



Miscellaneous

National Public Health Week

April 6 – 12, 2026 was National Public Health Week. We celebrate our field of work every year during NPHW with agencies across the nation. Public health achievements may not always be visible, but the impact is constant and essential. I am very proud of our entire team – staff and Board of Directors – for their commitment to improving and protecting public health here in the Valley and beyond.



NVHD Distinguished Service Award

Every year during National Public Health Week, NVHD employees anonymously submit nominations to recognize a standout employee. We are proud to announce that the 2026 Naugatuck Valley Health District Distinguished Service Award was presented to Carissa Caserta, MPH, Assistant Director of Community Health Services, in recognition of her exceptional dedication, loyalty, and commitment to the community and Health District. Her positivity is contagious and uplifting! Please join me in congratulating Carissa!



Congratulatory and Staff Announcements

Congratulations to Amanda Ruchin, Registered Sanitarian, on the birth of her daughter Raelynn Shea Ruchin born April 3, 2026. We wish Amanda and her family joy and happiness during this special time!

Vanessa Lopez, Public Health Specialist, has been completing the Environmental Health Training Program hosted by CT DPH and Southern CT State University and has continued training with the Environmental staff to support the division.

Please join me in welcoming Alicia (Ali) Mulvihill, MPH as NVHD’s Senior Public Health Specialist, effective April 27th. We are excited to welcome Ali back to NVHD!

Administrative Professionals Day

On April 22nd, we celebrated our Administrative Professionals! Pictured from left to right are Judi Waleski, Administrative Assistant, Laurie Veillette, Business Manager, and Rose Carey, Administrative Assistant.

Although their work is not often highlighted in this report, our Admins are an integral part of our district’s operations. Thank you to our Admin team!

An Administrative Assistant in a local health department/district (LHD) like NVHD is essential to keeping daily operations running smoothly. They provide frontline support across programs, staff, and the public - often serving as the first point of contact for the community. Administrative Assistants are the operational backbone of a local health department, ensuring that services are accessible, records are accurate, and staff can function efficiently. Their role directly impacts both internal workflow and the public’s experience with health services.





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A Business Manager in a local health district (LHD) like NVHD is responsible for backend operations like finance, procurement, and human resources (HR). The Business Manager is the financial and workforce architect of a local health department, ensuring that resources, people, and systems are aligned to deliver essential public health services effectively and sustainably. From coordinating payroll processing and employee benefits to managing liability, insurance, and risk mitigation strategies, this role is critical for sustaining public health services and enabling program success.

Epidemiology

We previously reported that during the months of November and December, we completed an investigation of an isolated community outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, which is a type of pneumonia caused by Legionella bacteria, with CT DPH and CDC. On April 21st, Melanie, Carissa, Kristie and I attended a virtual presentation of the investigation to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health with colleagues from CT DPH's Infectious Disease Branch, Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch, the State of CT Laboratory, and the CDC's Epidemiology Field Officer Assigned to CT.

Also on April 21st, CT DPH provided training for local health departments/districts on Legionellosis case interviews as CT DPH now requires local health to perform all non-healthcare related interviews effective April 27, 2026.

Massage Parlors Ordinance: Naugatuck

I attended the second Naugatuck Public Hearing on April 7th. The Ordinance passed.

CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH)

Positions held: Elected Board of Directors; Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair; Environmental Health Committee, Advocacy Committee

I attended the Environmental Health Committee on April 2nd and the weekly CADH Advocacy Committee meetings on Thursdays.

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 April meeting was canceled.

Workforce Development

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

Public Health Training Academy of CT (PHTAC)

I continue to attend the PHTAC Committee meetings. The April meeting was held on Friday, April 17th at 2pm.

Cornell University PHLE

I continue to participate in the 15-week CDC-funded Cornell University Public Health Leadership Essentials (PHLE) Certificate Program. The courses includes public health leadership, building and leading collaborative teams, cultivating strategic leadership skills, systems thinking for community focused change, and affecting policy change.

UConn Waterbury

I met with Jennifer Smith, Director of Regional Partnerships, Office of the Provost, UConn and Jeff Hines, MD, Vice President, Office for Inclusion and Civil Rights, UConn and UConn Health and Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Public Health Sciences, UConn School of Medicine to see how we can strengthen our relationship both with UConn Waterbury Hospital and the UConn Waterbury public health program. We will continue to explore opportunities to collaborate.





