces, bed bugs, chemical suicides, needle sticks, fentanyl etc.

Participants also received a free personal PPE Kit, and one trauma kit for the NVHD office, at the conclusion of the workshop!



#### Basic Life Support (BLS)

Utilizing NVHD's Workforce Development Grant, we were able to partner with Seymour Ambulance Association to provide staff with their bi-annual American Heart Association CPR, First Aid, and AED training during our July staff meeting. The AHA's BLS course trains participants to promptly recognize several life-threatening emergencies, give high-quality chest compressions, deliver appropriate ventilations and provide early use of an AED. The course reflects science and education from the American Heart Association Guidelines Update for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC).



#### Freedom of Information (FOI)

During our August staff meeting, we welcomed Russell Blair, Director of Education and Communications for the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission. Russell provided training to staff on requests for information as it pertains to local public health agencies.





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**Air Quality and Climate Change**

Liliana Restrepo, an undergraduate at Bowdoin College majoring in Environmental Health Studies and minoring in Biology, completed her internship with me in July. Liliana will be returning to intern with NVHD when she is on break from school to help support our EPA grant.

I attended a webinar hosted by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) on Navigating Wildfire Smoke: Understanding, Mitigating, and Communicating Health Risks on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Grant: EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant**

*Status: Awaiting Approved Revised Budget and Sub-Contract from CT DPH; Budget Revision submitted*  
*Phase: Training and Planning Meetings Spring & Summer 2024; Expected Contracts in Fall 2024*

**Naugatuck Valley Overdose Prevention & Education (NOPE) Program**

**Grant: Academic Detailing on Opioids Safety (ADOPS)**

*Status: Contract Executed with CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)*

We continue to promote safe medication usage and disposal. Lisa continues to attempt recruitment to Academic Detailing sessions with providers / pharmacists. This grant will conclude at the end of September.

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

*Status: Sub-contract Executed with New Haven Health Department*

We completed the first budget period of this multi-year contract in August. We were able to spend down close to \$38,000 on outreach supplies and insurance premium costs. We were able to carry over unspent funds into the second budget period. The two Opioids Prevention Navigator positions were posted, and I have received a number of applicants. I will be interviewing with a panel including the Directors of Health for Milford, Orange and West Haven in September. I have been attending the monthly OD2A partners meeting with the other participating local health departments as well as one-on-one meetings with New Haven Health Department.

**Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)**

Barbara has taken a new emergency management position at Brockton Hospital in Boston. Her last day will be September 6<sup>th</sup>. We wish her the best with her new endeavors!

Barbara attended and completed the ICS-300 course hosted by DPH in Torrington from June 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup>. Barbara also attended a series of webinars on June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the HURREVAC (decision support tool of the National Hurricane Program, administered by FEMA, the USACE, and the NOAA National Hurricane Center), and learning more about hurricane preparedness, storm prediction, and evacuation methodology.

Barbara attended a webinar hosted by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) regarding Covid-19 vaccine information and preparedness for the upcoming sick season on July 9<sup>th</sup>. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Barbara virtually attended and completed a Mass Care Shelter course hosted by Maine Emergency Management Agency, discussing shelter accommodations, surveying proper shelter locations, and overall shelter preparedness. On July 29<sup>th</sup>, Barbara attended a webinar hosted by NACCHO discussing H5N1 and Dengue preparedness. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, Barbara attended the





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virtual Connecticut Hurricane Season Briefing hosted by CT DEMHS to stay informed on the state's plans and preparedness levels.

Barbara joined a Mass Care workgroup as a Region 5 representative for DPH, in which she attended numerous virtual meetings and discussions on Point of Dispensing (POD) locations within the region. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, Barbara attended the CDC's webinar reflecting on the history of the Office of Women's Health. On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Barbara attended and completed a virtual training on Threat Evaluation and Reporting, hosted by CT DEMHS.

Over the summer, Barbara worked on updates to the NVHD Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP), including collaborating with Liliana (Intern) to create a new Air Quality Annex for the NVHD PHERP.

On July 17<sup>th</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup>, I co-taught a STOP THE BLEED® training with Lee Ives from Seymour Ambulance for the students participating in the Seymour Police Department Youth Academy. This is one of few programs that is nationally recognized and has no minimum age requirement. The training consists of a formal presentation that is followed by hands-on practice of applying direct pressure, packing a wound, and using a tourniquet to stop bleeding.



