

Monthly Update February, 2011

All Alliance members will receive monthly updates informing the network of upcoming events and activities. If you have information to share, please contact Alveta Haynes at ahaynes@bu.edu by the 15th of the month. Updates will be emailed on the 25th of the month.

→THANK YOU for responding to calls from Shannon Sansonetti in her efforts to complete the Key Informant Interviews. We look forward to hearing from Hope and Shannon as they analyze the collected data.

→ Please submit your “subaward invoice” for the previous quarter ASAP.

MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Kathleen MacVarish, Director of Practice Programs in the Office of Public Health Practice at BU, **has been selected to be a participant in The National Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute.** The Leadership Institute, coordinated by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [National Public Health Leadership Development Network](#) was developed to strengthen the leadership and preparedness capabilities of the environmental public health workforce. Emphasis is placed on the core functions of public health as a foundation for achieving public health goals and the need for proactive environmental public health leaders to mobilize resources in response to the changing public health environment.

Kathleen joins 20 other practitioners and academics from across the country in the seventh cohort of this highly competitive Leadership Institute. Kathleen, a Registered Sanitarian with a Master’s Degree in Food Safety, is a highly respected environmental health practitioner at the state and local level in several states, most recently having served as the Health Director for the town of Milton. As the Director of Practice Programs at BUSPH, she is responsible for numerous activities aimed at training the current and future environmental health workforce in Massachusetts and throughout New England. She serves on several national committees and workgroups charged with setting priorities and developing standards for training the public health workforce. As she gains new leadership skills in the coming year, Kathleen’s rich public health experience and dedication will allow her to bring a strong voice to the National Environment Public Health Leadership Institute.

Safe travels to Kathleen during her week-long Environmental Public Health Leadership training in Atlanta, GA!

VERMONT

Alveta Haynes, NEA Program Manager and Dan Merrigan – academic liaison to NH and VT and Associate Professor in the Department of Community Sciences at the BUSPH – travelled to the Vermont Department of Health and met with Dr. Don Swartz, Director for Public Health Planning and Performance Improvement and staff. While there Dan conducted a training to senior leadership at the Vermont State Department of Health in Burlington. Titled *Reclaiming the Futures of Teens; Transforming the Juvenile Justice System One Community at a Time*, this presentation framed juvenile justice as a public health concern and described Reclaiming Futures, a national reform initiative designed to create and promote a community driven new standard of care for the recognition and treatment of alcohol and drug issues in the juvenile justice system. Development, adoption, implementation, evaluation and dissemination strategies of this innovative system of care model were addressed.

MAINE

Maine has an ambitious agenda for the coming year that will include:

- Develop planning partnership for the Alliance among HSPH, UNE and Maine CDC
- Hold In-Person Training Events with Healthy Maine Partnerships staff and advisory committees, Maine CDC staff, SCC members, DCC members, and other contractors for Maine CDC.

Topics of interest will include: (a) Data use; (b) Program planning and evaluation

- Develop Internet-Based Training Program: preliminarily titled “Orientation to Public Health in Maine”, modeled after a similar program developed and used in Massachusetts.
- Explore New and Important Topics, i.e., **sleep deprivation among school-age children**, in collaboration with the Maine-Harvard PRC and other organizations.

NE HAMPSHIRE

Due to limited resources there is no dedicated position to champion or coordinate workforce infrastructure or capacity development in New Hampshire. Dan Merrigan, Associate Professor at the Boston University School of Public Health, will provide competency-based education and training to the public health workforce with a focus on the core areas of public health using face-to-face, distance learning and hybrid course modalities.

