



AGENCIES

Above: The Coventry Agricultural Committee's float at the 300th Anniversary Parade. Photo by Laura Stone.

EASTERN HIGHLANDS HEALTH DISTRICT

Robert Miller, Director

The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, and Mansfield established the Eastern Highlands Health District on June 6, 1997 as a cooperative effort to pool their resources and create a regional full-time professional health department. Reducing costs and improving both the scope and quality of public health services in the community were the objectives of establishing the District. Seven more towns joined between 2000 and 2005: Andover, Ashford, Chaplin, Columbia, Scotland, Tolland and Willington. The Eastern Highlands Health District is committed to enhancing the quality of life in its communities through the prevention of illness, promotions of wellness and protection of our human environment. The pursuit of this mission is realized by assuring that other community agencies provide certain public health services within the region and by providing specific public health services directly. The services directly provided include a communicable disease control program, public health education, community assessment and public health planning, emergency preparedness and a comprehensive environmental health program. The main components of the environmental health program include on-site subsurface sewage disposal permitting, complaint investigation program, food establishment licensing and inspection, and environmental monitoring program.

Accomplishments for FY 2012-2013

Board of Directors adoption of an operating budget of \$725,220 for FY 13/14, which is a 1.5% increase from the previous fiscal year.

Milestones in public health emergency preparedness activities for this year include support of towns October snow storm response and recovery efforts; updates in our Local Public Health Emergency Response Plan and the Mass Dispensing of Prophylactic Medication Annex; and, national recognition of DEMHS region 3 & 4 local public health with "Public Health Ready" designation.

Health promotion milestones for this fiscal year include the continuation of a \$419,500 grant to build local capacity to implement policy, systems and environmental changes that promote healthy behaviors; and, the temporary expansion of the employee wellness program "Be Well" to the Eastern Connecticut Health Insurance Partnership for limited services.

The Board of Directors completed the agencies first strategic planning process, which resulted in the adoption of a five year strategic plan and associated action plan.

Assisted the Town of Bolton with the response to blue/green algae bloom in lower Bolton lake; and, subsequently assisted the State DPH and DEEP with development of local public health Blue/green algae response guidelines.

Communicable disease control activities included review and follow up (as needed) of 1,223 case reports; and, conducted 31 disease outbreak or individual case investigations.

Main indicators for environmental health activity in Coventry include: 157 site inspections for septic systems; 38 septic permits issued; 28 well permits issued; 9 complaints investigated; 175 environmental samples taken for lab analysis; 176 food establishment inspections and other health inspections; 76 B100a building permit reviews; and, 293 test pits and perc tests.

Plans for FY 2013-2014

Implementation of Strategic Plan, Action Plan

Completion of Information Technology Plan update

Expand Be Well employee wellness program to other employers in the community.

Address the individual public health needs of member towns as they arise.

Meet the EHHD Staff



Back: John Degan, Glenn Bagdoian, Geoff Havens, Jeff Polhemus, Kyle Chmielecki, Robert Miller

Front: Indy Schmidt, Holly Hood, Ande Bloom, Milie Brosseau

For more information about Eastern Highlands Health District visit our website www.ehhd.org



Celebrating 300 Years