



Miscellaneous

Public Health Accreditation

Our annual report for PHAB was completed and submitted prior to the June 30th deadline.

CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH)

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

The Annual CADH Meeting was held on June 6th in Branford. I was elected to serve another 2-year term on the Board of Directors and will continue serving as the Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair. The Board of Directors met on June 25th.

National Association of County and City Health Official (NACCHO)

I attended NACCHO’s Monthly Nationwide All-Local Health Organizations Call on June 26th.

American Public Health Association (APHA)

I attended the June legislative update meeting on June 9th.

Statewide DPH & Local Health Meetings

I continue to attend the monthly meeting held for local health and DPH staff (co-hosted by CADH). NVHD staff also attend if their schedule permits. The meeting was held on June 11th.

Town of Seymour Safety Committee

I attended the Seymour Safety Committee meeting on June 10th.

Men’s Health Awareness Week

Wear BLUE Day is celebrated every year on the Friday of Men’s Health Week. “Men live sicker and die younger. Wear BLUE was created by Men’s Health Network to raise awareness about the importance of male health and to encourage men to live longer and healthier lives. Men’s health awareness can mean many different things. It means raising awareness of making healthy lifestyle choices, making regular annual visits to the doctor, getting educated on heart disease or diabetes, starting general health conversations with their male friends, and much more...” - wearblueformenshealth.com



Workforce Development

Lisa continues to chair the NVHD Workforce Development Committee. By the end of the fiscal year, we had we had 97% compliance for the staff training plan.

I attended a key stakeholder Public Health Training Academy of Connecticut (PHTAC) meeting on June 9th. The Office of Public Health Workforce Development has been in the process of developing the Public Health Training Academy of Connecticut (PHTAC), which is intended to be a one stop training resource for public health professionals in the state. The major platform for the training academy is the learning management system TRAIN CT.





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Air Quality and Climate Change

Grant: EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant

Status: Contract is fully executed!

The contract period is May 2025 through March 31, 2027, and the total contract is \$113,608.44. Intern Liliana Restrepo has returned to NVHD to complete her summer 2025 internship. Liliana will be working with me on completing some of the grant deliverables over the summer while we await the other partners' contracts to be executed (i.e., UCONN & Yale).

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; Carryover funds approved

June 6th was National Naloxone Awareness Day. NVHD staff wore purple to help raise awareness about the importance of access to and training on how to use naloxone (Narcan). Naloxone hydrochloride is an approved over-the-counter life-saving medicine that can rapidly reverse an opioid overdose. It can quickly restore normal breathing in a person whose breath has slowed, or even stopped, because of opioid overdose.

June brought a significant increase in street-level outreach and community engagement efforts. Throughout the month, Connecticut experienced clusters of overdoses in short periods, with some incidents specifically occurring in the Valley area. This uptick in overdoses prompted Austin to increase outreach in the mentioned areas. He went out to distribute naloxone, fentanyl and xylazine test strips, and wound care supplies, while also providing training on their proper use and how to identify an overdose.



Adding to the demands of the month, a week-long heat wave hit, this started an additional three days of dedicated outreach. The focus was on our unhoused community and residents at large, distributing essential items like water, shower wipes, and sunscreen, along with more wound care supplies. This outreach also provided an opportunity to share information about local cooling centers, helping individuals find a place to go during the extreme daytime heat.

Austin continues to provide education and resources at the Foodshare distribution events. Austin also set up a resource table at the Fighting Against Drugs Everywhere (F.A.D.E.) 5K Walk/Run in Shelton on June 26th.

The OD2A partners meeting was held on June 12th and I also attended an OD2A meeting for Directors of Health on June 24th.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

I completed a 2-day/8-hour FEMA training on Pandemic Planning: Mental and Behavioral Health. The training was led by the Columbia Climate School National Center for Disaster Preparedness and was held on June 24th and June 26th.

The Region 5 Local Health PHEP meeting was held on June 10th.

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ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services, Chair

I facilitated the Region 5 ESF #8 meeting on June 6th and Carissa attended the Region 2 ESF #8 meeting on June 18th on my behalf due to a scheduling conflict. I attended the virtual REPT Steering Committee meeting for Region 2 on June 20th.

CT Healthcare Coalition (HCC)

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

The bi-monthly meeting was held on June 18th

NACCHO Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)

Connecticut Representative

PPAG met on June 26th. There was a lot of continued discussion on the ever-changing landscape of the federal administration's priorities, agency changes, and funding landscape.

Medical Reserve Corps

ORA Grant Status: Contract Executed

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. Work will begin on this in June.

I completed the annual Technical Assistance Assessment (TAA) as required by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Federal MRC program with the HHS Region 1 Coordinator, Jen Frenette on June 25th.

Surveillance & Outbreak Response

NVHD has COVID-19 test kits back in stock! While we re-organize our Surveillance and Outbreak Response Team/Program, you can contact the main line to request a COVID-19 test kit (203-881-3255 x 100).

