



Miscellaneous

Staff Celebration

Pictured are most of our staff at our annual holiday celebration, which was held at the Brookside Inn in Oxford this year. We were missing a few, but in order to help put a face to the name of all the hard work you hear about, pictured left to right starting with the back row are John (Sanitarian), Tracy (Overdose Prevention Navigator), Kristie (Nurse), Melanie (Assistant Director of Environmental Health Services), Vanessa (Immunization Program Specialist), Austin (Overdose Prevention Navigator), Judi (Admin), and Glenda (Per Diem Food Inspector). In the front row, from left to right are Rose (Admin), Betty (Board Recording Secretary), Jess (Director of Health), Beatriz (SORT Program Specialist), Carissa (Assistant Director of Community Health Services), Laurel (Chief Environmental Health Specialist), Amanda (Housing Code Enforcement Officer/Sanitarian), and Amy (Housing Code Enforcement Officer/Sanitarian).



National Association of County and City Health Official (NACCHO)

On November 21st and December 19th, I attended the National Association of County and City Health Official's (NACCHO's) Monthly All-Local Health Organizations Call.

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 and took place November 19th and December 17th.

Statewide DPH & Local Health Meetings

I continue to attend the monthly meeting held for local health and DPH. NVHD staff also attend if their schedule permits. DPH has established a new SharePoint website so that archived presentations or handouts can be accessed and shared as appropriate.



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

Paulina continues to chair the IDEA committee.

Intern Emily Simmons worked with Paulina to create an in-depth presentation based on the findings of the internal IDEA Assessment conducted by the committee earlier this year. This presentation is designed to be accessible to staff and features potential solutions and/or improvements to the issues identified in the assessment results. Emily will complete the presentation sometime in January.

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.

November's "IDEA of the Month" suggested "Native peoples/Indigenous peoples/American Indian and Alaska Native" as an equity-based alternative for the widespread term "Indian". See explanation below:

Plurality (i.e., "Native peoples") is often preferred, to avoid the homogenization of Indigenous peoples that so often occurs in dominant narratives. Native peoples/Indigenous peoples/ American Indian should be used instead of "Indian." According to the National Museum of the American Indian, "The consensus, however, is that whenever possible, Native people prefer to be called by their specific tribal name...". First Nations and First Nations peoples are accepted terms worldwide to refer to Indigenous peoples. When referring to Native groups, use the terminology the members of the community use to describe themselves.

December's "IDEA of the Month" was the term "allyship". See definition below:

The lifelong practice of unlearning, active listening, re-evaluating, and building relationships of trust and accountability in partnership and consistent solidarity with individuals and communities who are marginalized or systemically disempowered.

When health departments practice allyship, it increases the likelihood of the surrounding community trusting that the health department has their best interest in mind. True allyship requires the knowledge that well-intentioned actions may cause harm and a willingness to take part in truth-telling or reconciliation processes.

Quality Improvement

Carissa continues to Chair the QI Committee. The Reconstruction of the Temporary Event Process Project continues.

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.

Lisa attended the statewide CT Partnership for Workforce Development meeting on December 2nd. Topics included an overview and discussion of the publichealthcareers.org website by a representative from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), which was followed by discussion from CT DPH regarding challenges with posting state jobs to a national site (for example, for lower-level positions, there is an inundation of applications from unqualified or out-of-state candidates); an update on the de Beaumont Foundation's Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS); funding opportunities for specific grant programs; and a brainstorm of future topics and collaborations.



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Air Quality and Climate Change

Grant: EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant

Status: Still Pending Sub-Contract from CT DPH

I have continued working with Hannah and Melia from the DPH Office of Climate and Health to revise the contract activity language. We are hopeful that DPH legal will be able to finally move forward with approvals and contract executions after the new year. Former Intern Liliana will be returning this summer (2025) to help support this grant in addition to the NVHD staff that will be working on this project.

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 Executed with New Haven Health Department

During November 2024, Naugatuck Valley Health District (NVHD) hired both full-time Overdose Prevention Navigators. Austin Telford, MPH, CCHW will be covering the 6 Valley communities and Tracy Tenesaca will be covering the additional municipalities of Milford, Orange and West Haven. Austin started November 4th and Tracy started November 12th. For the foreseeable future, Tracy will be splitting office hours between NVHD (Seymour) and Milford Health Department.

Navigators Austin and Tracy attended an OD2A Systems Training at New Haven Health Department on November 14th. This was scheduled at the same time as the November OD2A Monthly Partners Meeting, so they were unable to attend that meeting, but Jess still attended to meet the contract attendance obligation. The December 2024 OD2A Monthly Partners Call was cancelled.

