

Monthly Update March, 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. **Please forward the Monthly Update to you community partners.**

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

VISIT TO BOSTON HRSA REGIONAL OFFICE

At the HRSA meeting in Denver, it was strongly recommended that the training centers connect with their HRSA regional offices. BUSPH is home to two HRSA-funded training centers: 1) The New England Alliance for Public Health Workforce Development, and 2) the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) training program. On March 8th, BUSPH members of the Alliance and MCH had an opportunity to meet with members of the HRSA Boston Regional Office. We introduced the New-England wide collaborative of academic and practice partners whose goal is to provide training to the current and future public health workforce, particularly at the local level. We further explained our work with our academic centers (Yale, Brown, Harvard, and UMass Amherst) throughout New England, as we begin our 11th year of funding.

Additionally, a representative from The Maternal and Child Health grant, also entering its 11th year of funding, described how the MCH Program provides scholarship and fellowship opportunities for students and continues to support faculty in innovative educational, research, and service initiatives.

Jeff Reck, Regional Administrator, Office of Regional Operations, Region 1 (Boston) and his team of 10 corps members, graciously hosted and facilitated the meeting. Jeff explained their mission to improve access to quality care; strengthen the public health service delivery; build healthy communities and improve health equity. The team was made up of members from the Office of Regional Operations; Bureau of Primary Health Care; Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service; and Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Each provided great insight into the many layers of the National Health Service Corps, including the Corps Scholarship Program, the Nursing Scholarship Program and the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program. They also expressed an interest in visiting training center sites and developing a collaborative relationship with our programs.

ACROSS THE NETWORK

The Heartland Public Health Education & Training Center (HETC) and the Heartland Center for Public Health Preparedness (HCPHP) are inviting you to view our archived webinar series session, "Community Continuity & Resilience and the RED Plan" held July 15, 2010. In order to view this session, you will need to log into our Learning Management System (LMS). Attached is the session flyer (just click the link at the bottom of the flyer below). Also attached is a "how to create an account" document, if you do not already have an account in our LMS. If you need assistance, contact Catherine Harris AT charri29@slu.edu. And check out the website at <http://www.heartlandcenters.sluc.edu/>



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HCPHP Webinar
Flyer 072010[1].pdf

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences

This spring, the University of Massachusetts School of Public Health and Health Sciences (SPHHS) embarked on a very exciting new initiative by offering our surrounding urban communities the opportunity to apply for an intern with support from the **HRSA-funded New England Alliance for Public Workforce Development**. The intern would work directly under the supervision of a community health professional. A "Request for an Intern"(RFI) was sent to 100 community health leaders in Springfield and Holyoke, Massachusetts, and we received several applications. We offered these potential internships to our 70 graduating capstone students in our undergraduate public health program, as well as two positions to graduate students.

Students in the capstone class will present their work at a culminating statewide research conference on April 22, 2011. The organizations will be invited (both those who are hosting interns and those that aren't in order to offer ideas about ways undergrads could help them), and it will be a great opportunity for more networking and relationship building.

Much exciting work is taking place, and relationships are being built between the students and agencies, as well as between the agencies and SPHHS. For many students this is their first internship, and will serve them well as they explore paid employment soon. In addition, SPHHS faculty and staff will be meeting with the students to problem solve and evaluate this program from their perspective. In addition, we plan to seek out feedback from the participating agencies. The SPHHS will also benefit from these new relationships with community institutions--many new projects will develop out of these new connections. This work is being developed alongside the SPHHS initiative SHHARE, the Springfield and Holyoke Health Alliance for Research and Engagement, which is building linkages between faculty, students and community, applying principles of community-based participatory research.

