

YOUR CONNECTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH

2019

QUINNIPIACK VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

QUINNIPIACK VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT (QVHD)

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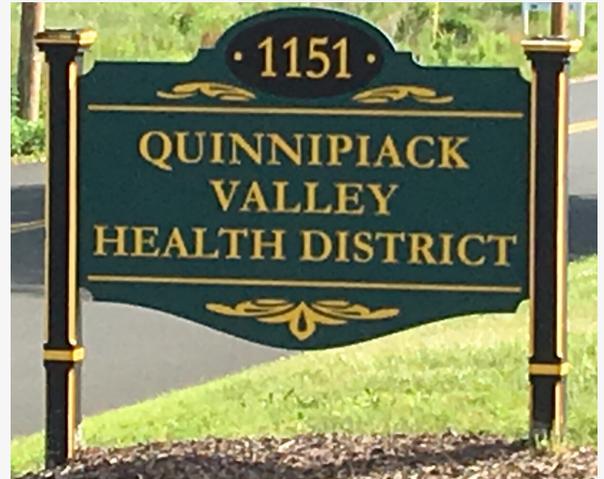
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ABOUT QVHD

Mission:

The Mission of the Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) is to protect the residents of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge Connecticut from disease, injury and environmental hazards through prevention, education, enforcement and collaboration.



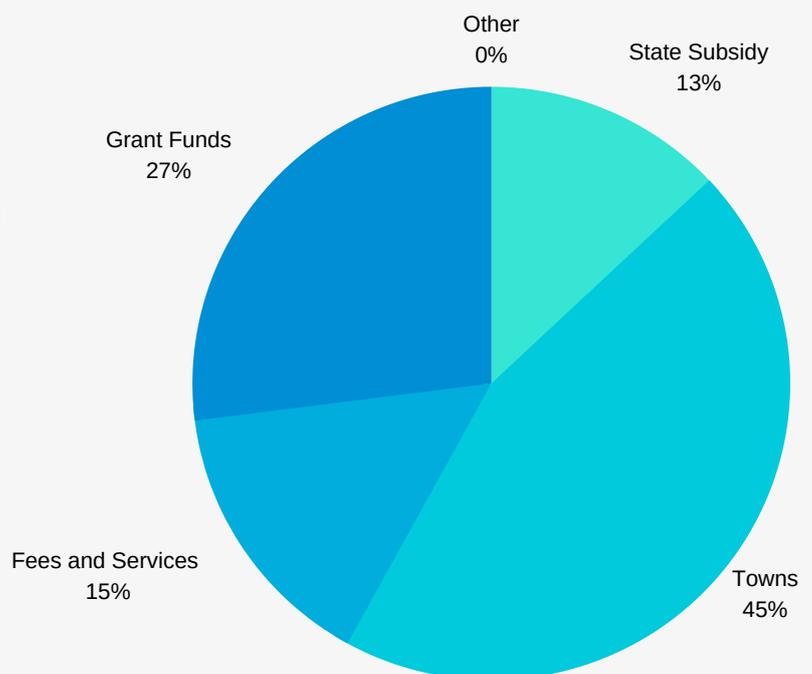
Accomplished Through:

- Collaboration with local and government leaders in setting health priorities
- Systemic identification of community health concerns and risks
- Preventive services for the early control and identification of disease
- Provision of current, credible information to promote health behavior choices
- Environmental health services that insure compliance with the state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.
- Local and regional emergency preparedness for response to an unexpected environmental or biological event.

2018-2019 Revenue

QVHD is funded by: Town and State contributions on a per capita basis, revenue from permit and services, grant awards, and miscellaneous income.

