



North Central District Health Department

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Patrice A. Sulik, MPH, R.S.
Director of Health

TOWN OF SUFFIELD ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

VISION STATEMENT

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

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

The North Central District Health Department provides Suffield with full-time health department services and is on call seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day for emergencies.

The Department is governed by a Board of Directors (Board of Health) in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut. Ben Rodriguez, (Vice Chairman), and Vic Mathieu serve as Suffield's representatives to the Board.

The Health Department is staffed by a Director of Health, a Chief of Environmental Services, a Director of Food & Institutional Services (all Registered Sanitarians), 1 FT Public Health Emergency Preparedness staff, 1 full-time Health Educator, 1 part-time Public Health Nurse, seven full-time sanitarians, 2 part-time Sanitarians and a support staff of approximately 2.5 clerical workers. We also have a full-time Bookkeeper. Dr. Melvin Spielberg serves as our Medical Advisor.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Health District hired a Part-Time Public Health Nurse to improve our capacity to respond to public health emergencies and provide routine services for our member towns. The District has secured contracts with three (3) insurance companies in order to bill for flu vaccinations, which also provides a revenue stream for the District. The Public Health Nurse is also working to provide in-home services for those with serious asthma through the "Putting on Airs" program.

The District supported the expansion of the Fruit Orchard at Hilltop Farm through a grant which funded fruit bushes as well as tools and supplies.

The Health District funded a garden growing project at Conway Kiddie Kollege to educate the children about growing healthy food.

The District is conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that will inform short and long-term planning for our member towns.

NCDHD's SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

FOOD SERVICES

The Health Department conducts food service inspections under Section 19-13-B42 of the Connecticut Public Health Code. The Department is responsible for plan review for all proposed food service operations or additions to existing operations.



In addition to inspection of restaurants, the Department inspects cafes, bakeries, cafeterias, food vendors at fairs and carnivals, itinerant food vendors, shellfish vendors, grocery stores, food facilities in rest and convalescent homes, clubs where food and liquor are served or dispensed and bake sales and dinners sponsored by church, fraternal and other non-profit organizations. The Health Department also inspects cafeterias and eating facilities in the public and private school systems.

No. of Facilities: **39**

No. of Schools: **5 Public Schools and 1 Private School**

No. of Food Service Inspections: **105**

No. of Food Service Re-inspections: **6**

No. of Other Food Inspections: **18**

No. of Food Plans Reviewed for new or renovations to existing facilities: **2**, along with related inspections

No. of Temp Events: **25**

DAY CARE CENTERS

Day care centers are licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. North Central District Health Department conducts an environmental inspection once every two years and provides that inspection to the state as is required for re-licensure.



No. of Day Care Centers: 3

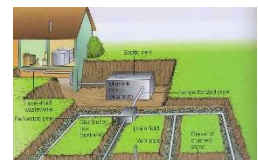
INVESTIGATION OF FOOD BORNE OUTBREAKS

It is the responsibility of the Health Department to investigate possible outbreaks of food borne illnesses.



ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Health Department is responsible for the issuance of permits for on-site sewage disposal facilities. Location and method of installation are governed by the Public Health Code and are enforced by this department.



Subsurface investigation requires preliminary site reviews, comprehensive soil testing, review of plans, installation inspections and a final issuance of a Permit to Discharge.

Soil Test for New Lots: **15**

Soil Test for Repair: **20**

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Plans reviewed for New Lots: **18**

Plans reviewed for Repairs: **29**

Septic Permits – New: **10**

Septic Permits – Repair: **23**

B-100 Reviews for Change of Use, Additions, etc. on well and/or septic: **51**

Permits to Discharge Issued: **21**

PRIVATE WELL DRILLING PERMITS/APPROVAL OF WATER

Well water testing with the assistance of the State Laboratory where pollution is suspected and approval of application for drilling of new wells are the responsibility of the Department.



Well Permits Issued: **15**

Well Water Tests Reviewed: **7**

HOUSING COMPLAINTS, ETC.

The Health Department is responsible for following up on complaints involving rented dwellings or multi-family dwellings where there is a potential public nuisance, possible health hazard or the like. Areas of concern include: heat loss, unsanitary conditions, sewage disposal, water supply, drainage, vermin, lighting, ventilation, etc.



Housing Complaints: **2**

Miscellaneous: **2**

Sewage Overflow Complaints: **3**

Water Quality Complaints: **3**

Food Service Complaints: **1**

Refuse/Garbage: **1**

Total Complaints: **12**

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Health Department conducts follow-up in response to communicable diseases, including: tuberculosis (TB), enteric diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis and other reportable diseases as required by the Public Health Code.



BARBER SHOPS, BEAUTY SALONS AND NAIL SALONS

The Health District reviews and approves plans for cosmetology salons and shops and licenses and inspects these establishments.

In Suffield, **9 salons** were inspected and licensed this past year with re-inspections conducted as necessary.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Health Department responds to cases of environmental contamination or spills including: oil spills, cases of suspected toxic dumping or contamination, radiological emergency, water pollution, and the like. The Department then works in cooperation with the town and the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) to undertake source investigation and abatement.



PUBLIC POOLS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

The Health Department inspects recreational areas during their seasonal use on a routine basis, taking water samples and testing for bacterial quality at pools and lakes used by the public for swimming and bathing. Toilets, bathhouses and other supportive facilities are also inspected. Public swimming pools are also licensed and inspected.



Sunrise Park and Babb's Beach Samples: The North Central District Health Department tests bathing waters at Sunrise Park and Babb's Beach swim areas between Memorial Day and Labor Day each year. Heavy rain events can result in elevated bacteria counts which necessitate temporary beach closure.

Public Swimming Pools Licensed and Inspected: 3

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

The Health Department consults with the school nurses and medical advisors of our eight towns in cases where our expertise is requested. School reporting of communicable diseases provides surveillance information important to the District and the State.



LEAD

Lead poisoning is one of the most common yet preventable serious diseases in children. Even relatively low levels may lead to permanent damage to the nervous system and brain, interfere with growth, make learning difficult and affect I.Q. scores. The Department is currently following up on **one case** of elevated blood lead level in Suffield.



The State of Connecticut's requirement that all children under the age of six be tested is starting to reveal low levels of elevated blood lead levels often associated with older housing.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

The Health District works continuously with Public Health partners in Regions 3 and 4 to plan, train and exercise to develop our capacity to respond to a local, regional or state public health emergency. Staff participated in the Governor's Statewide Exercise this June.



HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health District currently receives a Preventive Health Block Grant as well as an Opioid Abuse Prevention Grant. These grants have enabled the Department to transition the Health Educator from Part-Time to Full-Time status to better serve our population. Highlights of this year's activities are detailed on Page 1 of this report.



Pictured left to right: Joanna Keyes, NCDHD Health Educator, Suffield Police Lieutenant Ryan Burrell, Noor Zabin, Police Department Intern Dispatcher, Paula Pascoe, Suffield Senior Center Director and Liz Sagan, Police Department Dispatcher at a “Safe Disposal of Prescription Drugs” Meeting.