



Jessica Kristy, MPH
Director of Health
May 2025

Miscellaneous

Federal Funding Impacts

I reported last month that effective March 24, 2025, the funding streams supporting the ELC2 and CDC Immunization Grants were canceled by the federal government and in response, CT DPH issued an immediate stop work order, ceasing all services and expenditures authorized under this contract while CT DPH assesses whether this contract can continue to be supported. Ultimately, CT DPH extended the cut off date to April 29th.

On May 22nd, DPH held a meeting for Directors of Health notifying us that United State District Judge Mary S. McElroy issued a decision in *Colorado v. Dep't of Health and Human Servs*, preliminarily enjoining the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from withholding certain grant funds from various state health offices, including the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Due to this order, the State of CT DPH is permitting those contractors that had their contracts suspended to resume their work.

While this has been a period of what feels like whiplash, we are happy about the courts ruling and will continue the work and expenses on these two contracts. We continue to wait for updates regarding other federally funded contracts and what, if any, impact will happen for July 1.

- CDC Immunization Grant: This grant will end on its original date of June 30, 2025. We have not only received approval to fully spend down our original contract but have also received a fully executed amendment that includes an additional \$165,413.00 for media, marketing, and outreach.
- ELC2: This grant will end on its previously approved date of March 31, 2026.
- The 100 Bank Street Annex lease renewal will be covered by the grants so there will be no cost burden to the district. Thank you to the NVCOG, VCF, and our legislatures who worked with me to come up with alternative approaches that we ultimately did not have to use. I appreciated their rapid brainstorming and support!

National Association of County and City Health Official (NACCHO)

I attended NACCHO's Monthly Nationwide All-Local Health Organizations Call on May 22nd.

Statewide DPH & Local Health Meetings

I continue to attend the monthly meeting held for local health and DPH staff (co-hosted by CADH). NVHD staff also attend if their schedule permits. The meeting was held on May 14th.

CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH)

Positions held: Member; Elected to Board of Directors; Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair

Commissioner Juthani of CT DPH held a Town Hall Meeting for directors on May 5th.

The monthly CADH Board of Directors meeting was held May 20th. I will continue serving on the Board of Directors. Our annual meeting will be held June 6th in Branford.

de Beaumont 40 Under 40 in Public Health

The last learning opportunity for our cohort was held on May 8th and the last cohort meeting was held May 29th. This has been a wonderful and humbling experience over the last 2 years. I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated and be recognized as a public health leader in the 40 Under 40 in Public Health Cohort.



Quality Improvement

Carissa continues to Chair the QI Committee. The Reconstruction of the Temporary Event Process Project continues and is highlighted in the Environmental Health section of this report. Carissa, Jess, Laurie and Vanessa will begin an administrative-focused project in June. Laurie has also re-engaged the project of migrating our accounting software from Sage 50 to QuickBooks Enterprise.

Workforce Development

Lisa continues to chair the NVHD Workforce Development Committee. Staff continue to work on completing the required two online training courses this quarter.

The Workforce Development Committee held their quarterly meeting on May 20th. A new slate of individual training courses for FY25-26 was adopted. These options align with the eight core competencies for public health professionals, which is also utilized for our bi-annual competency assessment. The mandate for the trainings will follow the same rules as FY24-25:

- Workforce Development creates and publishes a list of trainings for the fiscal year.
- Each employee needs to complete two individual trainings per quarter and record them in the SurveyMonkey recording tool.
- Employees must complete at least four training courses from the list over the course of the fiscal year. Four additional trainings can be “optional” or trainings that the employee completes outside of the published list.

The committee also began looking at staff wide trainings for FY25-26, focusing on making sure district staff is up to date on mandatory human resource and safety related trainings (CPR/First Aid/Bloodborne Pathogens, fire safety, HIPAA and confidentiality, de-escalation and workplace violence, etc).

Air Quality and Climate Change

Grant: EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant

Status: Contract is fully executed!

