



CITY OF DANBURY

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
155 DEER HILL AVENUE, DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Central Health Office
203 - 797-4625
Fax 796-1596

Social Services Office
203 - 797-4569
Fax 797-4566

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
City Council
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810

March 30, 2010

Re: Health & Human Services Department Monthly Report

Dear Mayor Boughton and Members of the City Council:

The February 2010 Health & Human Services Department monthly report is provided for your review. Detailed reports are attached for each Division, including the Housing, Food Service, Social Services, Women Infants & Children, School Based Health Centers and Environmental Health which identify specific inspections, tasks and hours provided by our staff. The Department also receives and responds to resident communications through the new *City Line* 311 customer service line and the electronic Q-Alert system. Should you have any questions regarding these issues, feel free to contact myself or each Division Head directly.

Main Topics

Planning meetings were conducted with the State Department of Public Health, Danbury Visiting Nurse Association and the Danbury School System to prepare for the upcoming Flu season. The Department also conducted clothing distribution at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen's Morning Glory breakfast program on February 10th from 6:30am to 9am.

You are encouraged to review all the information for each Division, as it provides details concerning ongoing activities. Also, I thank you for giving the Health & Human Services Department the opportunity to serve the Citizens of Danbury and feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Scott T. LeRoy MPH, MS
Director of Health & Human Services

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March 23, 2010

TO : Danbury City Council

FROM: Daniel Barody, Associate Director

RE: Monthly Status Report – Housing, Food Service & Environmental Health Division
February, 2010

February 2010

Housing, Food Service & Environmental Division Combined Stats Report

Inspection / Hours	February 2010	Year to Date (fiscal)
Hazardous Materials Management & Public Health Preparedness (hours)	177	1494
Wetlands / Water Resources (hours)	90	998
# Land Use Evaluations (Septic Systems and Well Water Supply)	43	742
# Housing Inspections	32	303
# Food Service Inspections	39	301
# General Nuisance / Miscellaneous Inspections	26	348

See attached narrative



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Environmental Health Division Narrative Report

The status of major project and program activities of the Environmental Health Division (EHD) for February, 2010 can be summarized as follows.

Wetlands / Water Resource Management:

The EHD continued to provide technical support staff to the Environmental Impact Commission (EIC). EHD staff has conducted review of permit documentation and site plans, site inspection of on going construction of EIC Permitted Projects, attended EIC Meeting and discussed environmental issues related to future projects by organizing pre-application meetings with developers and their consultants.

The EHD continued its management of water resource projects, including Tarrywile Lake. The EHD continued to provide staff support and liaison to the Environmental Impact Commission. (EIC), conducting oversight, environmental monitoring and inspection of public and private construction projects.

The EHD conducted site investigations of complaints and construction activities along the shore front of Candlewood Lake in cooperation with The Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA), The EHD receives and processes complaints, service requests and inquiries through the 311 "City Line" and Q-Alert systems.

Program Planning and Administration:

The Director of Health (DOH) and Senior Inspector continued to coordinate various environmental programs

Subsurface Sewage Disposal & Private Water Supply Wells Compliance Program:

The on-site sewage disposal and well permitting program staff continued to perform plan review, site soil suitability testing and inspection.

Land Use:

The EHD continued administration of the Grading Permit Program, conducting permit application review, site inspection and enforcement.

Hazardous Materials Management & Public Health Preparedness:

The Environmental Health Division (EHD) continues in planning, training and preparedness activities for all hazard events as well as completion of annual contract deliverables required by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Pandemic Influenza Grants.

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HOUSING AND FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM NARRATIVE

The statistical report reflects field activities conducted in connection with housing, public health and food service functions undertaken by the department. This narrative report is intended to summarize administrative activities and enforcement actions initiated by these sections. The narrative also highlights tasks and initiatives that may be of special interest.

The Office of the Corporation Counsel processed four housing/health code referrals in September. The inspectors were not required to make court appearances. Several other cases were resolved by the City's attorneys prior to court hearings being held. While every effort is made to encourage cooperation to correct violations, non-compliance with department orders leads to court action and possible penalties for contempt of court.

The department continues to participate in systematic and complaint inspections with the UNIT program as needed. Our Department inspectors serve as the liaison's to UNIT and participates in inspections as requested. The department also investigates complaints throughout the city referred through the Mayor's complaint line and from other departments in addition to complaints filed directly with the department. The department also receives complaints and service requests through the 311 system. Food service inspections for the month were affected by the extended leave of a full-time food service inspector.

The department's lead poisoning prevention efforts for the month included monitoring of laboratory reports regarding blood lead levels in children in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Staff made contacts with clients in need of follow up tests according to State testing protocols. Preparations were also made to deal with the increased activity expected to result from the implementation of Connecticut's new law that mandates universal blood lead testing of all children in Connecticut. The law went into effect on January 1, 2009 and has resulted in an increase in department activity in the monitoring and follow up of child blood lead test results. Increased testing may also result in the need for more mandatory environmental inspections by the department to address individual cases of elevated blood lead levels. The law also lowers the action level for triggering such investigations. The department also performed functions as a community partner in the LAMPP Program during the month. Participation makes Danbury property owners eligible to apply for grant funds to abate lead paint, replace windows and perform other repairs necessary to make units lead safe. One application involving a Danbury property is under consideration by LAMPP.

The housing section also provides staff support for the Danbury Fair Rent Commission. The half-time fair housing officer received two fair rent inquiries during February. The officer received one housing discrimination inquiry. The staff also serves to assist the Danbury Housing Partnership and staff their meetings as well as the Continuum of Care.