**The 2018-2019 Revenue is:
\$1,283,662**



STAFF



STAFF	ROLE
Leslie A. Balch, MPH, MSHEd, BSN	Director of Health
Lynn Fox, BS, RS	Chief Environmental Services
Alicia Mulvihill, MPH	Public Health Promotion & Engagement Specialist
Alexis Rinaldi, BS, RS	Sanitarian
John Laudano, BS, RS	Sanitarian
Kristen Amodio, BS, RS	Sanitarian
Ryan Currier, BS, RS	Sanitarian
Kara Sepulveda, BS	Public Health Program Assistant
Miokka Cummings	Secretary
Barbara Bildstein, BS	Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2018-2019



The Board of Directors is the managing body of QVHD is composed of Town representatives appointed for a three year term. Each member-town has one representative for each ten thousand population or part thereof, up to a maximum of 5 representatives per town.

MEMBER

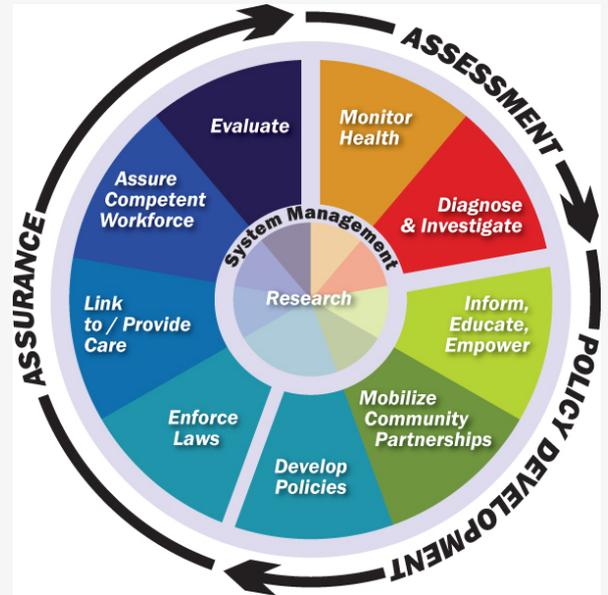
TOWN

MEMBER	TOWN	ROLE
Joy Donaldson	Hamden	President
Peter Marone	Hamden	Vice President
Carol Goldberg	Bethany	Director
Vacant	Bethany	Alternate
Ann Levison	Hamden	Director
Brian Weeks	Hamden	Director
Kyle Blake	Hamden	Director
Nancy Spector	Hamden	Director
Vacant	Hamden	Alternate
Bill Kohlhepp	North Haven	Director
Jacquelyn O'Neill St. Peter	North Haven	Director
Joseph M. Solimene	North Haven	Director
Thomas Mitchell	North Haven	Alternate
Richard Martinello	Woodbridge	Director
Roy Ivins	Woodbridge	Alternate
Leslie Balch		Ex Officio

TEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES

OF PUBLIC HEALTH

QVHD's responsibilities, services and programs are guided by the 10 Essential Public Health Services. In 1994, the 10 Essential Public Health Services were developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee and provided framework for public health activities that all communities should undertake (CDC, 2018). The 10 Essential Public Health Services are guided by three core functions: assessment, policy development and assurance.



THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDE:

1. **Monitor** health status to identify and solve community health problems
2. **Diagnose** and **investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community
3. **Inform, educate** and **empower** people about health issues
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems
5. **Develop** policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. **Assure** competent public and personal health care workforce
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

The purpose for incorporating the 10 Essential Services in all of our work is to prevent epidemics and spread of disease, protect against environmental hazards, prevent injuries, promote and encourage healthy behaviors, respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery, and assure the quality and accessibility of services.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION

The goal of QVHD's Community Health Division is to increase the quality, availability, and effectiveness of population-based health education, programs and services. The 10 Essential Services steer our promotion and outreach efforts and are the foundation for our work. Throughout the year, QVHD's Community Health Staff worked on a variety of health promotion initiatives. This included involvement in community events, such as health fairs and food drives. Community Health Staff routinely provided timely information on health issues to our residents and town administration and partners. Staff also carried out communicable disease control, which included surveillance, investigation, counseling, referral, education and control measures when needed for mandated reportable diseases. Monitoring reportable diseases is done on a daily basis to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