The contract period is May 2025 through March 31, 2027, and the total contract is \$113,608.44. Intern Liliana Restrepo has returned to NVHD to complete her summer 2025 internship and will also help support activities for this grant. We will have our first internal meeting about deliverables in June while we wait for the other subcontractors on the grant to receive their contracts (i.e., UCONN & Yale).

Naugatuck Valley Overdose Prevention & Education (NOPE) Program

Grant: Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A)

Status: Year 2 Sub-contract Executed with New Haven Health Department; Carryover funds approved

I have received the amended contract from the City of New Haven and approval that our Year 1 Carryover Budget (\$136,338) has been approved by the CDC and added to our current year budget (which ends in August and now totals \$310,196). I will be hiring for the Milford/Orange/West Haven Overdose Prevention Navigator position in June/July 2025.

The New Haven OD2A partners meeting was held on May 8th.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: May 2025

I attended and did the NVHD update at the Community Advisory Coalition (CAC)/OD2A Taskforce on Friday, May 30th at 3pm. We are actively recruiting volunteers to join our regional CAC. The CAC meets virtually quarterly and recommends revisions to implementation plans, considers public policy impacts on program plans and strategies, training recommendations, and is informed on our regional collaborative work. The regional CAC is made up of community residents, people/persons who use drugs (PWUD), people with lived experience, treatment providers, community-based organizations, local health officials, legislatures, academia, and public safety officials. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact Austin at atelford@nvhd.org or 203-881-3255 x 128.

Austin was out in the community a lot during May! He emphasized his outreach around May being Mental Health Awareness Month. He also attended various Connecticut Foodshare distribution events, where he provided health education and resources as well as even handing out food and carrying bags for residents! He co-taught a QPR Suicide Prevention Training with Lisa that is reported under the community health section of this report. Austin met with the director of Step Up Naugy in an effort to expand our partnerships and collaborative work; Step Up Naugy is an organization focused on preventing substance use among teens in Naugatuck. Austin also trained the staff at Derby Public Library on how to use naloxone (Narcan) and answered their questions regarding medication, legal issues, and best practices.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

Walid Ourdane, a graduate student in the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at University of Bridgeport finished his remote internship with me on May 25th.

I attended the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) User Council Webinar on May 28th.

ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services, Chair

I facilitated the Region 5 ESF #8 meeting on May 2nd and the Region 2 ESF #8 meeting was cancelled. I attended the virtual REPT Steering Committee meetings for Region 2 on May 16th and Region 5 on May 19th.

I attended the Statewide ESF #8 Workgroup meeting facilitated by CT DPH on April 24th.

Statewide Training and Exercise Workgroup (STEW)

I attended the meeting on May 14th which focused on several upcoming training and exercises as well as regional updates.

CT Healthcare Coalition (HCC)

Public Health Representative & Voting Member; Elected to the Executive Committee

I attended the Executive Committee meeting on May 13th.

NACCHO Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)

Connecticut Representative

PPAG met on May 21st. There was a lot of discussion on the ever-changing landscape of the federal administration's priorities and funding landscape.





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: May 2025

Medical Reserve Corps

ORA Grant Status: Contract Executed

NVMRC was awarded a \$10,000 2025 Operational Readiness Award (ORA) Grant from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO). The 2025 ORA will primarily cover the costs associated with purchasing training items for volunteers for programs like STOP THE BLEED®, Adult Mental Health First Aid Certifications, Opioid Prevention & Response Training (including Narcan kits), updated ID lanyards, office supplies, and 2 hours per week of my time for supervising the program. Work will begin on this in June.

I attended the national MRC Well Check Webinar on May 20th.

On May 21st, I co-hosted a Psychological First Aid training for our volunteers and community members. The training was just shy of 3-hours long in the evening and was taught by Brian Pasquarell, LCSW. Brian is the Director of the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Network (DBHRN) which is housed under the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). We will host another PFA training in the fall!

