I blinked and my first-year anniversary of becoming Director of Health for our district has come! Thank to you the staff, Board, and town leaders for supporting me throughout the transition and in my first year of administration.

Throughout the month of September, I have been updating our website page http://www.nvhd.org/eee-2019/ with facts and information regarding mosquito protection and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, as frequently as a couple times a week. I realize there is some degree of panic across the state for those who are only getting their information from the news media and don’t fully understand the scope of the situation. On September 13th, I sat down with a reporter from News12 (Optimum) to do an interview regarding the mosquito that tested positive for EEE at the Shelton trapping station. I have also done phone interviews with other local online and print media outlets. The CT Agriculture Experiment Station (CAES) has 92 trapping sites in CT, one of which is in Shelton. On August 26th, one of the mosquitoes trapped in Shelton tested positive for the EEE virus. This species of mosquito, Cs. melanura, is not considered to be an important vector of EEEV to humans because it feeds almost exclusively on birds. Since the end of August, no other mosquitoes trapped in Shelton have tested positive for either EEE or West Nile Virus. This is evidence to support that the positive mosquito did not breed and the virus did not amplify in Shelton. I have been working closely with our state agency partners from CT DPH, DEEP, and CAES in order to keep our website and information sharing as current and accurate as possible. I have also worked with several of our school districts (Athletic Directors, Nurse Supervisors, and Superintendents, Facilities Managers) to provide information and guidance regarding this situation and to address rumors. As of October 1, 2019, and after conferring with the State of CT, I am still not recommending any of the towns in the jurisdiction to cancel, postpone or move activities because of EEE nor am I recommending any of our towns to implement pesticide spraying. I do recommend general mosquito prevention tips since they will remain active until the first heavy frost. I will keep updating our website and will be sending out a press release during the first week of October with this information and the mosquito prevention tips. Please refer questions regarding EEE to our office.

Speaking of our website, I am proud to announce that after months of careful development, we have launched the new www.nvhd.org. I am working with the Assistant Directors to finish working on some final edits and sub-page development before we send out an official press release announcing the launch, but please visit the site and let us know what you think!

On September 3rd, I attended a press conference held at the Naugatuck Police Department in support of a new and unique program that they rolled out on September 1st. The program is called the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative, or PAARI for short. NVHD and its Medical Reserve Corps volunteer unit were able to donate 35 double doses of Narcan to the Naugatuck Police Department at this press conference for their patrol officers. To learn more about PAARI, or to watch the press release, please visit the Naugatuck Patch website: https://patch.com/connecticut/naugatuck/naugatuck-police-introduce-paari-address-opioid-crisis. NVHD will continue to support the initiative as a community partner as we are still actively engaged in opioids prevention work with our Regional Opioids Alliance and Data Sharing (ROADS) grant with our neighboring health districts and conducting local Narcan training sessions in our communities. NVHD (Jess and Jamie) hosted the ROADS meeting on September 5th and welcomed Greg Simpson, Regional Network Manager for Beacon Health Option’s Western CT Region to...
explore how we might work together with regards to opioids prevention and recovery services. Jamie and I also co-facilitated a Hidden in Plain Sight training at the Woodland High School open house for parents and faculty alongside our colleagues from the Chesprocott Health District and officers from Prospect, Beacon Falls, and our local State Police barracks. I will be teaching a Narcan class and there will be a Hidden in Plain Sight training at the 10/5 Health and Safety Fair that we are co-hosting with Echo Hose Ambulance in Shelton.

The Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 5 ESF 8 health and medical meetings picked back up and occur on the first Friday of each month. Dave and I attended the meeting where I gave updates for both the region’s Steering Committee and Family Assistance Center Committee. Immediately following, Dave and I hosted a regional MRC leadership meeting as NVHD is now the Region 5 MRC lead and fiduciary. At the end of September, I was invited to be part of a select group to beta test the new U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Medical Reserve Corps website, which is the platform we are required to input activities and roster information on.

We hosted our monthly staff meeting on the 19th and welcomed Mark Peterson to talk about our insurance coverage (effective 10/1) and then Dave, Preparedness Coordinator, presented to the staff on personal preparedness since September is National Preparedness Month.

Thank you to the Naugatuck Emergency Management Director, Fran Dambowsky, for inviting me to participate in a short presentation alongside Captain Walter Seaman (Naugatuck Fire Department & Naugatuck Emergency Management) and Officer Connor Faticoni of the Naugatuck Police Department. We were able to enlighten the employees of LanXESS about our services and how we might interact with their Naugatuck site should an emergency require us to do so. The presentation was held at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury and was part of their staff workforce development and safety training day.

The CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH) met on October 25th in Southington. CT DPH and DEEP provided a thorough awareness presentation on PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

Carol, our NauVEL Program Manager announced that we have met our benchmark of assessing 135 units for lead and healthy homes hazards. I’d like to thank our partners at CT Children’s Medical Center’s Healthy Homes Program and our colleagues at Yale who have worked very hard on this grant. We are now in our “homestretch” phase of the grant. Scheduled Bid Walks continued to occur this month and I attended one at a property in Ansonia. Kudos to Carol, and our Program Assistant, Lisa T., for keep the program on track and making a difference for so many of our Valley residents!

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES REPORT
Carissa Caserta, MPH
Assistant Director
September 2019

Jamie and I started a new Matter of Balance class at the Seymour Community Center, which is the first time this location. We have a list of 12 attendants and a growing wait list for this class!

Jamie, Jess and I have finalized our planning for our first annual health and safety fair. We have 23 vendors signed up to attend! The fair will take place on October 5th from 9-12 and will be at the Echo
Hose Training Center, 430 Coram Ave., Shelton. We will be providing flu vaccines and a table of information on the programs we offer. There will be free trainings such as Hidden in Plain Sight, Hands-Only CPR, Stop the Bleed and Narcan as well as family friendly activities such as Touch-A-Truck with first responder vehicles. “I hope you will stop by and check it out!” – Jess.

I hosted my first Valley Early Childhood Education Council meeting at Bungay School in Seymour. The Council has selected behavioral health as a priority area to focus on which aligns with our Community Health Improvement Plan. Jess attended the meeting as a guest to talk about the CHIP Behavioral Health work and how the work will compliment each other.

Kristin is currently providing directly observed therapy for 1 Tuberculosis patient.

Kristin and I attended the annual Influenza conference in Branford on September 18th where they discussed cases of flu throughout the last 3 years and what to expect this year. This conference kicks off our flu clinics season and we are able to learn about new vaccines and gather educational materials for our patients. All of our flu clinics have been scheduled and finalized for this season!

Here is a list of our public flu clinics and dates:

- October 1 9am-11am – Naugatuck Senior Center
- October 4 9-11:30am – Seymour Senior Center
- October 5 9am-12pm – Echo Hose Training Center Health Fair
- October 10 11am-1pm – Ansonia Senior Center
- October 11 9-11am – Derby Senior Center
- October 16 11am-1pm – Senator Logan Fair, Warsaw Park
- October 23 9:30am-12pm – Shelton Senior Center
- October 28 9am-12pm Senior Health Fair at Shelton Senior Center

There are several more private clinics being held for the Board of Eduations and at BHcare in Ansonia and Derby. MRC Volunteer Nurses will be activated to help support some of the public clinics.

Jess, Lisa and I met with Comcast and have been working to spend the funds from our Valley Community Foundation grant to upgrade our technology. The Wi-Fi has been switched and the phone system is currently being constructed. Our staff is very excited for these new changes!

Jamie attended a health fair at Naugatuck Senior Center and brought information on Matter of Balance and our flu vaccine schedule to share.

Jamie hosted an event at Griffin Hospital for Fall Prevention Day. During one of the free/reduced dinner nights for seniors, she set up a table of fall prevention materials and asked a physical therapist from Griffin to do fall assessment. It was a very well attended event!

Key staff from NVHD have been working together on our reaccreditation efforts. We had a meeting with Norwalk Health Department to discuss their reaccreditation work and tips for how they completed the process. We have our timeline in place and have begun writing narratives and collecting documents for submission at the end of 2020.
Environmental Health staff has continued to be busy reviewing applications and inspecting temporary food events. The staff will meet at the conclusion of the season to discuss the program and propose improvements for the following year.

The deadline for the renewal of all existing Body Care permits was September 30th. Reminder phone calls were sent out via Easylink Service System on September 17th, 24th, 30th. As of the date of this report (October 1, 2019), 27 applications are still pending. Beginning the week of October 1st, a late fee of $20/day will be assessed for all applications that miss the expiration. The sanitarians are conducting annual inspections of the salons as the applications are received and processed.

On September 30th, I attended a Personal Services and Body Art Conference sponsored by CEHA. Topics included an overview of eyelash and nail technician techniques, Human trafficking, OSHA air quality concerns and tattoo/body piercing licensing. The following day I met with the environmental staff to discuss the new information from the conference.

The staff welcomed Rich Jackson, Head Sanitarian, who started on September 5th. Rich is heading the subsurface septic disposal system program and has begun to training/assist other staff in SSDS. He is also inspected food establishments, body care salons and investigating nuisance complaints.

**Emergency Responses After Hour**

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<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>3rd 4:30-5:30pm</td>
<td>Shelton Lakes, Shelton – Air quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd 7:30-9:45am</td>
<td>McDonald’s, Naugatuck – Fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th 4:45-6:30pm</td>
<td>Wendy’s, Derby – Water issue</td>
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