The students describe their work below:

1. Michelle Collins, a resident of Springfield, was able to find an internship in her own community: "Currently I am working on community outreach and making residents of Springfield aware of the Springfield Obesity and Healthy Kid's Day Conference. I am also coordinating a group of UMASS volunteers to attend the event, as well as working setting up workshop on healthy foods".
2. Kristin Marrs: "With the director of the Holyoke Board of Health, I am working with the public health nurse to organize a fair for the National Teen Pregnancy Awareness Day in May. I attend board meetings, record the minutes and have been brainstorming various ideas for activities".
3. Felicia Blaise: "Concerned Citizens of Mason Square Farmers Market is a resident ran organization in Springfield, MA that has taken time to address food deserts in urban areas. With this internship I am working on contacting farmers and vendors who are willing to participate in the market that is ran from July to October every Saturday. Other duties include coming up with events/ programs such as Kid's day or a Petting Zoo Day that that will help educate the community on healthier habits as well as bring the community closer".
4. Leigh Nawoichik: "This semester I am interning with Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) and helping them implement the Health Incentives Pilot (HIP). First Lady Obama devised this initiative to study whether or not financial incentives will influence the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants to purchase more fruits and vegetables. I will also be helping CISA evaluate local winter farmers markets so the markets can be improved upon."
5. Jackie Deiana is interning at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, assessing the capability of food pantries to provide comprehensive resource and referrals services as well as emergency foods services. She is surveying scores of agencies and will be analyzing this data.

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6. Daniel Cousin: "I am currently working on implementing and promoting web based health resources at the Holyoke Health Center. I am working with doctors at the pediatric center primarily with Dr. Biggs."

7. Kerri Saletnik is working on a new substance abuse prevention project with MLK Family Services in Springfield, analyzing some data that has been collected before helping to shape new programs with the community.

8. Another graduate student has been assigned to the SPHHS and the Springfield Asthma Coalition; this project is still being shaped.

9. The project described in #4 also has hired one graduate student through this effort.

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Partnership has undertaken a number of training activities to help support the Connecticut Department of Public Health's *Healthy Homes Initiative*, a holistic and comprehensive approach designed to address the connection between housing and health. The goal of the *Healthy Homes Initiative* is to promote health and well-being through safe and healthy home environments. The Connecticut Partnership is participating in the development of the Initiative's long-range strategic plan and has provided funding for the *Essentials for Healthy Home Practitioners Course*, which helps prepare practitioners for the new [Healthy Homes Specialist Credential](#).

Starting this spring, the Connecticut Partnership will be offering a webinar series on healthy homes topics for environmental public health practitioners, public health nurses, housing specialists and others who plan or perform healthy homes work in Connecticut. Trainings will use both Connecticut-based and national subject matter experts. All webinars will be held from noon to 1:30 pm, and all that learners need to participate is computer with internet access and a phone. Learners will be able to ask questions of presenters. The webinars will be recorded and archived for later viewing on TRAIN. Application is being made for Healthy Homes Certification CEUs from the National Environmental Health Association and CEUs will be offered at no charge. It is hoped this webinar will become a regular monthly series throughout the grant.

Tuesday, April 19

"We're back.....!" The Human Bed Bug Pandemic

With Gale Ridge, CT Agricultural Experiment Station

Tuesday, May 10

From Ice Dams to Spring Floods: How Damp Buildings Can Affect Health

With Marian Heyman, CT DPH & Judy Dicine, Chief State's Attorney

Wednesday, June 22

Radon: Epidemiologic Research and Policy Recommendations

With William Field, University of Iowa

MAINE

On March 9-10, 2011, Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provided a free "Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners" training course for more than forty participants. This interactive course is for health and housing professionals who want to learn the basics of health housing. The course, developed by the National Center for Healthy Housing, covers root causes of health problems in homes and links them to the principles of healthy housing. Participants gain a better understanding of how to collaborate to make healthy homes a reality in the community and will be prepared to take the Healthy Homes Specialist credentialing exam.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Alliance just supported a successful educational program on "Bed Bugs: Biology, Behavior and Treatment Strategy". The Waltham Chemical Co. Technical Director, Richard Berman, discussed trends and tools for treatment and control as well as current research findings. Dion Irish, Director of Housing for the city of Boston Inspectional Services Division, described the Bed Bug Task Force and other effective measures to combat these pests. Over 140 local health