Austin and Tracy, Lisa (Health Educator), and I attended the Valley Prevention Council meeting on November 21st. While Tracy is responsible for communities outside of the Valley, BHcare's Alliance for Prevention & Wellness is the lead of our VPC so it was good for both Navigators to be able to introduce themselves to Lorrie and the APW Navigators. Anna Gasinski and Robert Lawlor provided a New England HIDTA informational workshop. The meeting explored drug trends and overdose challenges in CT and focused on the alarming rise of substances such as fentanyl, fake pills, xylazine and other emerging substances. We examined substance-specific issues affecting youth, including the increasing use of stimulants. The presentation addressed strategies for reducing stigma and the critical role of language in shaping perceptions of addiction and recovery. Emphasizing the importance of thoughtful communication, we discussed how these elements are essential in effectively tackling the drug crisis. Finally, we highlighted the vital role of community prevention, response, and support in combating these challenges.

Tracy attended the monthly Milford Prevention Council meetings in November and December.

I provided a 2-hour Narcan and Opioids Training for Austin and Tracy on Monday, November 25th. I have been providing additional training such as surveillance systems available to NVHD as they relate to non-fatal and fatal overdoses as well as hospital encounters.

The CT Department of Public Health Office of Violence and Injury Prevention has established a quarterly meeting with state health officials (DPH prevention and surveillance staff as well as Department of Corrections staff) and local health departments that are working on OD2A grants (NVHD, New Haven, Waterbury, Quinnipiac Valley Health District, East Shore District Health Department, Hartford Health Department, West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District, Central CT Health District, and North Central Health District). The latest meeting was held on December 4th and was attended by





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me, Austin, and Tracy. This is helpful for standardization of work and sharing of best practices and/or challenges. Morbidity, mortality and surveillance data are also reviewed and discussed at these meetings.

On Friday, December 6th, Austin and Tracy completed the required CPR & First Aid training with Jennifer Atkins of New Haven Health Department. They also met the new Navigator Joel from Quinnipiac Valley Health District (another sub-contractor on this grant) at this training.

On December 16th, Austin and Tracy virtually attended a meeting about opportunities and challenges for a New Haven Overdose Prevention Center (OPC), which included a data presentation from a year-long feasibility assessment coordinated by the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) and conducted by Facente Consulting. The process engaged 156 individuals with experience of homelessness and/or substance use and an additional 84 community experts including elected officials, first responders, addition medicine clinicians, and housing and harm reduction staff.

Austin has been actively meeting with community partners and local organizations, including libraries, food pantries, the YMCA, and the First Selectmen/Mayors offices, etc. to build connections, gather information about specific towns, and understand how he can contribute to their efforts in improving community well-being. He has been attending community meetings to establish NVHD's presence in the Valley's overdose response efforts and to explore potential collaborations with other organizations.

Tracy also began in-person and virtual meetings with community partners and community-based organizations such as Bridges Healthcare, Matt Van, Milford Prevention Council, Milford Police Dept social workers, Milford COOR Collaborative, and Orange Prevention Council. These introductory meetings help establish relationships and understanding between Tracy and these organizations so that she can better serve the community and link people to care.

Austin and Tracy have also been completing ongoing training as part of orientation and as required by NVHD's Workforce Development Program.

Since being hired, Austin has already obtained his CT Certified Community Health Worker (CCHW) certification! Way to go Austin!

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services, Chair

I facilitated the Region 5 ESF 8 meetings on November 1st and December 6th. I attended the Region 2 ESF 8 meeting on November 20th and the December meeting was cancelled. I attended and provided updates at the Region 5 REPT meeting on November 18th.

I was invited and participated in the 2024 Public Health Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) on November 4th. The purpose of the IPPW is to inform the development of the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) by engaging state and local stakeholders and partners in setting preparedness priorities and developing a multi-year training and exercise schedule. Our objectives included reviewing training and exercise requirements identified in the PHEP and HPP cooperative agreements (deliverables), establishing the preparedness priorities for the current five-year period of performance, discussing current threats and hazards identified in our most recent jurisdictional risk assessment and how those inform the preparedness priorities, considerations for opportunities for improvement and





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corrective actions from real-world events or exercise After Action Reports and developing the five-year training and exercise schedule for the IPP.

I was also invited to participate in the Statewide Training and Exercise Workgroup (STEW), which first met on December 11th. I was on the original STEW when it was created years ago so it is exciting to reconvene this type of planning in CT.

