

# CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S HEALTH CAMPAIGN

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## Minutes

Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 2 pm – 3:50 pm,  
LOB Room 1B, Hartford

**Present:** Lisa Sementilli, Gayle Kataja, Carole Stambo, Shanta Evans, Sue Addiss, Natasha Pierre, Patricia Weel, Judy Blei, Gretchen Raffa, Laura Cordes, Nora Duncan, Helen Raisz, Dr. James Hadler, and Teresa Younger.

### **Presentation – HPV Vaccine, Dr. James Hadler, DPH**

Dr. Hadler of the Department of Public Health presented human papillomavirus vaccine information to campaign members. He provided his review and understanding of the vaccine, a mandate, the department's stance on the use of the vaccine, the barriers to use, funding, costs, and provider and recipient concerns. He talked about the barriers to affordability for various benefit groups and making it available ultimately to providers through the Vaccines for Children program. He said the standard of care would be focused on 11-12 years of age females and then same for males at later date. Discussion ensued about testing and treatment for males, public education and surveillance. For a good research brief on cervical cancer, he pointed members to the DPH website. Dr. Hadler emphasized that the vaccine is already protecting against early conditions and symptoms that usually appear under HPV. Dr. Hadler agreed to keep CWHC informed about public education and surveillance efforts as the vaccine is distributed.

### **Legislative Updates**

L. Cordes thanked many members for their support in the Plan B bill successes in both Houses and the many events leading up to the bill's passage. J. Blei also added information about the Plan B bill and any ongoing discussions with legislative leadership. L. Cordes then spoke about the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners bill and ongoing efforts. There is still an on-going attempt to set up a regional on-call system to cover all hospitals in need of nurse examiners for both treatment and forensic purposes. L. Sementilli and H. Raisz talked about Universal Health Care legislation and T. Younger talked about OHCA hearing and the Plan B legislation's implications for St. Raphael's plans. L. Sementilli reported on current activities of the Medical Interpretation Coalition and a state Association of Medical Interpreters now forming. L. Sementilli reported on reauthorization and potential changes in federal State Children's Health Insurance Partnership. L. Sementilli noted that CWHC's legacy of work on family planning and smoking cessation remain unfulfilled. Follow up with Commissioner Starkowski is needed.

### **Summer Retreat**

All were asked to look at a 2-page draft proposal for a Summer CWHC "Conversations on Women's Health" retreat facilitator(s). Members were asked to suggest facilitators and venues in south central CT. S. Evans offered to distribute the notice to CT Health Foundation Fellows and L. Cordes suggested that all members give live pitches at upcoming meetings. It was discussed how to reach behavioral health providers and others who have not been represented. The retreat is expected to take place in mid-late July.

### **Announcements**

- 6/21 PCSW Making Women Visible Dinner
- No June meeting; perhaps ad hoc retreat or legislative meetings electronically/phone

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Carole Stambo, PCSW, 5/9/2007