### Emergency Responses

We responded to, and are now in the recovery phase, of the devastating flash flood event that occurred on August 18th. An After-Action Report and Improvement Plan will be submitted to the CT DPH and the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. During the storm on Sunday, I monitored the Region 5 ESF radio, WebEOC and ProtectAdvsr for status updates. The responses ended up staying local and no regional activation was required. I continue to post guidance and updates to our dedicated webpage: <https://www.nvhd.org/flood/>.

### ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services, Chair

I facilitated the Region 5 ESF 8 meetings on June 7<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, and August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Region 2 ESF #8 does not meet over the summer. I attended and provided updates at Region 5 Emergency Planning Team (REPT) Steering Committee meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>. I attended the Region 2 REPT Steering Committee meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Medical Reserve Corps

DPH Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (DPH OPHPR) continues to hold monthly MRC office hours that have been focused on training and improvements to the CT Responds! Volunteer Management website.

I have been working with the CT DPH MRC Coordinator and other Region Leads to beta test the new website and provide feedback. We have also been working on improving the quarterly Volunteer Management Programmatic Report.





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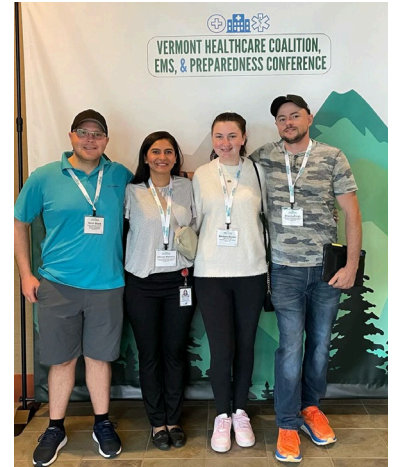
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We will be submitting activations in September for our fall flu clinic season.

CT Healthcare Coalition (HCC)

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

We continued to meet monthly and successfully passed our updated, new bylaws. Barbara was selected as one of four sponsored individuals that attended the 2024 Vermont Healthcare Coalition, EMS, and Preparedness Conference on June 14-16, 2024, at Jay Peak Resort in Vermont. She is pictured with Kevin (Yale New Haven Hospital), Shivani and Brien (Torrington Area Health District). The conference included strategic presentations relevant to public health, EMS, healthcare, first responders, and emergency preparedness professionals in the areas of healthcare and public health emergency preparedness, response, and recovery with an underlying theme of health equity



I provided a thorough presentation of the national, CT, and local Medical Reserve Corps programs at the August 21<sup>st</sup> HCC meeting. In August, I was one of four individuals elected to the CT HCC Executive Committee. All of the nominees were highly respected subject matter experts in the field, so I was excited to humbly accept both the nominations and selection to the Committee.

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
- 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>.

The following update is provided by Paulina:

To coincide with Pride Month, we launched a mini awareness campaign about mpox on social media called, “Mpox: It’s Still Here.” The three posts featured information about risk factors, the groups most susceptible, and how vaccination is the best protection from the virus.

Filming for NVHD’s Long COVID video PSA took place in June; 2 community members and 3 Griffin Hospital personnel took time to sit down and talk about their lived experience with battling or treating Long COVID. Jess and Paulina worked with John Kennedy of Purple States Productions through the editing process. Paulina developed outreach material on the topic of Long COVID to coincide with the video’s eventual release on NVHD social media. We plan to release the video in September.

In July, Beatriz launched the 2024 Public Health Art Contest; participants aged 5-18 were encouraged to submit an original piece of art depicting the importance of the flu vaccine for a chance to win a gift card and be featured on NVHD promotional material advertising flu clinics. If you would like more information about the art contest or know someone who would be interested in participating, contact Bea at [ballen@nvhd.org](mailto:ballen@nvhd.org) or 203-881-3255, ext. 117.





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Throughout July and August, Beatriz attended many community events, continuing to distribute COVID test kits and educational flyers, as well as promoting the art contest. Paulina and Beatriz also began surveying community organizations in the Valley to gauge interest in receiving NVHD-branded respiratory guidance posters in time for flu season; as the response has generally been positive, Paulina began designing the poster which will feature updated respiratory virus guidance from the CDC.

Table 1. Adult Case Statistics (18+)

	May	June	July	August
Total Cases & Contacts Managed	34	46	96	75
Successful Phone Contact	2			
Attempted Contact: Left voicemail/invalid number/no voicemail available				
Attempted Contact: Letters Mailed	21	42	85	43

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

	May	June	July	August
Total Cases & Contacts Managed	4	5	5	10
Successful Phone Contact	3	1		
Attempted Contact: Left voicemail/invalid number/no voicemail available	1	3		
Attempted Contact: Letters Mailed		1	5	7

\*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.