Medical Reserve Corps

I am pleased to announce that NVMRC was awarded a \$10,000 2025 Operational Readiness Award (ORA) Grant from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO). The 2025 ORA will primarily cover the costs associated with purchasing training items for volunteers for programs like STOP THE BLEED[®], Adult Mental Health First Aid Certifications, Opioid Prevention & Response Training (including Narcan kits), updated ID lanyards, office supplies, and 2 hours per week of my time for supervising the program.

We are in the process of coordinating dates for our Region 5 MRC BLS and First Aid Training program that is being funded through a CT HCC grant. Once the dates are confirmed, the training information will be sent to active MRC volunteers in good standing (meaning they have a current CTResponds.CT.gov profile, have passed a background check, have completed orientation and have completed a Loyalty Oath).

The CT DPH MRC Coordinator continues to hold the monthly MRC meetings, and the latest meeting was held December 3rd. We now have access to a MRC SharePoint site that will have DPH Narrative Reports, Meeting Minutes, Memos, Mission Sey Work Group Information, Activation Paperwork, Loyalty Oath Logs, Training, and other resources. As the CT Region 5 MRC Lead, I will now be responsible for collecting the Region 5 MRC Unit Quarterly Programmatic Reports and uploading them to SharePoint.

I attended the Federal Office of Medical Reserve Corps (OMRC) Town Hall Meeting on December 3rd which included updates from ASPR OMRC, Center for Preparedness, the Office of Public Affairs, NACCHO, requirements for Multi-Factor Authentication, MRC National Network Year-End Review, and the renewed partnership with the American Red Cross.

On December 4th, I attended the evening Federal OMRC meeting which went into great depth about the recently updated MRC and Red Cross Memorandum of Agreement, including areas for local and national collaboration.

CT Healthcare Coalition (HCC)

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

The bi-monthly membership meeting was held on December 18th.

NACCHO Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)

Connecticut Representative

PPAG met on December 18th. The agenda included updates from DHS, a NACCHO Government Affairs update, evaluating the HPP Funding Formula RFI, and Engaging Communities and Integrating Health Equity.





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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>

The following update is provided by Paulina:

Beatriz continues to do community outreach; in November and December, she focused on flu prevention among younger populations, attending several Valley libraries’ Storytime events to read books such as “Bear Feels Sick” and “Achoo! Achoo! I’ve Got the Flu”.

In December, the team received our order of NVHD-branded Respiratory Guidance posters, designed by Paulina. Beatriz distributed orders to over thirty community partners, including daycares, churches, senior centers, housing authorities, libraries, and community organizations such as the YMCA and Boys and Girls clubs. The posters feature CDC’s most up-to-date respiratory virus prevention guidance and were available in English and Spanish.

In honor of National Influenza Vaccination Week, which ran from December 2-6th, Paulina created a mini social media campaign promoting flu vaccination using the winning artwork from NVHD’s 2024 Public Health Contest, the theme of which was Flu Vaccine Awareness.

Table 1. Adult Case Statistics (18+)

	October	November	December
Total Cases & Contacts Managed	74	19	47
Attempted Contact: Letters Mailed	64	16	43
Consultations with Residents	6	1	2

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

	October	November	December
Total Cases & Contacts Managed	6	4	6
Attempted Contact: Letters Mailed	8	4	6
Consultations with Residents	0	0	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.





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The first week of December marked Handwashing Awareness Week. NVHD's Intern, Emilija demonstrates the importance of thoroughly washing our hands in order to get rid of all the germs in the video below. Watch the video here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/7zK7pzuhBoo> or click the image to play.





COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
Carissa Caserta, MPH
WINTER 2024
NOVEMBER | DECEMBER

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

As we approach the end of the year, the CHIP has concluded, and we have begun discussing with our CHIP Steering Committee partners how we envision the final report out will look like.

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, the Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center, and the Valley Community Foundation.

Community Health Programs

Community Health staff have planned several upcoming programs for January and have begun to prepare materials for each. Starting mid-January, there will be a Chronic Disease Self-Management workshop at Ansonia Senior Center, Mental Health First Aid at NVHD, virtual QPR sessions, LiveWell leader trainings, Matter of Balance Coach Trainings, and more!

Lisa also completed the Matter of Balance Master Training! She can now train other coaches to run the program and will host her first training in the next couple of months. She also attended the Fall Free CT Coalition meeting on December 10th which focuses on falls prevention.

Mental Health Programs

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Lisa will be hosting the first MHFA training for the new year at NVHD on Saturday, February 22nd (snow date March 1st) in collaboration with the Meriden Health Department. This is open to the public and registration is required: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JHM9RVL>.

