



AGENCIES

*Above: Reflections on Coventry's Lake
Wangumbaug. Photo by Laura Stone.*

Eastern Highlands Health District 2011/2012 Annual Report for Coventry

Robert Miller, Director

The Towns of Bolton, Coventry, and Mansfield established the Eastern Highlands Health District on June 6, 1997 as a cooperative effort to pool their resources and create a regional full-time professional health department. Reducing costs and improving both the scope and quality of public health services in the community were the objectives of establishing the District. Seven more towns joined between 2000 and 2005: Andover, Ashford, Chaplin, Columbia, Scotland, Tolland and Willington. The mission of the Eastern Highlands Health District is to prevent illness and promote wellness in the communities it serves. The pursuit of this mission is realized by assuring that other community agencies provide certain public health services within the region and by providing specific public health services directly. The services directly provided include a communicable disease control program, public health education, community assessment and public health planning, emergency preparedness and a comprehensive environmental health program. The main components of the environmental health program include on-site subsurface sewage disposal permitting, complaint investigation program, food establishment licensing and inspection, and environmental monitoring program.

Accomplishments Highlights for FY 2011-2012

- Board of Directors adoption of an operating budget of \$714,375 for FY 12/13, which is a >1% reduction from the previous fiscal year.
- Milestones in public health emergency preparedness activities for this year include support of towns storm Irene and Alfred response and recovery efforts; Successful completion of our Mass Dispensing Area Technical Assessment Review; and support of Region 4 Project Public Health Ready application.
- Health promotion milestones for this fiscal year include a \$419,500 grant to build local capacity to implement policy, systems and environmental changes that promote healthy behaviors; and, expansion of the employee wellness program “Be Well” to Town of Tolland employees.
- Provided technical support to the Town of Coventry with the North Coventry Fire Department building project.
- Provided technical and field support to the Town of Bolton for the Bolton Lake Sewer project.
- Communicable disease control activities included review of and follow up (as needed) with 1,240 case reports; conducting 28 disease outbreak or individual case investigations.
- The main indicators for environmental health district activity in Coventry include: 161 site inspections for septic systems; 39 septic permits issued; 31 well permits issued; 13 complaints investigated; 199 environmental samples taken for lab analysis; 132 food establishment inspections and other health inspections; 92 B100a building permit reviews; and, 163 test pits and perc tests.

Plans for FY 2012-2013

- Engage in agency long-term strategic planning process.
- Continue to update and exercise local emergency response plans. Develop a funding strategy for long-term program continuation in anticipation of federal funding reductions.
- Continue to pursue other funding sources to maintain existing scope of quality services and possibly expand health promotion programs.
- Expand Be Well employee wellness program to other employers in the community.
- Address the individual public health needs of member towns as they arise.