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department sanitarians, inspectors, nurses, and directors from across the state were in attendance in Dedham, MA on March 17, 2011. The Alliance supports quarterly educational seminars with the MA Health Officers Association each year. Next up in June is a two hour session on “The Art and Science of Inspections” by Robert W. Powitz, Forensic Sanitarian

Laura Rabin from BUSPH Office of PHP is recruiting local health departments to host undergraduate and graduate students this summer, to expose them to local public and environmental health career opportunities. We’re excited to have UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell and Worcester State University also involved.

Planning is underway to pilot test a comprehensive food inspector training for health inspectors charged with enforcing our state food code. The Alliance, with partners from the FDA, Department of Public Health, City of Boston, MA Health Officers Association, MA Environmental Health Association and MA Public Health Nurses Association, has created a new training series called MA PHIT (Public Health Inspector Training). The first program in the series was a Housing Certificate Program and that is now being successfully delivered twice a year. The Food Certificate Program will be pilot tested in June 2011, for anticipated delivery once a year, starting in 2012. All MA PHIT programs will provide a uniform, standard curriculum, field training, and assessments of trainee competence.

NE HAMPSHIRE



The New England Alliance for Public Health Workforce Development is pleased to support The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, on bringing Dan Burden, Director of The Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, Inc., to New Hampshire for a day-long statewide workshop. The workshop will consist of two walking audits and a community evening presentation. The day is presented in collaboration with Healthy Eating Active Living NH (HEAL NH), Manchester Health Department, Manchester Economic Development Office, and

Manchester Parks and Recreation Department. Additionally, the NHPA will sponsor a Brown Bag Lunch with Mr. Burden as the key presenter.

The purpose of this workshop is to bring together planners, public health officials, parks and recreation officials, and community members. Dan Burden is an internationally recognized authority on bicycle and pedestrian facilities and programs, livability, sustainability and Smart Growth. He has had over 30 years of experience in developing, promoting and evaluating alternative transportation facilities, traffic calming practices and sustainable community design. As a pioneer of the walking audit, he has helped hundreds of communities across the country and internationally to take a holistic view on assessing the “walkability” of a neighborhood. Walking audits can be a powerful tool for people to discuss common issues of interest or concern related to the design, operation of streets, parks, open spaces, and to discuss security, safety, and other features of their community. In many cases, complex and challenging issues are addressed and solved right in the field. The community evening presentation will be used to show findings from the walking audit with key conceptual principles for addressing planning needs, best practices, training and other tools in order to address walkability and livability.

For more details about this exciting event, please go to the SNHPC website and go to the “What’s New” or contact Mary Brundage (mbrundage@snhpc.org) or Jack Munn (jmunn@snhpc.org) at (603)669-4664.

RHODE ISLAND

Remember to check out The Rhode Island Public Health Institute’s (RIPHI) 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. The RIPHI is expanding its participation in the New England Alliance for Public Health Workforce Development (funded by HRSA). <http://www.ripha.org/ripha/npo.jsp?pg=news&article=532>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

◊ 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.

Yale University West Campus, Orange, CT
April 26, 2011

◊ MAPHN 15th Annual Public Health Nursing Conference

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

Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses
Sturbridge, MA
April 28, 2011

◊ Public Health Career Ambassador Training

Skills and tools for reaching middle, high school and community college students and educators

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Yale West Campus

Orange, CT 06477

Register through TRAINCT at <https://ct.train.org>

Look for course ID# 1026634

Cost: No charge for training

CHES: 3 CHES contact hours will be provided for a total cost of \$9 (*check payable to SCSU Dept. of Public Health*)

Questions? Email: kathi.traugh@yale.edu or call 203-785-2868

◊ 2011 National Health Literacy Summer Institute

For More Information Contact:

Sue Stableford, MPH, MSB, Institute Director

sstableford@une.edu

207-221-4567

June 5-8 in Freeport, Maine

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