Surveillance & Outbreak Response

- COVID-19 – Status: Endemic Response
- H5N1 Bird Flu –Monitoring
- Measles– Monitoring

NVHD has COVID-19 test kits back in stock! While we re-organize our Surveillance and Outbreak Response Team/Program, you can contact the main line to request a COVID-19 test kit (203-881-3255 x 100).





COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
Carissa Caserta, MPH
May 2025

Community Health Assessment: The Valley Index (CHA)

Lisa, Jess, and I have continued attending the Coordinating Committee meetings. The four working groups, including the Health and Mental Health Committee (which Jess, Lisa, Austin, and I are on), Children, Youth & Education, Seniors & Aging, and Economic Stability & Basic Needs have concluded their meetings and data review process. Lisa has done a tremendous amount of data mining and sourcing for this document. We, the Coordinating Committee, have provided all of our final edits and the document is now with the design company for final production. **Save the date! The public unveiling of the 2025 Valley Community Index will be on July 18th at 8:15AM in the auditorium at Scinto Towers. A formal invitation & flyer will be published soon!**

Community Health Programs

Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP)

Kristie and Lisa completed a DSMP program at Seymour Community Center, with 10 attendees completing the program. The program was well received with a lot of great feedback on the evaluation forms. Lisa and Kristie will be offering two phone-based DSMP programs over the summer.

Chronic Disease Self-Management (CDSMP)

Kristie and Lisa will be hosting a Chronic Disease workshop at the Naugatuck Senior Center beginning July 1st.

Matter of Balance (MOB)

Lisa and I completed a Matter of Balance class started at the Ansonia Senior Center with 9 attendees completing the program. We have scheduled a Matter of Balance Master Training to certify new leaders that will be held on July 9th and 10th.



Mental Health Programs

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Austin will be trained to teach MHFA over the summer. Once he is certified, Lisa and Austin will schedule a training. Lisa will be co-teaching a MFHA with Liz (Meriden) in June.

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention)

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness month in May, NVHD offered two QPR Suicide Prevention training sessions. On May 9th, Lisa held a lunch and learn session, in partnership with the Connecticut Public Health Association's Health Education committee, where 24 attended and were certified. Then on May 29th, Lisa partnered with Austin Telford for an evening session for the community, with 12 newly certified attendees.

Suicide Prevention & Postvention

On Thursday, May 8th, Lisa attended the 2025 Connecticut Suicide Prevention Conference at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. The conference focus was on the strength of a collaborative community approach to stemming the tide of suicide in our state. There were speakers and several workshops, with topics like



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: May 2025

Students Leading the Charge, Suicide and Law Enforcement, Safe Messaging When Reporting Loss and more. The conference was a great learning experience, and NVHD will seek to deploy the objective earned in the Valley community.

Immunization Grants & Clinical Services

Clinical Services

In May, Kristie provided 6 vaccines to children in the Valley. We have also started to schedule flu clinics in the Fall and will be starting clinics at the end of September this year to help space them out.

Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) & Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI-AR)

DPH continues to host a monthly meeting with the CT DPH HAI-AR staff and local health departments/districts building capacity in Infection Prevention & Control (IPC). Jess attended the meeting on May 20th which focused on the federal disbanding of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) and what that means for us moving forward.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Kristie is actively monitoring 2 cases of TB.

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Grant Program

Elizabeth had 3 site visits and 1 IQIP check-in visit with providers in person. The IAP grant is funded by CDC and currently ends June 30th. We are waiting for a response from CDC/CT DPH in hopes that her grant will continue for another 5 years, but it is likely there will be shorter interval contracts.