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Air Quality and Climate Change

Grant: EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant

Status: Contract is fully executed! We are currently working on a budget amendment to receive an additional \$178,559.68.

We continue to meet biweekly with our DPH, Yale, and UConn partners. UConn students and faculty are currently working on mapping the proposed host sites with social vulnerability index information and will provide our team an update on any gap areas within the 4 communities or the “green light” to enter formal agreements with the sites and coordinate installation.

On April 15th, Hannah Beath of the CT DPH Office of Climate and Health and I co-presented on air quality, climate change, and our project to the students of the CT Environmental Health Training Program.

We engaged in thoughtful conversations and give away free items like environmentally safe medication disposal pouches, reusable utensils, biodegradable wildflower seed packets, frisbees, hot/cold packs and stress balls at several Earth Day/Week related events this month including the Ansonia Nature Center Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 18th, the Pop-Up Park Event in collaboration with UConn faculty and students on April 24th, and the Abundant Life Ministries Annual Collaborative Health Fair on Saturday the 25th.



A pop-up park is a temporary space that is quickly put together to bring plants, learning, and community activities into places like parking lots, streets, and trails. It is designed as a walk-through plant and landscape exhibit, created to showcase how different types of public landscapes support our health, well-being, and environments, including cleaner air and more comfortable outdoor spaces. We had different types of landscapes set up, educational resources, information and demonstration of the PurpleAir sensors. A special thank you to Cheshire Nursery Garden Center and Florist and Courville Nurseries for their generous donations of over 50 plants to this event! The plants have been repurposed to a newly established meadow landscape at a site in Niantic being developed by the UConn Plant Science and Landscape Architecture program.





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2026 Earth Week



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UConn | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Pop-Up Park!



**Friday, April 24, 2026
10am-4pm
at the Derby Greenway!**

Corner of Division St. & N. Division St. Across from BJ's

Come explore Connecticut native plants, learn how landscapes work as systems, see how thoughtful design can help create healthier communities across the state, and learn about the Valley Air Quality Monitoring Project!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Naugatuck Valley Health District is partnering with the UConn Landscape Architecture Program Class of 2027 to transform part of the Derby Greenway Trail parking lot into a temporary pop-up park from 10am-4pm on Friday, April 24, 2026.

WHAT IS A POP-UP PARK?

- A temporary space that is quickly put together to bring plants, learning, and community activities into places like parking lots, streets, and trails.
- Designed as a walk-through plant and landscape exhibit, created to showcase how different types of public landscapes support our health, well-being, and environments, including cleaner air and more comfortable outdoor spaces.



LANDSCAPES AT THIS POP-UP PARK

Interactive Landscapes

These landscapes invite people to explore and learn hands-on. Gardens are designed for curiosity, play, and connection. Just like what you might experience along a greenway or trail.

Productive Landscapes

CT has many native plants that can be eaten or used, from trails to community gardens. Public spaces can connect us to nature in ways that are both healthy and enjoyable.

Meadow Landscapes

Native meadow plants support pollinators, improve air quality, and add color throughout the seasons. These landscapes are often found along CT's roadsides, open fields, and park edges.

Forest Landscapes

Forests are the most effective at providing cleaner air and cooler, shaded spaces. This exhibit focuses on the understory of CT forests and highlights the native plants and fungi that grow beneath the trees and help forests stay healthy.

A special thank you to our plant donors:



Free giveaways from NVHD!





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As part of our commitment to promoting public health, improving community well-being, and providing environmental health education, we were pleased to donate 9 air quality awareness related children’s books to all 8 local public libraries across the Valley (72 total) in recognition of Air Quality Awareness Week (May 4-8, 2026), Earth Week (April 18-24, 2026), and National Library Week (April 19-25, 2026). We also purchased a set for our NVHD mini library. I want to thank Vanessa for helping me coordinate the correspondence with the libraries and the logistics of the delivery of the books.

We believe that providing these resources will help educate children and families about the importance of clean air, encourage environmental awareness, and promote healthier communities. This donation is part of a broader Valley-wide initiative by NVHD to increase access to youth friendly environmental health education materials. Through this effort, we aim to raise awareness about air quality and its impact, particularly for individuals with asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Visit any of our wonderful Valley public libraries and check out one of these books!