QVHD Staff worked throughout the year to prepare, respond and recover from public health emergencies that can happen at any time and without any notice. QVHD has a variety of plans that are updated and revised as needed to ensure our staff is adequately prepared to respond. To support QVHD's emergency preparedness efforts, QVHD has a team of both medical and non-medical volunteers called the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). QVHD MRC volunteers strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency. Volunteers are trained and credentialed to respond to emergencies in QVHD's jurisdiction. Active recruitment is always taking place for MRC volunteers and anyone interested in joining can call QVHD for more information.

QVHD administers two School Based Health Centers (SBHC) in the Town of Hamden, one at Church Street Elementary School and one at Hamden High School. The SBHCs are supported by a grant from the State of Connecticut and subcontracts with Cornell Scott Hill Health Center for clinical services. The SBHCs are state licensed outpatient clinics housed right in the schools. The SBHC is open during school hours so that students and parents do not need to miss school or work to get care. All services are provided with no charge to students or families (no cost/fees to families) though billable services may be submitted to an insurance company.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION

QVHD'S COMMUNITY HEALTH COALITION

Through efforts towards Public Health Accreditation, the QVHD formed a Community Health Coalition. The Community Health Coalition is comprised of community partners which look at health indicators for the district in order to identify strengths and weaknesses of the community and subsequently adopt strategies to address community health needs. The Community Health Coalition is comprised of individuals from the district towns and represents town departments, community organizations and residents. The coalition worked together to develop a Community Health Assessment (CHA) which led to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). A CHA “refers to an assessment that identified key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis” (CDC, 2019). The CHA process led to the CHIP, “a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems based on the results of community health assessment activities and the community health improvement process” (CDC, 2019). The coalition members share ownership of all phases of the process, “including assessment, planning, investment, implementation, and evaluation” (CDC, 2019).

Membership remains open to the public.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



The goal of the Environmental Health program is to protect the residents from environmental factors that may impact health and the quality of life. The work of QVHD's Environmental Health Division is guided by 10 Essential Environmental Health Services.

The 10 Essential Environmental Health Services include:

Monitor environmental and health status to identify and solve community environmental public health problems.

Diagnose and investigate environmental public health problems and health hazards in the community.

Inform, educate, and empower people about environmental public health issues.

Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve environmental health problems.

Develop policies and plans that support individual and community environmental public health efforts.

Enforce laws and regulations that protect environmental public health and ensure safety.

Link people to needed environmental public health services and assure the provision of environmental public health services when otherwise unavailable.

Assure a competent environmental public health workforce.

Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based environmental public health services.

Research for new insights and innovative solutions to environmental public health problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: IN ACTION

- The Environmental Health Division is involved in Food Safety (Inspection of food service establishments) to reduce the risk of foodborne disease by ensuring reasonable protection from contaminated food and improving the sanitary condition of food establishments
- Regulation of subsurface sewage disposal systems installation
- Drinking water quality awareness & monitoring: collaborate with Regional Water Authority (RWA) and Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) to protect water sources from chemical, sewage spills and disposal of resident waste. Review private well water sampling results related to property sales and notify owners if any parameters are out of acceptable range.
- Inspections of Salons for safety and protection of both consumers and practitioners
- Responding to housing complaints filed by residents, including but not limited to mold, radon, asbestos, bedbugs, and general maintenance issues.
- Student housing in the Town of Hamden. At the time of initial application to the Town of Hamden for a Student Housing Permit, QVHD inspects housing for compliance with the Hamden Housing Code.
- Yearly inspections of schools and bi-yearly inspections of daycares to ensure required standards established by state statutes and regulations are met.
- Environmental investigations of premises (paint, dust, soil) where children with an elevated blood lead level have been found. QVHD can identify lead hazards of all premises and ensure remediation is done using lead safe work practices
- Case management of children with an elevated blood lead level.
- Inspections and licensing of public swimming pools.
- Weekly monitoring and sampling of public bathing areas in Bethany to assure safe swimming conditions (begins after Memorial Day and continues until Labor Day).