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention)

Lisa held 1 QPR virtual training on November 14th and had 13 participants. She is teaching another virtual QPR training on January 16th at 6:00pm. This is open to the public and registration is required: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucuqrpj0pEtyDGghNr41viUC9IAy5Ub9V#/registration>.

Suicide Prevention & Postvention

The Region 5 Suicide Advisory Board met on November 20th and the Region 2 Suicide Advisory Board met on December 3rd. In early November, Lisa, Jess, and I attended a meeting with our Region 2 (BHcare's APW) and Region 5 (Western CT Coalition) Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAOs) as well as the program manager for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Disaster Behavioral Health Response Network (DBHRN) to establish better connections and explore opportunities to streamline cross-regional postvention work. The partners met again on December 19th, and we are now planning a joint Region 2 and Region 5 CONNECT suicide postvention training that will be held in the Valley after the new year.

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 carried out by several of our staff.





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Immunization Grants & Clinical Services

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Grant Program

Elizabeth completed 2 IQIP visits at two pediatrician offices within her jurisdiction (which includes the 6 Valley towns, Stratford, Trumbull and Monroe). The Quarter 4 Statewide IAP meeting was held on December 5th which included updates on contracts, CT WiZ, CT Vaccine Program updates, Pharmaceutical updates, IQIP and VFC site visit updates, and updates on data analytics.

CDC Immunization Grant October Outreach Events Summary

Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish Derby Foodshare	Vanessa attended the Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish food pantry giveaway; she provided the community with important information for keeping safe during the upcoming respiratory virus season. She also connected with various community members who recognized her.
Salvation Army	During the month of November, Vanessa and Beatriz attended the Salvation Army Holiday food pantries. Vanessa provided/packed immunization information into the prepackaged holiday gift bags for families to pick up and translated for families in need.
Griffin Hospital Griffin Passenger Safety Clinic	Vanessa attended the monthly car seat check hosted by Griffin, where she provided immunization information to parents and parents-to-be.
Derby Public Library NVHD Storytime & Hand Washing	<p>Beatriz, Vanessa, and Emilija (Intern) 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.</p> <p>They 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>
Salem Elementary School Naugatuck	Vanessa and Beatriz met with the Student and Family Engagement Specialist at the Salem Elementary School in hopes of partnering and providing families with resources. Vanessa compiled information and then packed it into NVHD lunch bags, she brought them to the Student and Family Engagement Specialist for him to distribute to 8 families who collect backpacks full of food on a weekly basis. Vanessa plans on continuing to provide updated information month-to-month
<p>Translation: Vanessa assisted Kristie, Beatriz, Paulina, and Emilija many times with translating from Spanish to English and vice versa.</p>	





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Clinical Services

In November and December, Kristie provided 25 vaccines to children in the Valley in between flu clinics.

Flu clinics have officially ended for 2024! Throughout the season, NVHD staff hosted 31 flu clinics throughout the Valley and vaccinated 1081 people. Thank you to our public health nurse, Kristie, for championing these clinics and always being open to try new locations! I would also like to thank Jodi Zahela, from Valley Pharmacy, who was our second vaccinator this year at a lot of our clinics. It would be nearly impossible to vaccinate over 1000 people without a second nurse. This year we contacted all the daycares in the area and set up clinics for families so they could meet the state requirement of being vaccinated for flu before 12/31/24. That was very successful!

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 meetings on November 19th and December 17th. Jess attended the Infection Control Nurses of CT meeting on November 27th which included information on antibiotic stewardship, COVID return to work guidelines and mask use, water management, Project First Line resources, and C-diff awareness week. Jess attended the quarterly meeting of the HAI-AR Advisory Committee on December 4th.

Tuberculosis (TB)

There are no active cases at this time.

Miscellaneous

Health Education Outreach

Lisa, Bea, Kristie and Carissa attended the first Griffin Health Community Fair at Christ Church in Ansonia. Lisa and Bea disseminated health education information, while Kristie and Carissa held a flu clinic.



Pictured left to right: Beatriz, SORT Program Specialist, Carissa, Assistant Director of Community Health Services, Nurse Kristie, and Lisa, Health Educator





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CT Public Health Association Conference

Carissa, Vanessa, Lisa, Tracy, Austin, and Emilija attended this year's CT Public Health Association's conference at Aqua Turf. This year's CPHA conference theme was "Building Healthier Communities Together; Centering on Community and Changemaking." Every year, they have great breakout sessions with speakers on several different topics, such as community programs, opioid use prevention, and epidemiology. It's also a great space for teambuilding and working with other public health professionals around the state.