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COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
Carissa Caserta, MPH
June 2025

Community Health Assessment: The Valley Index (CHA)

Save the date! The public unveiling of the 2025 Valley Community Index will be on July 18th at 8:15AM in the auditorium at Scinto Towers. Lisa, Jess, and I continued attending the Coordinating Committee meetings ahead of the event. The four working groups, including the Health and Mental Health Committee (which Jess, Lisa, Austin, and I are on), Children, Youth & Education, Seniors & Aging, and Economic Stability & Basic Needs have concluded their meetings and data review process. Lisa has done a tremendous amount of data mining and sourcing for this document. We, the Coordinating Committee, have provided all our final edits and the document is now with the design company for final production.

Community Health Programs

Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP)

Kristie and Lisa completed a DSMP program at Seymour Community Center, with 10 attendees completing the program. The program was well received with a lot of great feedback on the evaluation forms. Lisa and Kristie will be offering two phone-based DSMP programs over the summer.

Chronic Disease Self-Management (CDSMP)

Kristie and Lisa will be hosting a Chronic Disease workshop at the Naugatuck Senior Center beginning July 1st.

Matter of Balance (MOB)

Lisa and I completed a Matter of Balance class started at the Ansonia Senior Center with 9 attendees completing the program. We have scheduled a Matter of Balance Master Training to certify new leaders that will be held on July 9th and 10th.

Mental Health Programs

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Austin will be trained to teach MHFA over the summer. Once he is certified, Lisa and Austin will schedule a training. Lisa will be co-taught a MFHA with Liz (Meriden) this month.

Immunization Grants & Clinical Services

Clinical Services

In June, Kristie administered 7 vaccines to 4 children and 1 adult.

We have also started to schedule flu clinics in the Fall and will be starting clinics at the end of September this year to help space them out.





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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). Jess attended the meeting on June 17th which provided an update on mpox and guidance for MRSA in daycare settings. There was also a discussion on a potential tabletop exercise: CRAB, facilitated by DPH HAI-AR, and it would focus on initial notifications, investigations, early interventions, and screening information.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Kristie is actively monitoring and performing daily Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for 2 cases of TB.

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Grant Program

Elizabeth conducted one CVP Site Visit at Shelton Family Medicine on June 6th.

Teddy Bear Clinics

The community health team completed Teddy Bear Clinics for the final 3 libraries in the Valley. Seymour and Beacon Falls Public Libraries collaborated for their clinic, bringing two communities together. Ansonia Library also had a nutritionist on site for the children's teddy bears. Both clinics had a great turnout, with lots of laughter and smiles.



Miscellaneous

Vanessa, Austin, and Liliana attended the Connecticut Foodshare distribution events across the Valley, bringing educational resources as well as hygiene and other items for individuals in need.





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Melanie Dokla, BS, RS
June 2025

Food Service Establishments

Seasonal 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, continues to assist in conducting food service inspection after hours and on the weekend, up to 20 hours a week.

Public Pools

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

Body Care

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 have issued permits to discharge. Laurel continues to train staff in the SSDS program.

Housing Complaints

Environmental staff continue to investigate housing code violations and complaints.

Lead Education & Action Program (LEAP)

As expected, we have seen an increase in elevated blood lead (EBLL) cases, which require a comprehensive lead inspection. This inspection consists of X-ray fluorescent (XRF) readings of all components in each room and components on the exterior of the property, dust wipe samples in each room, 2 water samples and any bare soil on the exterior of the property. If the residence is a multifamily dwelling the other units are required to be tested if there is a child under the age of six.

Lead abatement plans submitted by lead abatement contractors are 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.

This month, Public Health Specialist, Vanessa Lopez, MPH, CCHW earned her initial Lead Inspector /Risk Assessor certification! This accomplishment allows Vanessa to join NVHD's team of certified inspectors that help mitigate concerns around childhood blood lead levels in the Naugatuck Valley. Vanessa also continued to help by translating for a lead case. The homeowner needed further help with understanding how to go about the lead abatement orders.





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Lead Stats

Open environmental lead cases (properties)	20
Active case management (children)	54
New child case management	1

Fresh Water Sampling

Water sample collections from the Derby Recreation Camp on the Housatonic River have been taken weekly starting June 18th. The swimming area did not need to be closed due to water quality issues.

Miscellaneous

On June 4th, Laurel and I attended a Court Procedure and Trail Preparation for Code Officials training sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Housing Code Enforcement Officials (CAHCEO). The training reviewed the process and procedures for a criminal case in CT. It covered the basics regarding testifying as a fact and expert witness in a criminal trial and how to avoid common pitfalls.

After-Hours Emergency Responses

	Date/Time	Location	Description of Event
1.	None		

After-Hours Temporary Events

	Date/Time	Description of Event	Location
1.	Sunday 6/1/25	Naugatuck Duck Race	Naugatuck
2.	Saturday 6/14/25	St. Michael's Artisan Fair	Naugatuck
3.	Saturday 6/14/25	Cultural Summer Art Concerts	Seymour
3.	Saturday 6/28 – Sunday 6/29/25	Mid-Summer Fantasy Renaissance Faire	Ansonia
4.	Thursday 6/26 – Saturday 6/28/25	Beacon Falls Carnival	Beacon Falls

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