Ansonia Public Library
53 S Cliff St, Ansonia, CT 06401
www.ansonialibrary.org

Derby Neck Library
307 Hawthorne Ave, Derby, CT 06418
www.derbynecklibrary.org

Seymour Public Library
346 Church St, Seymour, CT 06483
www.seymourpubliclibrary.org

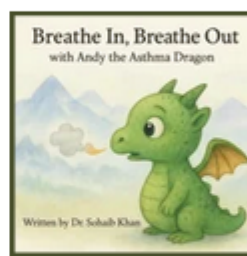
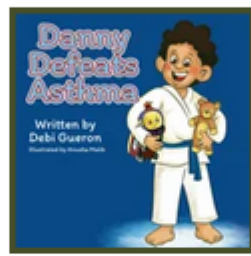
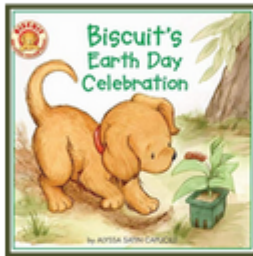
Huntington Branch Library
41 Church St, Shelton, CT 06484
sheltonlibrarysystem.org

Beacon Falls Public Library
10 Maple Ave, Beacon Falls, CT 06403
www.beaconfallslibrary.org

Derby Public Library
313 Elizabeth St, Derby, CT 06418
www.derbypubliclibrary.org

Howard Whittemore Memorial Library
243 Church St, Naugatuck, CT 06770
whittemorelibrary.org

Plumb Memorial Library
65 Wooster St, Shelton, CT 06484
sheltonlibrarysystem.org





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Naugatuck Valley Overdose Prevention & Education (NOPE) Program

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

Status: Year 3 Sub-contract Executed with New Haven Health Department

I attended the Quarterly OD2A Local/State Health Department Meeting hosted by CT DPH on April 1st.

Austin completed a Chronic Disease Self-Management training, preparing him to facilitate the program to assist people living with chronic pain. He also supported Save a Life Day by providing a Narcan training at Derby Neck Public Library, as part of a statewide initiative in which over 20 health departments offered naloxone training on the same day. The training was attended by library staff, and he was able to replenish their existing naloxone supply seeing as though the two they had on hand had expired the month prior.

Through both informal and community-based information channels, Austin was alerted to a woman in Shelton who appeared to be experiencing homelessness. A coworker initially brought her to his attention, noting repeated sightings near a construction zone. Around the same time, members of a local community Facebook page were also discussing a person matching her description, including details about their usual locations and patterns. Using this information, he was able to identify a consistent area where outreach efforts would be most effective. As a result, he successfully located and engaged with the individual. Since the initial interaction, he has contacted her multiple times, allowing for the development of rapport and trust. These repeated engagements have created opportunities to assess her needs more thoroughly and begin connecting her with appropriate resources and services.

Additionally, he participated in the Ansonia Nature Center Earth Day event, where he shared information with families on safe medication storage and disposal, along with substance use disorder (SUD) information, local resources and facilities. He attended an in-person Regional Suicide Advisory Board meeting where they brainstormed potential social media campaigns regarding suicide prevention, mental health advocacy, and SUD. He was also able to attend multiple FoodShare events where he connects with the public and distributes information in a non-judgmental environment as well as table at the Howard Whitmore library where he is able to contact multiple demographics and give relevant SUD information.

NVHD promoted DEA Take Back Events across the Valley on Saturday, April 25th as well as Fentanyl Awareness Day on April 29th. Derby Police Department collected 60lbs and Naugatuck Police Department collected 31.95lbs during their Take Back Day Events.

We continue to include a standing feature section of NVHD's newsletter which is distributed to hundreds of residents as well as businesses, libraries, senior centers, town halls, and more.