Our New Hampshire partners have the following up-coming events:

April 13, 2011 NH Comprehensive Cancer Collaborative Annual Conference:

“Cancer and the Health Reform Environment: New Opportunities and New Partnerships”

April 16, 2011 National Public Health Awareness Week – NPHPA Annual Meeting:

“Living Injury Free: At Home, At Work, At Play and Everywhere in Between”

CONNECTICUT

For the past five years, the CT Partnership has provided communications and media relations training to public health practitioners. Practice partners repeatedly identified this as an area where a “gap” existed in their formal academic training. After providing a general series of trainings in media relations, partners suggested addressing an emerging area of communications: social media. In 2009, the CT Partnership offered an overview training on social media that was attended by 200 learners. The program was recorded and now exists as an on-demand “course” on www.ct.train.org, where it has been viewed by almost 50 learners (you need a TRAIN account to view the program; the course #1025911). Last year, “hands-on” training on using social media was provided to about 60 learners, using computer labs at Yale and UConn. This year, the focus will be on policy and guidelines. *How to Go Viral Without Getting Sick: Social Media and Public Health* will be offered on March 24 at the Lyceum in Hartford CT. The program will teach practitioners about how their agency can use social media to improve its communication strategy while avoiding the pitfalls and legal risk. Thanks to the “connections” of Partnership members, the half-day workshop will feature attorney Daniel Schwartz of Pullman & Comley LLC, nationally known for his work on employment law and author of the award-winning [Connecticut Employment Law Blog](#) and Caitlyn Thayer of [Thayer Consulting LLC](#), designer of social media programming for non profits and small businesses. Two CHES credits will be provided and the program will be recorded and archived for on-demand viewing.

RHODE ISLAND

Dr. Robert Marshall of Brown University shared with us that *Heat Wave*, the Rhode Island Public Health Association newsletter reports that The Rhode Island Public Health Institute (RIPHI) is expanding its participation in the North East Alliance for Public Health Workforce Development (funded by the United States Health Resources and Services Administration). RIPHI’s exciting new mentoring project, which partners faculty-student pairs with community-based organizations, provides a practical experience in public health research and practice to university students and their faculty advisors in a variety of disciplines and academic areas. Participating organizations to date include Roger Williams University, the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension, the Rhode Island Public Health Association, Johnson and Wales University (Providence), and Rhode Island College.

For more information, check out our link at <http://www.ripha.org/ripha/npa.jsp?pg=news&article=532>

UPCOMING EVENTS

◇ Career Expo 2011

Boston University School of Public Health
Office of Public Health Practice

March 3: **PANEL:** Local and State Health Department Experts

Hear about career pathways in public health agencies from a blue ribbon panel of experts in governmental health

March 8: **CAREER FAIR:** Connect with public health employers and boost your career at our largest event of the year

For more information on all Career Expo events: <http://sph.bu.edu/careerexpo2011>

◇ Local Public Health Preparedness and Response (Training Course)

Institute for Public Health Practice, Manchester Health Department

6 week program - February/March

Manchester, New Hampshire

◇ Essentials for Health Homes Practitioners (Training Course)

Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

March 9-10, 2011

Augusta, Maine

Developed by the National Center for Healthy Housing, this interactive course is for health and housing professional who want to learn the basics of healthy housing. For more information about the course and credentialing exam, go to:

healthyhomestraining.org/Practitioner/index.htm

◇ Core Public Health Concepts (Training Course)

Institute for Public Health Practice, Manchester Health Department

8 week program– March/April

Manchester, New Hampshire

◇ Personal Protective Equipment:

Protecting Yourself and Your Community from Infectious Disease

The Local Public Health Institute of Massachusetts

and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health present

April 13, 2011: Northampton MDPH, 5pm – 7:30pm

April 20, 2011: Tewksbury MDPH, 9:30am – 12pm

◇ New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration Conference

“Cancer, Health Reform, and Our Environment: New Opportunities and New Partnerships”

The conference is open to all public health professionals and health care providers.

April 13, 2011

◇ Legends of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Public Health Nursing in the 21st Century

You are invited to join Connecticut Public Health Nurses to discuss Public Health Nursing practices and implications for the future. We are offering a great opportunity to meet some of Connecticut’s nursing leaders and share our points of view.

April 26, 2011

Yale University West Campus

Orange, CT

◇ MAPHN 15th Annual Public Health Nursing Conference

“It’s All About You: Invigorate, Advocate and Rejuvenate

Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses

April 28, 2011

Sturbridge, MA