CDC Immunization Grant Outreach Events Summary

As mentioned earlier, we have re-engaged the work on this grant and will see it through the end of June 2025. Vanessa has accepted a new position as NVHD's Public Health Specialist after serving as an Immunization Program Specialist. She's looking forward to continuing much of the work she enjoys, especially community outreach, while also expanding her focus to include strategic planning, reaccreditation efforts, and further internal committee involvement. She's also looking forward to taking more trainings, such as evidence-based program master trainings and participating in lead inspector and risk assessor trainings to further grow her skills and broaden her work in the health district.

Translation	This month, Vanessa helped translate for a lead case. The homeowner needed help with understanding how to go about the lead abatement orders. Vaccine appointments slowed down this month as expected, there were only 4 vaccine translations from English to Spanish and vice versa.
Evidence Based Public Health Course	Vanessa and Austin completed the weekly 10-part course. It intends to build skills in applying evidence-based decision-making to improve population health and advance health equity. Through presentations, practice exercises, and case examples, the course takes a "hands-on" approach and emphasizes information that is readily available to practitioners.





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: May 2025

Teddy Bear Clinics

Plumb Memorial Library

Kristie, Austin, and Vanessa had a wonderful time visiting Plumb Memorial Library in Shelton for a Teddy Bear Clinic! Children brought their stuffed animals for a fun check-up and learned about health and wellness in a comforting, hands-on environment. It was a great way to ease fears and spark curiosity. There are more Teddy Bear Clinics scheduled over the summer.



Miscellaneous

On May 27th, Lisa, Kristie, and I attended the Ansonia Senior Center Spring Health Fair. The event was well attended, with NVHD offering giveaways, health education promotional materials and blood pressure screenings.

Derby marked the founding of the township over the weekend of May 30th to June 1st, with Lisa and Austin on hand on Saturday the 31st to help celebrate. The weekend long event included everything from a time capsule opening, fireworks, a pub crawl, live music and a formal gala. Lisa and Austin provided health education materials and giveaways to all who attended the event.

On May 7, Kristie attended the CT Association of Public Health Nurses Annual Conference and Meeting. The topic of the conference was how to present public health nursing data in a storytelling way.





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Melanie Dokla, BS, RS
May 2025

Food Service Establishments

Seasonal permit applications are being reviewed and scheduled for an inspection. Temporary events season is ramping up; we are utilizing our updated application, creating/posting social media content and handing out additional education.

Staff continue to conduct routine inspections, plan views and inspections for food service establishments that are new or changing ownership.

Glenda Buenaventura, per diem food inspector, continues to assist in conducting food service inspection after hours and on the weekend, up to 20 hours a week.

On May 6th, staff investigated a potential food-borne outbreak in Derby. It was determined to be an invalid complaint.

Public Pools

All pool and spa renewal applications were submitted on time. Inspections for the outdoor pools/ spas are currently being conducted, and we will continue to follow up on problematic pools throughout the season.



Body Care

Staff continue to conduct plan views and inspections for body care establishments that are new or changing ownership.

Laurel completed an 8-hour Virtual Body Art Facility Inspector Training hosted by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). The interactive training was held over two days, Tuesday, May 13th and Thursday, May 15th, and was taught live by experienced body art facility inspectors and industry professionals. The topics covered in the comprehensive course included:

- Introduction to Body Art Facility Inspection
- Infection Control
- Universal Practices
- Tattooing and Cosmetic Tattooing
- Piercing
- Communication
- Facility Inspections
- Job Aids and Additional Resources

Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (SSDS)

Staff continue to conduct SSDS inspections, B-100 visits, soil testing, B-100 plan reviews, new SSDS plans reviews, and have issued permits to discharge. With warmer weather, septic work continues to increase.

Laurel has been working closely, and more frequently, with the Engineer Office and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) in the Borough of Naugatuck because of increasing septic and sewage issues. WPCA employees are conducting dye testing on certain older properties to determine where the sewage is being disposed of, providing NVHD with the results, and updating

town records. While it is not a new collaboration, it is certainly helpful in successfully addressing and documenting necessary action.