Fatal Overdose Data Update

- There were 4 suspected fatal overdoses reported by CT OCME in ODMAP in April (Derby - 2, Shelton – 2) compared to 3 in March (Seymour - 1, Shelton -1, Naugatuck - 1).
- 3 of the fatal OD in April were reported as no naloxone administered and 1 was reported naloxone unknown.
- There is 1 reported fatal overdose in 2026 in Beacon Falls on the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) Dashboard maintained by the CT DPH Office of Injury & Violence Surveillance, however there are no reported suspected fatal or non-fatal overdoses in Beacon Falls in ODMAP.
 - The SUDORS data was last updated 3/6/36 so we cannot yet compare the April ODMAP suspected fatal overdoses with the SUDORS dashboard.





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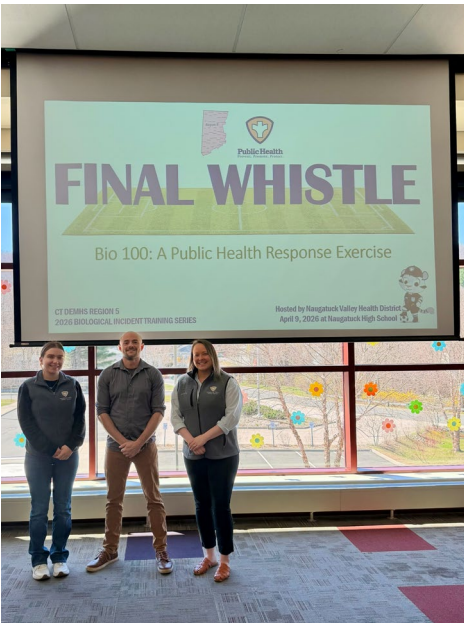
Non-Fatal Suspected Overdoses

- There were 2 non-fatal suspected overdoses reported by CT OEMS in ODMAP in April (Naugatuck – 1, Seymour - 1) compared to 6 in March (Derby - 1, Seymour - 1, Ansonia - 1, Shelton - 3).
- There was a significant increase in reported suspected overdoses and suspected overdoses involving opioids reported in April compared to March. In March, there were 19 suspected overdoses and 6 with the OD involving opioids classifier reported. In April, there were 35 suspected overdoses and 8 with the OD involving opioids classifier reported. Some of the suspected overdoses without the opioids classifier reported Narcan administration, suggesting there may have been opioids involved.
- There were 3 reported suspected overdoses among teens under 18 in April.
- There was an anomaly/spike alert reported in Derby with 3 suspected drug overdoses that occurred between April 26-April 27. There were no reported suspected overdoses in Derby reported in ODMAP. We are investigating the discrepancy.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

Emilija has continued to work on updating and editing the Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP) to familiarize herself with our response plan(s). She has also continued to do an inventory of NVHD’s PHEP and MRC supplies to familiarize herself with our current materials and stock, and see what we may need to change, discard, or add ahead of our exercises this June.

NVHD was selected to host the CT Region 5 Biological Incident 100 Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on April 9th and the CT Region 5 Bio 200 Functional Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise on June 26th at Naugatuck High School. All NVHD staff attended the April 9th TTX along with partners from Region 5’s Local Health Departments, CT Department of Public Health, Hartford HealthCare, FBI New Haven, and CT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. I facilitated the exercise which was an anthrax exposure event at a FIFA World Cup community watch party. Emilija, Ali, and I are now planning for the June POD exercise.





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Emilija attended additional regional exercises to build experience and observe best practices. On April 1st, she attended the Region 2 Biological Incident 100 Tabletop Exercise (TTX) at the Wallingford Police Department, and on April 17th, she attended the Region 1 Bio 200 Functional POD Exercise at Bedford Middle School in Westport (photos below). These exercises provided exposure to different operational approaches and strengthened her understanding of POD activation and regional response coordination.



On April 18th, Emilija completed the *Shelter Fundamentals v2: Disaster Cycle Services* training hosted by the American Red Cross in partnership with Litchfield CERT at the Litchfield Emergency Operations Center in Bantam.

On April 22nd, Emilija and I attended *What Local Health Departments Need to Know About the FY27 President's Budget*, hosted by NACCHO's Government Affairs team. The webinar provided an analysis and walkthrough of the proposed federal budget for local health department leaders, with a focus on implications for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It highlighted key funding proposals and potential cuts affecting local health departments.

On April 23rd, Emilija attended the 2026 Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium at Camp Nett in Niantic, hosted by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) in partnership with the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The symposium is the state's premier gathering of local public safety officials and emergency response professionals, providing a forum to strengthen coordination and statewide resilience in managing mass emergencies.

ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services

Positions held: Chair of Region 5; Member of Region 2

I facilitated the Region 5 ESF 8 meeting on April 10th and Emilija attended. I attended the Region 5 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) Steering Committee meeting on April 6th and the Region 2 REPT-SC meeting on April 17th. I also attended the State of CT Statewide ESF 8 Workgroup meeting on April 30th.

CT Health Care Coalition

Positions held: Executive Board Member; Voting Member

On April 28th, Emilija and I attended the 2026 Connecticut Healthcare Coalition Conference which had the theme: *One Voice, Many Partners: Strengthening Communication in Preparedness and Times of Crisis*. The conference included educational sessions, a communications tabletop exercise, and networking opportunities focused on emergency preparedness and response coordination (photos below).





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I received a scholarship (paid registration) to virtually attend the National Preparedness Summit conference hosted by NACCHO on April 13 – 15, 2026. Emilija also attended, with her grant covering her registration.

Statewide Training and Exercises Workgroup (STEW)

Emilija and I attended the monthly meeting on April 8th.

Medical Reserve Corps

Emilija attended the New England MRC Regional (Federal Region 1) meetings on April 8th and 29th. Additionally, she attended the National Office of MRC Hours meetings on April 7th, 14th, and 21st.

On April 20th, Emilija attended a 4-hour CPR/BLS training on behalf of the NVMRC, sponsored by the Capitol Region MRC with funding from the CT HCC. The course followed the American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support curriculum and provided hands-on training in responding to medical emergencies.



On April 2nd, 2026, Emilija attended the initial meeting for a statewide Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) project hosted by the Capitol Region MRC. The meeting provided an overview of a Connecticut Healthcare Coalition (CT HCC)-funded initiative to conduct a statewide MRC assessment and strengthen MRC capabilities and coordination across the state, including a review of project goals and planned activities. Throughout the month, Emilija participated in multiple components of this initiative. On April 20th, Emilija and I completed an online unit assessment survey contributing to the statewide evaluation. On April 21st and April 27th, Emilija attended in-person regional group discussions in Branford (Region 2) and at NVHD (Region 5), hosted by NVMRC; Ali and I also attended the Region 5 session. We will have one more statewide in-person workshop in May.

NACCHO Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)

Position held: Connecticut Representative

PPAG was canceled in April due to the Preparedness Summit Conference.

FIFA World Cup

In addition to updates provided during the PPAG meeting, I was asked to participate in several working groups focused on planning for the upcoming tournament.

NACCHO 2026 FIFA World Cup Community of Practice (CoP)

I attended the meeting on April 10th. The CoP supports Local Health Departments (LHDs), states (SACCHOs), host cities, neighboring regions, Team Base Camp (TBC) locations, and key partners in planning for and strengthening public health preparedness and response activities related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

CT FIFA 2026 ESF-8 Workgroup

I attended and provided updates at the April 29th meeting including the weekly FIFA Intelligence Roundup reports (geopolitical updates, fan behavior at international matches, tournament infrastructure updates), diseases of concern by country/travel history to prepare for, overdose spike responses, and other emergency planning considerations.





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COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
Carissa Caserta, MPH
April 2026

Valley Council for Health & Human Services (VCHHS)

Kristie, Lisa, Austin, and I attended the monthly Valley Council meeting on April 7th. The main agenda items highlighted a case study of a successful referral story from our Community Care Hub initiative, a presentation by the Interim Community Planning Director for the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, member updates, and a brief CHIP update by our Griffin partner, Myra.

Jess attended the Valley Council Hub Committee meeting on April 28th. The two main agenda items were an update from the CT Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity on a food resources pilot project that we are doing in the Valley (which aligns with our CHIP work plan) as well as refining a participant survey for organization staff who are current users of a closed loop referral system called UniteUs.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Me, Jess, and Lisa are members of the CHIP Steering Committee along with Myra O. (Griffin Health Services) and Beth C. (Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center). The priority areas of the 2025-2028 Naugatuck Valley Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) have been refined to: Access to Care and other Social Needs (Co-Chaired by Myra and Aneta Guliuzza of Griffin); Enhance Mental and Behavioral Health (Co-Chaired by NVHD’s Lisa and Austin); and Improve Awareness, Access to, and Uptake of Healthy Food & Nutrition Programming/Services (Co-Chaired by Jess, Beth and myself).



