



AGENCIES

Above: The Coventry Village Improvement Society was recognized in the spring of 2014 for 25 years of running the Coventry Visitors' Center. The Center, located in Historic Coventry Village, is open on weekends and offers a wealth of tourism information on the region, as well as historical tidbits about the Town of Coventry. 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 2013-2014

- Board of Directors adoption of an operating budget of \$766,159 for FY 14/15, which is a 5.6% increase from the previous fiscal year.
- Milestones in public health emergency preparedness activities for this year include support of towns state-wide emergency preparedness drill in June; staff drills in April; and, recruitment and establishment of Health District Medical Reserve Corps.
- Health promotion milestones for this fiscal year include the completion of our Community Transformation Grant to implement policy, systems and environmental changes that promote healthy behaviors and the areas of Tobacco Free Living, and Quality Preventive Clinical Services.
- Completed Health District Information Technology Study/Plan, and implemented initial plan steps.
- Communicable disease control activities included review and follow up (as needed) of 1635 case reports; and, conducted 46 disease outbreak or individual case investigations.
- Main indicators for environmental health activity in Coventry include: 144 site inspections for septic systems; 42 septic permits issued; 21 well permits issued; 11 complaints investigated; 200 environmental samples taken for lab analysis; 254 food establishment inspections and other health inspections; 73 B100a building permit reviews; and 106 test pits and perc tests.

Plans for FY 2014-2015

- Implementation of Strategic Plan, Action Plan
- Implementation of web based permitting, licensing and inspection software.
- Address the individual public health needs of member towns as they arise.