On May 9th, Laurel assisted Bill Herzman, Naugatuck Building Inspector, by supplying evidence and supporting documentation for the condemnation of a property by the Borough that had an active failing septic system (previously reported on the April Public Health Report). The occupant of the property did not comply with the order issued by NVHD in March 2025. A notice was posted on the town land records stating the structure was declared unsafe for human occupancy and must remain unoccupied until violations are remediated. Due to the uniqueness of this situation, Attorney Stanek provided the language for the Notice of Public Health Code Violations for the Naugatuck Land Record.

Housing Complaints

Environmental staff continue to investigate housing code violations and complaints.

On May 8th, Jess, Laurel, Amy and Attorney Stanek attended a pre-answer conciliation with the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) regarding a complaint that was submitted against the district. The pre-answer has failed, and Attorney Stanek will be submitting a response on behalf of the district by June 9th.

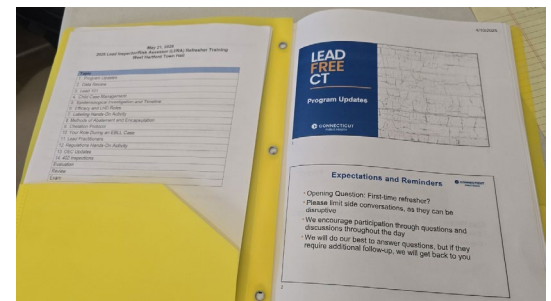
NVHD has received 2 potential hoarding complaints in Beacon Falls; these are currently under investigation.

Lead Education & Action Program (LEAP)

Beginning with this report and moving forward, we will combine the community and environmental health division updates related to lead under this section, titled “Lead Education & Action Program” (LEAP). Staff from both divisions will continue to collaborate and perform a wide range of duties, we felt it was more organized to consolidate the reporting into one section.

Me, Carissa, Lisa, Amy, Laurel, and Jess met on May 29th to establish a regular internal workgroup specifically focused on our lead-related work. Over the summer, we will be working on strategizing and implementing new education and interventions to help reduce the number of children who become lead poisoned.

This month, Laurel, John, Amanda and Amy attended DPH’s Annual Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor refresher training at the West Hartford Town Hall in West Hartford. Vanessa will be attending initial certification in June.



We continue to see an increase in elevated blood lead (EBLL) cases, which require a comprehensive lead inspection. This inspection consists of X-ray fluorescent (XRF) readings of all components in each room and components on the exterior of the property, dust wipe samples in each room, 2 water samples and any bare soil on the exterior of the property. If the residence is a multifamily dwelling and there is a child under the age of six, the other units are required to be tested as well.

Lead abatement plans submitted by lead abatement contractors are reviewed and property owners are issued written orders from this office. Once the project has received approval and work is completed, a final inspection is conducted to ensure work was done as specified in the plan.



Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: May 2025

Lead case management is up to date, with case notifications being completed by Lisa daily. Just like the increase in inspections, there continues to be an increase in epidemiological investigations as well. In May there were two new cases, however the levels were under the requirement for comprehensive lead inspections. Inspections were increased by one, as an existing case had an elevation of level that now requires a comprehensive be completed. We are currently monitoring 54 active cases.

Lead Stats

Open environmental lead cases (properties)	21
New environmental	1
Active case management (children)	54
New child case management	2

After-Hours - Emergency Responses & Temporary Events

	Date/Time	Location	Description of Event
1.	5/3/2025	Men Who Cook, Ansonia	Temporary FSE 36 Cooks
2.	5/7/2025	Coleman Bros. Carnival, Shelton	Temporary FSE 10 vendors
3.	5/9/2025	Johnson Street, Naugatuck	Sewage
3.	5/13/2025	Shady Knoll, Seymour	Electrical Fire
4.	5/30/2025	350 th Anniversary, Derby	Temporary FSE 10 vendors
5.	5/30/2025	Food Truck on the River, Shelton	Temporary FSE 30+ vendors