Mental and Behavioral Health

The Mental and Behavioral Health Committee will reconvene on May 13th. During the month of April, several training courses were either completed or planned for Mental Health Awareness Month that correspond to the Committee’s work plan.

Access to Care and other Social Needs

The Access to Care committee reconvened on April 1st and revised their work plan slightly to focus on one EMS (VEMS) partnership application for a Mobile Integrated Health program. This is a very comprehensive application between VEMS and Griffin; we hope it will have a successful outcome.

Food and Nutrition

George Michael, MD, Yale MPH Student and Griffin Medical Resident Intern assisting with the Food and Nutrition Committee completed his research project and presented his findings at the Coalition Workshop on April 24th at the Center for Healthy Living in the Quarry Walk (Oxford).

I co-facilitated the workshop and Carissa, Lisa, and Emilija also attended. Thanks to Board Member Marietta for also attending!

We look forward to continuing to advance our work around food access and nutrition education through our CHIP work and the establishment of the Valley Food Coalition.





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Griffin CHL Steering Committee

Jess and I are serving on Griffin's Center for Healthy Living Steering Committee. The CHL is the umbrella for Griffin Hospital's lifestyle, wellness, prevention, and chronic disease management programs. The Center's mission is to support individuals and communities and their healthcare providers with knowledge, skills, and competencies in the medical specialty of Lifestyle Medicine.

Community Health Programs

LiveWell with Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP)

A virtual DSMP program was completed on April 8th and had 4 completers.

A Matter of Balance (MOB)

Two 8-week Matter of Balance programs started the week of April 20th with one at the Shelton Senior Center (Carissa and Lisa) and one at the Seymour Community Center (Kristie and Vanessa). Both programs are full and started with 12 participants.

Mental and Behavioral Health Programs

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Lisa co-led a virtual MHFA training in partnership with Meriden Health Department on April 16th and 17th which resulted in certifying six participants.

On April 30th, Lisa, Emilija, Ali, and I were trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid by Housatonic Valley Health District. Lisa will be getting trained to teach this program with funding from the Preventive Services Block Grant and we will add it to our slate of programs soon!

Suicide Prevention and Postvention

NVHD has partnered with BHCare's Alliance for Prevention & Wellness and the Western CT Coalition, our regional behavioral health action organizations (RBHAOs), to offer CONNECT Suicide Postvention Training designed specifically for local community leaders across the Naugatuck Valley region on May 18th and 19th in Ansonia. The CONNECT model is a nationally recognized, evidence-informed program that emphasizes building relationships, enhancing communication, and fostering resilience across systems of care. Registration is currently open and interested individuals should use this link to reserve a seat: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/5a7dvca>.

NACCHO Suicide Prevention Community of Practice

Lisa attended nationwide workgroup meeting on April 13th which focused on lethal means reduction.

Regional Suicide Advisory Boards (RSAB) (2 & 5)

Lisa and Austin attended the R2SAB meeting on April 7th in-person in Meriden and it was focused on May Mental Health Awareness Month campaigns. The Region 5 quarterly Suicide Advisory Board meeting will be held in May.

Comprehensive Suicide Prevention (CSP) in CT (CT CSP)

Jess attended and reported on behalf of Lisa at the April 30th meeting as Lisa was completing the Youth MHFA training.





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Immunization Grants & Clinical Services

Clinical Services

Kristie provided vaccinations to 3 children and 3 adults, for a total of 6 vaccines administered for the month of April.

Kristie, Emilja and I held a Teddy Bear Clinic at Derby Public Library for 20 children. It's a great way to introduce and familiarize children with what happens at a doctor's appointment and let them do an exam on their teddy bear. We also promoted our services to all the parents.

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Grant Program

Elizabeth conducted 4 in-person full site visits for pediatric offices in her grant jurisdiction. She completed and submitted her quarterly report to CT DPH as well.

Tuberculosis

Kristie is providing Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for two TB patients.