NVHD's Overdose Prevention Navigator, Austin Telford, MPH, received the Michael Perlin Award!

"The Michael J. Perlin Student Award recognizes a current graduate or undergraduate enrolled in an accredited public health program who demonstrates, through student activities and/or community service, a commitment to leadership, volunteerism, and the highest educational standards. At the time of his death, Perlin was Professor Emeritus of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University, where he had distinguished himself as a respected educator, colleague, and public health advocate. During his 41 years in education, he spent the majority of his time at SCSU as a Professor of Public Health. Perlin was known as an energetic and ingenious teacher who left an indelible mark on countless students. He was the 2009 recipient of the CEA Winslow Award."

NVHD's other Overdose Prevention Navigator, Tracy Tenesaca won a public health T-shirt as part of the raffle!



Pictured left to right: Emilija, Intern/UB MPH student, Tracy, Overdose Prevention Navigator, Austin, Overdose Prevention Navigator, Vanessa, Immunization Program Specialist, Carissa, Assistant Director of Community Health Services, and Lisa, Health Educator





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Melanie Dokla, BS, RS
WINTER 2024
NOVEMBER | DECEMBER

Food Service Establishments

Food service renewal applications were sent out mid-November. There were 642 renewal applications sent out to existing establishments, permits expire December 31, 2024. Establishments failing to renew their permits by the expiration date will be subject to a \$20 fee per day until January 8, 2025. On January 9th those outstanding establishments will be ordered to close.

A phone call was sent out via EasyLink broadcast system to all food service establishments on November 25th informing them of the renewal application mailing. Reminder phone calls were sent out via EasyLink on December 19th, January 2nd and a “live” phone calls will be made to the outstanding establishments on January 7th.

As of January 6, 2025, there are several establishments (73) that have not renewed their food service permit.

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. We appreciate her assistance.

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

Body Care

Staff also 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 seeing a rise in housing complaints. These complaints are regarding no heat, no hot water and/or heat that is not reaching the required 65°F (Connecticut General State Statues Section 19a-109).

Lead

Starting January 1st new requirements for elevated blood lead levels went into effect. NVHD is now required to complete a full comprehensive lead investigation for any child under the age of 6 with a blood lead level of ≥ 5 ug/dL.

Previously, an on-site inspection was conducted by NVHD staff when a child under the age of 6 had a blood level ≥ 5 ug/dL but < 10 ug/dL. A comprehensive inspection was conducted by NVHD staff when a child under the age of 6 had a blood lead level of ≥ 10 ug/dL.



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This change will certainly increase the environmental health staff’s workload in the upcoming months.

Lead abatement plans submitted by lead abatement contractors are being reviewed and property owners are issued written orders from this office. Once the project has received approval and work is completed, a final inspection is conducted to ensure work was done as specified in the plan.

Miscellaneous

On November 5th, I attended the Bed Bug Forum XII in New Haven, CT. Topics covered included: Challenges with Hoarding, Bed Bug Management, Bed Bug History, Bed Bug Myths and a Review of Bed Bug Biology and Behavior.

On November 6th, I attended the 2024 CT DPH Radon Program Partner’s Meeting which included presentations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the American Lung Association (ALA) and an industry expert who shared insights onto measure radon, mitigation and public health strategies.

On November 7th, the environmental section began a quality improvement (QI) project. The goals of this project are to review and revise the application and guidelines, create educational materials, reduce the number of late applicants and improve compliance.

On November 8th, Laurel Shaw attended the 70th Annual CT Environmental Health Association (CEHA) fall meeting. The agenda included presentations from the Department of Health Lead Program, the Bureau of Agriculture and the Department of Public Health Septic Program. The CEHA Past Presidents were also recognized and spoke about their professional experiences over the years, including former NVHD Assistant Director of Environmental Health Services, Dave Rogers.

On November 20th, NVHD staff met Chelsea Nelis, our new regional Lead Program Case Management Unit epidemiologist from DPH. She transferred to the lead program from the State Laboratory.

On December 18, staff attended a virtual Allergen training that was sponsored by the FDA. The training provided an overview of food labeling and food allergen labeling requirements and compliance.



Emergency Reponses

	Date/Time	Location	Description of Event
1.	11/6/24 6:00pm	Downtown Shelton Restaurants	Discolored water
2.	11/8/24 1:00pm	Great Hill Road, Seymour	Septic failure

