

EHHD/Tolland County  
Community Transformation Meeting  
**Minutes**

May 29, 2013  
Tolland Recreation Center

Attending: Ande Bloom, Kyle Chmielecki, Kate Durant, Heather Freeman, Sandra Frizzell, Rob Miller, Gladys Morgan, Chris Petrone, Wendy Rubin, Bethany Blacker

The meeting began at 8:30am with introductions and general updates. S. Frizzell provided some background on how the Tolland County CTG collaborative enhanced an early childhood collaborative data training partnership. Mansfield, Coventry, Chaplin, and Scotland teamed up to apply to Graustein for funding and training in the Connecticut Health Data Institute to better utilize the data from the 'yellow forms'. R. Miller gave a quick update on the status of the CTG CDC funding and that the EHHD is still awaiting final notification of availability of funds. A. Bloom provided a plug for the Tolland County CTG Facebook page (TollandCountyHEAL).

Member Policy, Systems, and Environment updates included:

R. Miller: new legislation is in the works to enhance tanning bed regulations; there is now a public health official on the Obesity Task Force; and Rob has been appointed to the consumer education workgroup for agriculture to promote linkages between farmers and consumers.

C. Petrone: The ECHN has received a grant to continue the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening and now includes colorectal screening for cancer. The grant is in need of a community council to represent Tolland County to act as a forum to identify resources for healthy eating and active living in the community. Chris requested that this coalition serve as that community council, and after discussion, the group agreed that we could serve in that capacity.

The remainder of the meeting was spent looking at and discussing strategies and a potential action plan for each Strategic Direction (both short-term/non-funded or low-cost opportunities, and the CDC-funded CTG implementation plan objectives). The full list of Objectives for the CTG Implementation Plan is attached to the agenda for this meeting. Highlights of the discussion are bulleted below:

- Vending machine evaluation: quick process that can be documented by CHART members was presented by A. Bloom; documentation can be returned to EHHD for entering into database. Group felt that there were not enough vending machines in the community (other than at schools) to make this meaningful. No action taken.
- Write Steps has a potential to be introduced at Coventry Grammar (and W. Rubin noted that if funds were needed to promote or implement this, that the Coventry Parks and Recreation Department could sponsor the program); Scotland School, and Ashford School. It was also suggested that pre-school programs and early childcare be approached.
- Map of Play: W. Rubin noted that access to parks and trails could / should be on our implementation plan – there seems to be a gap in our approach related to promoting overall active living for all residents. She noted that some of our plan should include adult-focused goals and recommended looking into Rx for Play and conducting assessments of parks (using a score card).

Additional discussion regarding potential action steps included Healthy Eating Certification and potentially using social media (as a less-expensive venue) to promote and re-vitalize earlier efforts. Since printing the brochure is expensive, consider posting on FaceBook and using an on-line posting of the map.

The group briefly discussed a plan for dissemination of Community Health Needs Assessment, and a Farm-to-Table event was one possibility. It was also suggested that the CHNA could be celebrated at town-by-town events such as a play day, health fair, or community walk. Printing and distributing of the CHNA was suggested to include a special mailing to stakeholders, place copies in the local public libraries, and provide copies to town leadership.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00. The next meeting will be held June 25, 2013 in Coventry.