**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**  
**Carissa Caserta, MPH**  
**Assistant Director**  
**SUMMER 2024**  
**JUNE | JULY | AUGUST**

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**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.

**Community Health Assessment: The Valley Index (CHA)**

Jess, Lisa T., 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. We expect to get the raw data in Fall.

**Community Health Programs**

**A Matter of Balance**

A Matter of Balance programs ended at the end of July at Ansonia Senior Center and Robert E. Hutt Housing in Naugatuck. These were a huge success, and we have been asked to come back for more programming throughout the Fall in both locations.

A new Matter of Balance started in August at the Naugatuck Senior Center with 10 participants.

**LiveWell with Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP)**

A new DSMP class ended at the Shelton Senior Center with 5 completers. We have started to develop a one-hour Diabetes education session that has been asked for by a few organizations such as the Valley Social Club and Hutt Houting. Lisa T. and Kristie will be offering that one-hour session soon!

**LiveWell with Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)**

Kristie and I completed our first CDSMP program at the Seymour Community Center with 8 participants. This program went very well and was well received among the participants.

**LiveWell with Chronic Pain Self-Management Program (CPSMP)**

A new CPSMP program started at the Ansonia Senior Center with 10 participants and being led by Lisa and myself.

There are no other LiveWell programs running at this time, and we are awaiting our CT DPH Block Grant funds to start programs in the Fall.

**Mental Health Programs**

**Question, Persuade, & Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training**

Lisa was invited for the second year to attend Yale University's student orientation and host a QPR training for incoming students. The training took place on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and was a great success!

**Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**

Lisa and Barbara co-taught an in-person class on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> from 8-4pm; 8 people attended. Lisa has partnered with Elisabeth Matuska from the East Shore District Health Department to co-teach a virtual MHFA that



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will take place over two evening sessions on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30pm. This class is full, with over with other 30 individuals registered!

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead case management is a daily task that Lisa completes by reviewing an online database that shows any new testing results and updates needed. The number of cases has increased based on the new actionable levels and on-site inspections have doubled. The new regulations state any blood lead level above a 5 much have an on-site inspection conducted, which is a lot of our cases. There has also been a slight increase of full epidemiological investigations for those cases over a blood lead level of 10. That requires Melanie to do an entire investigation of the home and collect dust samples and use the XRF gun to collect levels of lead in paint.

We had a site visit with Brianna Foley from DPH who is NVHD's lead poisoning prevention program coordinator. She reviewed new changes starting in January, ARPA funding for remediation, and reviewed our cases. Landlords, homeowners, renters, and family child care homes can visit the Lead Free CT (<https://leadfreect.org/>) website to get more information and to apply for the abatement funding through the Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program in partnership with CT DPH. There will be a significant increase in lead cases come January due to the decrease in actionable blood lead levels, therefore we are working with the environmental team to address the need for more comprehensive lead inspections in the home.

**Immunization Grants & Clinical Services**

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Grant Program

IAP: Elizabeth completed 4 virtual/phone IQIP visits and 1 in-person site visits at local pediatricians' offices for her grant deliverables in June. In June, she also had a visit to complete Griffin Hospital's Childbirth Center Hospital Questionnaire for the electronic CT WiZ vaccine registry. Elizabeth completed 2 mandatory trainings on IQIP and VFC Site visits and also attended the TEAM Head Start Advisory meeting in July.

COVID-19 Immunization Action Plan (CAP) & Immunization and Vaccines for Children COVID-19 Supplemental Funding

Nancy Serrano, who was our COVID-19 Immunization Action Plan (CAP) Program Coordinator has resigned and moved out of state. This grant ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and she had completed all her deliverables/reports. We wish her well!

CDC Immunization Grant:

This grant is coordinated by Immunization Program Specialist, Vanessa Lopez. In addition to her outreach and education, Vanessa has continued to provide 40 different Spanish translation services for our clients over the phone scheduling appointments and in-person during their vaccine appointments with Nurse Kriste.

August marks the annual National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), which serves as an important reminder of the critical role immunizations play in preventing disease and protecting the health of individuals and communities. As part of our commitment to promoting public health and community well-being, Vanessa arranged the donation of seven immunization books to the eight libraries in the Valley in recognition of NIAM. NVHD was proud to donate 63 immunization-related children's books equitably to all local public libraries across the Naugatuck Valley region, as well as establish a library at the NVHD clinic. This was made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Immunization and Vaccines for Children COVID-19 Supplemental Funding via the Connecticut Department of Public Health. This donation is part of a larger Valley-wide initiative by NVHD to increase access to youth immunization education material in efforts to reduce vaccine hesitancy and stigma.