COMMUNITY HEALTH

REPORTABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

DISEASE NAME	2017-2018 TOTAL	2018-2019 TOTAL	JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019 BY TOWN			
			BETHANY	HAMDEN	NORTH HAVEN	WOOD- BRIDGE
Campylobacteriosis	19	17	5	7	3	2
Chlamydia	354	288	2	256	25	5
Cyclosporiasis	0	4	0	4	0	0
Dengue Fever	1	0	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis	10	2	0	2	0	0
Gonorrhea	75	76	0	66	8	2
Haemophilus Influenzae (Hib)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	2	1	0	1	0	0
Hepatitis C	29	21	0	14	6	1
Influenza ¹	319	322	16	222	51	33
Group A Strep Strep/Group B Strep	2/10	5/14	0/0	5/9	0/4	0/1
Legionellosis	1	9	0	8	1	0
Listeriosis/Yersinosis	0/2	1	0	1	0	0
Lyme Disease ² /Ehrlichiosis/Babesiosis	18/0/5	27/0/5	4/0/2	14/0/2	1/0/1	8/0/0
Malaria	1	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumococcal disease	4	10	1	7	1	1
Salmonellosis	12	8	0	7	1	0
Shiga-toxin producing organism	5	2	0	1	1	0
Shigellosis/ Cryptosporidiosis	2/0	1	0	1	0	0
Staph aureus (MRSA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilis	20	46	2	32	10	2
Tuberculosis ³	2	2	0	2	0	0
Varicella/ Pertussis/Meningitis/Mumps	2/0/0/1	0/1/0/0	0/0/0/0	0/1/0/0	0/0/0/0	0/0/0/0
Vibrio species	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Nile	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	898	862	32	662	113	55

COMMENTS:

- (1) Influenza (flu) includes only cases hospitalized and/or death and may underrepresent actual influenza in the community.
- (3) Lyme Disease is reportable only by physician and by labs with automated electronic reporting to DPH surveillance, therefore it may be underreported. The numbers reported above are positive by lab or MD report.
- (5) Represents active cases of Tuberculosis.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

	TOTAL
P&Z reports	11
Food Service Inspections	605
New/opening Food Service	16
Re-Inspections	45
Requested Re-Inspections	16
Itinerant licenses	99
Temporary licenses	340
Student Housing Inspections	65
Cosmetology Inspections	159
New/opening Cosmetology	11
Tattoo Inspections/Licenses	4
Public Pool Inspections	60
Hotel/Motel	5
Day Care Inspections	23
Elevated Blood Lead/Inspections	1
Lead Risk Assessments	7

	TOTAL
NOVs	149
Arrest Warrant Applications	3
SEWAGE ACTIVITY	TOTAL
SOIL TEST	159
NEW	13
REPAIR	81
B100a/ADDITION	65
TANK REPLACEMENT	61
WTW	15
WELL PERMITS	41

	TOTAL
Complaints	533
TYPE	
Abandoned Property	11
Animal/animal waste	16
Asbestos	1
Bed Bugs	19
Cosmetology	7
Day care	1
DEP related	1
Drainage/flooding	8
Drinking water	6
Food Borne illness	6
Food Service	59
Garbage/refuse	60
Heat	32
Hoarding	12
Hotel/Motel	3
Housing	123
Indoor air quality	7
Institutional	1
Junk vehicles/appliance	15
Lead	1
Medical	1
MOLD	62
mosquito/stagnant water	14
outdoor air quality	4
sewage	20
public pool	4
Public Toilets	4
Rodents/insects	27
School	5
Tattoo	1
Utility shut off	2

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SERVING THE TOWNS OF BETHANY, HAMDEN, NORTH HAVEN & WOODBRIDGE