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To: City Council & Mayor Boughton

From: Social Services

RE: Activities during February 2010

Mission Statement:

Our Social Services seek to provide the community and its residents with access to municipal and community social services in an expeditious, cost effective and comprehensive manner. Efforts are focused on improving access to housing and emergency shelter; improving access to medical care and coverage and improving social conditions for residents via collaboration and advocacy at the local, state and federal level by identifying needs and working to create systems of access that are inclusive of all residents in need.

The following are the highlights from our Social Services activities:

- Our Housing Caseworker managed 74 active cases.
- The Day Center had a total of 275 visits from homeless individuals.
- Social service collaborations were continued for the clients at both the AmeriCares Free Clinic and the Wellness on Wheels van through existing services and referrals.
- Our Emergency Shelter provided 7 new homeless individuals with services and had 358 stays from homeless individuals.
- 107 Housing Case Management services were provided by our Housing Case worker.
- The Homeless Management Information System was updated to reflect current clients and activities in the Welfare Department and through the collaboration with Dreamhomes.
- 2 Meetings were conducted with the Continuum of Care.
- 21 Meeting was conducted with the Housing Partnership.
- 1 Meeting was held for the Veterans Working Group on "Housing for Hero's."
- Conducted clothing distribution at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen's Morning Glory breakfast program on February 10th from 6:30am to 9am.
- 14 requests were processed through the Fair Rent & Affordable Housing activities.

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TO: Honorable Members of the Danbury City Council

FROM: Melanie Bonjour, School Based Health Center (SBHC) Clinic Administrator

RE: **Monthly Status Report – March 2010 - Impact of Proposed State Budget Cuts on School-Based Health Center Services**

The Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan for *this fiscal year ending June 30, 2010* calls for a \$1 million dollar reduction to SBHCs. **This translates into a \$13,333 reduction to everyone of the 75 SBHCs, including the three sites in Danbury, between now and June 30th.**

If this reduction is imposed, it will have a very serious negative impact on the health care delivery system in our community, and significantly hinder our ability to improve access to health care for children.

The proposed cut is the most recent in a series of cuts proposed by the Governor and State Legislature in FY 2009-2010. In the fall of 2009, the Governor imposed a 5% rescission on all DPH funded SBHC programs. While this percentile decrease might appear minimal, it was made to programs which have experienced little or no funding increase for several years. In addition, programs receiving SBHC expansion funding in FY 2007-2008 and FY 2008-2009 suffered the additional loss of financial support, which was put in place by the State Legislature to respond to serious health care concerns in their communities. While the majority of SBHC programs have survived these reductions with minimal damage, the FY 2010-2011 budget picture looks even grimmer, with an additional \$1.23 million cut in funding forecasted.

What will the \$1 million dollar reduction mean for Danbury? If the Governor's mitigation plan is approved, the following measures will have to be considered:

- **Reduce staff hours**, including office hours, one or two days per week, at all three locations **on or before April 1, 2010**. The clinics are already beyond the capacity to serve, with appointments made often two to three days out. Staff routinely stay at the clinics beyond their scheduled (paid) hours to serve students.
- **Close SBHCs for summer break** prior to the school year, **on or before May 15, 2010**. This will likely mean that many children will have no readily accessible health care services available to them May through September, if and when, the SBHCs open for the start of the new school year.

The majority of the children we serve will be forced to go without health care services until they have no other choice but to rely on the emergency room for care. As you are well aware, this is not a cost effective way to provide preventive or non-acute services.

- **Staff retention will very likely be affected** if additional cuts are made. Everyone, regardless of the type of work they perform or salary they earn, has been affected by the dwindling economy. Reduction in staff hours will very likely force staff to look to alternate means of employment, creating an additional loss for our programs that our community simply cannot face.

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TO: Danbury City Council
FROM: Patty Mascoli, WIC Program Director
RE: Monthly Status Report-WIC Program, February 2010

Description:

The City of Danbury's, Department of Health and Human Services has been the parent agency to our local Danbury WIC Program since its start up date of May 1st, 1978. In October of 1978 the Program was expanded beyond Danbury to include the surrounding towns of Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Warren and Washington and still serves this geographical area today.

Mission Statement:

The Danbury WIC Program is committed to improving the health of eligible pregnant women, new mothers, and children by providing nutrition education, breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and referrals to health and social programs during the critical stages of fetal and early childhood development. We do that by giving our most vulnerable children the best possible start by providing optimal nutrition during the critical stages of fetal and early childhood development phases.

Site Operations:

The Danbury WIC Program is located at 13 Main St., Danbury, CT. A satellite operation is located at the Visiting Nurses Association Building, 68 Park Lane, New Milford, CT where we visit one time a month and serve approximately 100+ area residents. A new satellite location launched 12/10/09 at the Women's Center at Danbury Hospital we will visit one time a month.

Our current sites are in locations that insure accessibility for both the Danbury and New Milford area participants. Hours of service include extended hours of operation Monday –Thursday and on Saturdays these hours offer flexibility for the working client as well as the opportunities for walk-ins.

Additional Information:

WIC will be celebrating National Nutrition Month in March 2010 by hosting a nutrition and exercise celebration on March 24, 2010 at the Samaritan Center on Rose Street and on March 31, 2010 at the Community Health Center on Delay Street. We will encourage healthy eating and exercise while providing a nutritious snack and will be offering gift bags to patients.

Key Indicators	02/10	01/10
Number of clients served in Danbury	2333	2477
Number of clients served in New Milford	144	144
Dollar Amount of Food Vouchers to be redeemed in the Greater Danbury Area	\$111,135	\$169,743

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