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NVHD donated the following titles, which will continue to provide valuable information on the importance of vaccinations, the immunization schedule, and how vaccines work to keep our communities safe:

-  [A Vaccine Is Like a Memory](#) - Rajani LaRocca (Author), Kathleen Marcotte (Illustrator)
-  [How do Vaccines Work?](#) - Katrina Liu (Author), Heru Setiawan (Illustrator)
-  [The Secret Life of Viruses: Incredible Science Facts about Germs, Vaccines, and What You Can Do to Stay Healthy](#) - Mariona Tolosa Sisteré (Author), Ellas Educan Collective (Author)
-  [Sofia and the Shot](#) - Sarah Wilson PNP (Author)
-  [Never Give Up: Dr. Kati Karikó and the Race for the Future of Vaccines](#) - Debbie Dadey (Author), Juliana Oakley (Illustrator)
-  [Vaccines Change the World](#) (Science in Action) - Gillian King-Cargile (Author), Sandie Sonke (Illustrator)
-  [The Little Ouch](#) - Katherine Picarde (Author), Khalima Murzina (Illustrator)

Summer Outreach Events Summary

<b>BHcare’s Valley Social Club</b>	Vanessa and Beatriz attended the Valley Social Club, where members can choose from an array of in-house activities. Members and staff interacted with NVHD during a Q&A, they then had an opportunity to grab information and giveaways from our table.
<b>Derby Public Library</b>	Vanessa arranged for Beatriz to attend the Derby Public Library children's department. Beatriz provided immunization information to families while they attended story time.
<b>Griffin Passenger Safety Clinic</b>	Vanessa and Beatriz reignited the partnership with the Griffin Health Community Outreach team and provided resources at their monthly free child passenger safety clinic. Vanessa will continue to attend this event on a monthly basis.
<b>Salvation Army Back to School Picnic</b>	Vanessa attended the Salvation Army's Back to School Picnic, an event aimed at supporting families as they prepare for the new school year. Families received backpacks, uniforms, clothes, shoes, and much more for back to school. Vanessa gave out lunch totes for all of the kids filled with vaccine information. The Back to School Picnic was not only a celebration of the upcoming academic year but also an opportunity to empower families to make informed health decisions for their children.





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**CT Foodshare Events**

Location: Our Lady Queen  
of the Apostles Church  
(Derby)

Vanessa and our intern, Liliana, attended the biweekly Foodshare event. NVHD’s partnership with Team, inc., and Griffin Health attracted more participants to the informational tables.

In August, Vanessa continued to attend this Foodshare event observe the community and provide them with vaccine information as well as NVHD totes for their groceries. Due to the storm on 8/18, there were more families than usual.

Location: The Abundant  
Life Fellowship Ministries  
(Ansonia)

Vanessa, Beatriz, and NVHD’s intern Liliana, attended the Ansonia Foodshare event for the first time in the month of July. It was such a success that the person in charge, Dr. Leslie Youngblood, asked NVHD to return on an ongoing basis. Reusable bags, sunscreen, and vaccine information were provided to the community members.

Location: Commuter Lot  
(Beacon Falls)

We continued to promote awareness of the Foodshare events in Beacon Falls as well as other pop up distribution events in Naugatuck and Shelton.





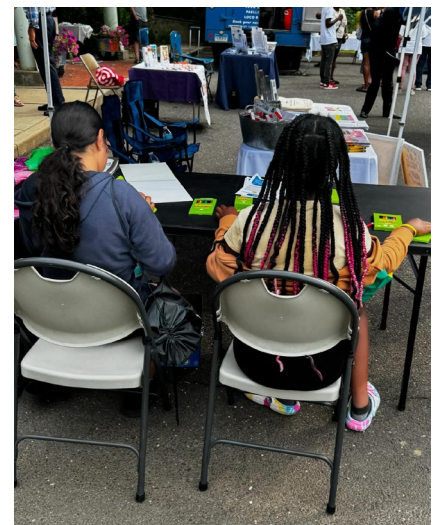
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**Spooner House**

Three times during the month of July, Vanessa and Beatriz attended Spooner House in partnership with the Yale Pathology Labs. While Yale Pathology Labs tested residents in their mobile unit, Beatriz and Vanessa spoke with residents on the importance of vaccinating themselves and their families, as well as the importance of testing for COVID.



On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vanessa and Bea also attended Spooner House's Rock the Block Party to provide education material. Bea also set up an art station so youth/teens can draw their submissions for our flu vaccine art contest!

