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Annual Report

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Vision

That all North Central District Health Department member communities, regardless of circumstance, enjoy optimal health status and achieve the highest quality of life possible.

Overview

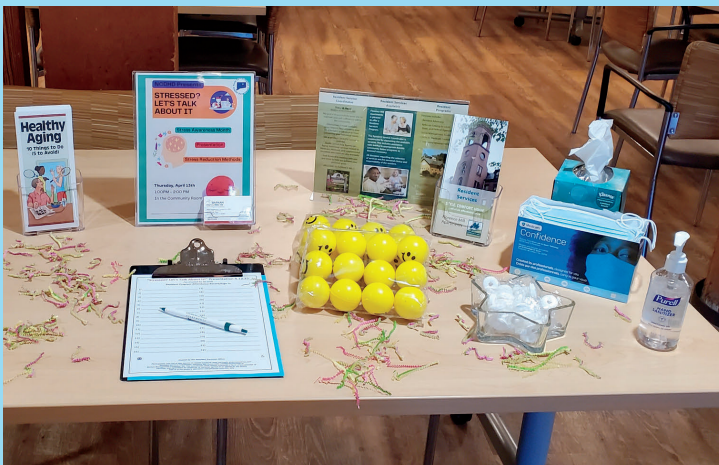
The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) provides our eight (8) Member-Towns with full time public health services. We are on call 24/7 for emergencies. The Health District is governed by a Board. Vernon is represented by Diane Wheelock and William Meier.

The Health District is comprised of Environmental Health, Community Health, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, & Administration Sections.

Mission Statement

The North Central District Health Department promotes and protects the optimal health status and well being of our communities by:

- administering public health regulations
- promoting and engaging community partnerships
- promoting primary prevention and health education, and
- ensuring public health emergency preparedness



NCDHD staff at the Florence Mill Apartments on April 13th, 2023 to talk about Stress Awareness and methods to reduce stress.

Follow us on our Facebook page at North Central District Health Department or on our Instagram page @northcentraldistricthd

NCDHD Activities

Highlights

The Health District received a \$300,000 grant in November to address opioid misuse and overdoses. This competitive funding opportunity was offered by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). NCDHD received 1 of 20 awards in the country. The Health District invited Hartford Healthcare, the Town of Manchester, Eastern Highlands Health District, and CT Greater Harm Reduction Alliance to partner with us on this project.

Project activities include sharing overdose data with first responders in our jurisdiction, a media campaign including an increased social media presence, and providing Narcan trainings and referrals for treatment. For more information, follow us on Instagram @northcentraldistricthd.

Food Protection

In February of 2023, The CT Department of Public Health transitioned to the FDA Food Code. This transition has resulted in many changes for licensed food establishments and staff, as we work to navigate this new code and process. The Health District is responsible for plan review of all proposed food service establishments or renovations to existing ones, and changes of ownership of existing food establishments. In addition to inspection of restaurants, NCDHD inspects the broad range of food establishments that serve the public. Temporary food events, which include fairs, carnivals, car shows, and other public events where food or beverage are served have increased significantly since the pandemic.

Food Protection

FY22-FY23

Food Service: 115
Plan Reviews: 25
Temp. Events: 31



Septic Systems

NCDHD is responsible for the issuance of permits for on-site sewage disposal facilities. Soil investigation, the location and method of installation are governed by the Public Health Code and are enforced by NCDHD. This process requires preliminary site reviews, comprehensive soil testing, review of plans, installation inspections and a final issuance of a Permit to Discharge.

Septic Systems

FY22-FY23

Soil Tests: 0
Plan Reviews: 15
Septic Permits: 10
B100* Reviews: 40
Well Permits: 8

*Reviews for additions, garages, decks, pools, etc.



Day Care Centers

Day Care centers are licensed by the CT-DPH.

NCDHD conducts an environmental inspection once every two (2) years and provides that inspection to the state as is required for re-licensure.

Day Care Centers

FY22-FY23

Qty: 7

Complaints

NCDHD is responsible for investigating a broad range of complaints including, but not limited to: housing, sewage overflow, food service, water quality, refuse/garbage and other miscellaneous complaints. Each complaint received into NCDHD is investigated by one of our Sanitarians or Environmental Specialists.

Complaints

FY22-FY23

Housing: 53
Sewage Overflow: 1
Food Service: 10
Miscellaneous: 17
Water Quality: 1
Refuse/Garbage: 4
Total: 86

Private Wells

NCDHD approves applications for the drilling of new private water supply wells. Once a well is drilled, the water must be tested by an approved laboratory and the results reviewed by NCDHD staff. For information on how to maintain your drinking water, please visit:

<http://www.ncdhd.org/private-drinking-water-wells>



Wells

FY22-FY23

Well Permits: 8
Water Test: 4

Pools

FY22-FY23

Licensed & Inspected: 13

Tattoo Parlors

NCDHD registers tattoo parlors and ensures they are compliant with CT-DPH regulations by annually requiring a signed statement from a physician stating that she/he has trained the technicians and that all technicians are licensed by the CT-DPH.

Tattoo Parlors

FY22-FY23

Registered: 4

Public Pools

Each Summer season, NCDHD collects water from public swimming areas in our district to test for bacteria. If the levels are elevated, the location is closed to swimming until the bacteria level is no longer elevated. 10 sites are tested within our jurisdiction.



Lead

Lead poisoning is one of the most preventable serious diseases in children. Even relatively low levels of lead in blood may lead to permanent damage to the nervous system and brain, interfere with growth, make learning difficult and affect I.Q. scores. NCDHD addresses cases of childhood lead poisoning within the District's Member-Towns. The State of Connecticut has reduced the level that will constitute a "lead poisoned child". This will significantly increase the number of lead cases in the next few years. Children with elevated blood lead levels is often associated with older housing stock.



FY22-FY23

Cases: 48

Lead

*Lead numbers reported are for the entire Health District, not by town

Barber Shops, Beauty and Nail Salons

Barber Shops, Beauty and Nail Salons

FY22-FY23

Licensed & Inspected: 56
Plan Reviews: 0

NCDHD reviews and approves plans for cosmetology salons, barber shops and licenses and inspects these establishments.

Re-inspections are conducted as necessary.



Communicable Diseases/Nursing

Our Public Health Nurse tracks all reportable diseases. Although COVID is no longer a public health emergency, clusters of illness are followed up on. Information on COVID vaccine and preventing illness at home, in the workplace, and in the community are provided at outreach events. The Health District also provides flu vaccine in the fall and can bill several insurance companies. The Public Health Nursing staff just completed a grant project that involved working closely with long-term care facilities in our jurisdiction. The work will continue beyond the grant period with quarterly meetings and a toolkit that will assist long-term care facilities in their efforts to prevent and reduce communicable illness.



Public Health Preparedness

NCDHD participates in Preparedness Region 3 and Region 4 planning and exercising activities. One of these activities is quarterly call-down drills which help to assure a fast response in the event of an emergency. Our Preparedness Coordinator is also actively tracking weather that is likely to result in significant flooding and/or power outages.



NCDHD staff, Alessia, at Trunk or Treat event at Henry Park on October 27th, 2022