CT DPH Cardiovascular Learning Collaborative

NVHD is one of 8 accepted local health departments/districts into the 3rd Cohort of the CT DPH Cardiovascular Learning Collaborative. As of right now, we are working on adding a social determinant of health screenings for our clinic to refer to Valley community services when needed. We met with the CT DPH team on April 7th and we are also meeting with Griffin Health to determine what community programs they offer and how we can work together to refer to each other.

Community Outreach Events

There were a lot of community outreach events in April! In addition to the events previously mentioned, staff attended the following:

April 23rd: Naugatuck Senior Center Spring Health Fair was attended by Kristie and Lisa.

April 25th: Vanessa and Emilija attended the 2nd Annual Collaborative Health Fair hosted by Abundant Life Ministries in Ansonia. They had a great time interacting with other community partners as well as community members!





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Melanie Dokla, BS, RS
April 2026

Food Service Establishments

Seasonal permit applications are being reviewed and scheduled for an inspection. Temporary events season is ramping up; we finally received approval for a revised temporary event inspection form from the DPH Food Program. Staff utilized the new form at our first temporary event, The Community that Cooks.

Staff continue to conduct plan views and site visit 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 April 15th, Amy Durand, Registered Sanitarian, and Kristie D'Averso, Registered Nurse, attended the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Outbreak Response Training at West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium.

On April 28th, Amy Durand attended an hour-long virtual training that provided an overview of food date marking requirements.



Public Pools

We continue to process renewal applications for existing public pools/spas; permits expired on April 30th. We have received all year-round pool applications and are awaiting three (3) seasonal pool applications.

Inspections for indoor pools have been completed, and outdoor pool inspections will begin at mid-May.

Body Care

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

Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (SSDS)

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

On April 15th, I attended a private well class entitled "What Environmental Health Professionals Need to Know About Wells". This was a 120-minute free webinar that provided an introduction to groundwater, well construction, water quality, and well care best practices for environmental health professionals and others who serve well owners.



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Housing/Nuisance Complaints

Environmental staff continue to investigate housing code violations and complaints.

Amy Durand, Registered Sanitarian, and Vanessa Lopez, Public Health Specialist, attended a multi-disciplinary training on the nature and treatment of hoarding, with particular attention to practical, team-based intervention strategies on April 16th. Jessica Bloomberg, LCSW of Fairfield Police Department coordinated the training at Penfield Pavilion in Fairfield with Dr. David Tolin, Founder and Director of the Anxiety Disorders Center. Because hoarding cases frequently intersect with social services, fire safety, public health, housing, law enforcement, and community-based support, training together strengthens how we collectively respond to these complex situations.



Lead Education & Action Program (LEAP)

Staff continue to complete comprehensive lead inspection for elevated blood lead (EBLL) cases. If the residence is a multi-family dwelling the other units are required to be tested if there is a child under the age of six. Risk assessment inspections are also being conducted if an EBLL case relocates within our district.

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.

Community Health and Environmental Health staff meet monthly to provide updates on open cases and to discuss any ongoing issues.

Grant funding for lead projects through Connecticut Children’s Medical Center is still pending/unknown.





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Naugatuck Valley
Health District**

Board of Directors
Monthly Public Health Report: April 2026

On April 22nd, Michael Delossantos, Sanitarian, and Lisa Trupp, Health Educator attended DPH’s Annual Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor refresher training at the West Hartford Town Hall in West Hartford. John, Amy, Ali, Elizabeth and I are scheduled to attend the training on May 7th.

Lead Stats - April

Open environmental lead cases (properties)	27
New environmental	3
Active case management (children)	44

Miscellaneous

Amy Durand, Registered Sanitarian, attended a virtual training sponsored by National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). The training was entitled “Doorsteps: The Public Health Impact of Flies and Roaches.”

Emergency Responses After-Hours

	Date/Time	Location	Description of Event
1.	April 6, 2026 3:15pm-6:00pm	269 Caroline Street, Derby	Sewage issue
2.	April 9, 2026 6:00pm-7:30pm	Tap House, Beacon Falls	Fire
3.	April 14, 2026 3:00pm-5:00pm	Howard Avenue, Ansonia	Sewage issue

Temporary Events

	Date/Time	Location	Description of Event
1.	Saturday, April 25, 2026	Community That Cooks, Ansonia	30+ cooks