Clinical Services

Public Health Nurse, Kristie D'Averso, RN, administered 120 child vaccines over the summer. Kristie saw patients at our office clinic and NVHD staff also held a clinic at Naugatuck High School for Naugatuck families to get vaccinated before school started. Kristie was very busy with these back-to-school vaccines and would get families seen as soon as possible.





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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). DPH continues to host monthly meetings related to prevention and control. The June topic was on the National Safety Health Network and July was focused on Tuberculosis. Lynn Sosa, CT Director of Infectious Disease, discussed the new Tuberculosis guidance that we will be following from now on. There have been some changes based on discharge from the hospital and specimen collection.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Kristie continues to monitor two residents with Tuberculosis. CT DPH held a training on TB Contact Investigations for local health on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Miscellaneous

Valley Council

I attended an Executive Committee of the Valley Council in June where we discussed the by-laws for the Council.

Conferences

Kristie attended the CT Association of Public Health Nurses annual conference in Stratford on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The topic of the conference was “Nurses Health Thyselfs” which focused on personal well-being and being in the right state of mind to deal with challenges of the nursing profession.

Vanessa and Paulina attended the Connecticut Health Foundation Conference, which also celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They heard from state and national policymakers, health systems, community organizations, and philanthropy on what can be done now to make health equity a reality. The diverse panelists and speakers talked about the most important steps to take now so we will see concrete progress within the next 10 years.



Vanessa and Beatriz attended the virtual **National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) (NACHW) Unity Conference**. There were many workshops to pick from, Vanessa attended the Amplifying Community Engagement: Effective Partnerships Between National Non-Profits and CHWs as well as the Community Health Workers: Providing Essential Services workshop.





Board of Directors  
Monthly Public Health Report: Summer 2024  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
**Melanie Dokla, BS, RS**  
**Assistant Director**  
**SUMMER 2024**  
**JUNE | JULY | AUGUST**

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### **Food Service Establishments**

Seasonal/temporary permit applications are being reviewed and scheduled for an inspection.

Staff continue to conduct routine inspections, plan views and inspections for food service establishments that are new or changing ownership.

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

### **Body Care**

Staff continue to conduct plan views and inspections for body care establishments that are new or changing ownership.

The renewals for all existing Body Care Establishment (235) were sent out in mid-August and the process will continue until the end of September when the current permits expire. A call-down will be sent out to notify establishment owners that renewals were sent out via mail.

### **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**

Environmental staff continues to investigate housing code violations and complaints.

### **Public Pools**

36 outdoor / seasonal public swimming pool inspections and follow-up inspections were completed.

### **Fresh water sampling**

Water sample collections from the Derby Recreation Camp on the Housatonic River have been taken weekly since July. The swimming area had to be closed 1 time due to water quality issues. Collection ended the week of August 1st.

### **Lead**

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

- Initial Inspections conducted: June 1, July 6 and August 1
- Follow-up inspections conducted: June 1, July 3 and August 2

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

- Initial Inspections conducted: June 0, July 0 and August 2
- Follow-up inspections conducted: June 2, July 0 and August 5



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On August 14<sup>th</sup> (virtual portion) and August 29<sup>th</sup> (site visit portion) Carissa, Lisa and I attended a meeting with DPH’s Lead Hazards Reduction and Control Unit. Program updates, surveillance, legislation and case management were discussed.

**Miscellaneous**

Vanessa concluded her internship with the environmental section on August 11<sup>th</sup>. She completed several projects and developed guidance documents for staff to utilize. She also created educational materials for events as well as social media.

Laurel attended a 3-day Risk Based Inspection Methods Training in Hartford on August 13, 14 & 15. This training was designed to further enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of food safety inspection officers in conducting risk-based inspections.

**Emergency Reponses**

	Date/Time	Location	Description of Event
1.	6/13-14	Marie Drive, Seymour	Housing, sewage leak
2.	6/14	Thai Dish, Seymour	Structural issue
3.	8/2	Bridgeport Ave, Shelton	Sewage complaint
4.	8/19-8/20	Seymour Klarides Village Downtown Naugatuck	Flood

**Temporary Events After-Hours**

1.	6/1-6/2	Food Trucks on the River, Shelton
2.	6/8	St. Michael’s Artisan Fair, Naugatuck
3.	6/29-30	Mid-Summer Fantasy Renaissance Faire, Ansonia
4.	6/27-29	Beacon Falls Carnival, Beacon Falls
5.	7/3	Shelton Fire Works, Shelton
6.	8/10-12	Holy Rosary, Ansonia
7.	8/24	Rock the Valley, Ansonia
8.	8/24	Naugatuck Food Truck Festival on the Green, Naugatuck

