2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT
FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR


These are words that best describe this past year as the FVHD team, along with our communities, transitioned to a “new normal” as the pandemic waned. This historic event left much to reflect upon, including not only sacrifices and losses, but experiences and lessons to carry forward. As I write this message, I am filled with gratitude for the FVHD team. Throughout the pandemic they were steadfast in their commitment, working long hours and weekends, taking on new challenges and supporting members of the community during the darkest of days.

Recovery has meant taking time to celebrate the many accomplishments of the past two and a half years – weekly surveillance reports, regular updates to town leadership and partners, vaccination clinics, contact tracing, volunteer coordination, investigating clusters and more. While these successes brought a sense of pride and accomplishment, they did not come without cost to our physical and mental health. While mental health has long been our priority, we are now seeing how the isolation, uncertainty and fear brought on by the pandemic exacerbated mental health challenges at all levels of our communities. As a public health agency, our focus will be on how best to create environments that support good mental health while simultaneously breaking down the stigma that inhibits early treatment.

Refocusing allows us to reapply our skills, knowledge and passion to the broader work of public health. In September, FVHD completed a community health assessment that will provide the blueprint for our disease prevention and health promotion work. We have begun to engage community partners as we develop a community health improvement plan to address the health issues that are presenting the most significant impacts on our communities. Mental health, substance use, and healthy eating/active living are among those priorities. By engaging subject matter experts and community members, we will lay out strategies with a goal of reversing these negative public health trends over time.

If there is one thing that stands out most from our pandemic response, it is the partnerships that were established and strengthened during some of the most challenging times. These partnerships are recharging us as we contemplate the incredible progress we can make in improving the health of our communities. As we advance our community health improvement plan, we hope to hear from many of these community partners who share our vision for healthy communities.

Yours in Health,

Jennifer C. Kertanis, MPH
Director
THE FVHD TEAM

ADMINISTRATION
Jennifer C. Kertanis, MPH
Director of Health

Stephanie Johnson, MT (ASCP), MPH
Assistant Director

Samantha Carter
Office Manager

FOOD PROTECTION
Jason Brown, RS
Food Program Coordinator

Kristin Olsson, RS
Registered Sanitarian

Miranda Arnold, BS
Sanitarian

Deidra James, BS
Sanitarian

COMMUNITY HEALTH
Justine Ginsberg, BSN, RN
Community Health Coordinator

Kate Glendon, MPH, CHES, CPS
Community Health Coordinator

Amanda Hubbard, MSN, RN
Public Health Nurse

Kirsten Carew, MPH
Epidemiologist

Anna Larson, MPH
Community Health Program Associate

Olivia Morris, BS
Community Health Program Associate

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Dianne Harding, RS
Chief Sanitarian

Patricia Gigliotti, RS
Senior Sanitarian

Kristin Kula, RS
Registered Sanitarian

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
Melissa Marquis, MS, RN
Public Health Emergency Response Specialist
The Farmington Valley Health District is responsible for inspecting restaurants, salons, bathing areas, and childcare centers in our towns to ensure the health and safety of the public. We also inspect and permit work done on wells and septic systems to protect the public water supply.

PREVENTING Disease outbreaks and conditions that give rise to poor health outcomes.

- 1,563 Restaurant Inspections Conducted
- 160 Temporary Food Permits Issued
- 379 Public Swimming Pool Inspections
- 30 Town-Owned Natural Swimming Areas Tested
- 280 Vaccines Administered
- 170 Salons Inspected
- Septic System Repair Inspections Conducted: 578
- Septic System Repair Sites Evaluated: 379
- Septic System Repair Permits Issued: 265
- New Construction Septic System Inspections Conducted: 248
- New Construction Septic System Plans Reviewed: 122
- New Construction Lots Tested: 69
- New Construction Septic System Permits Issued: 19
- New Well Permits Issued: 119
- Building Additions Reviewed: 499
Year of Resilience
Building a foundation for lifelong mental wellness for children and teens.

3 School Districts Participating

2000+ Students Participating

No Wrong Doors
An annual event held in collaboration with Tunxis Community College to support veteran mental health.

70 Attendees

QPR & Mental Health First Aid
Teaching community members to recognize signs of a mental health crisis.

9 QPR Classes Taught

16 Mental Health First Aid Classes Taught

339 Participants Reached

The Farmington Valley Health District runs various community health programs aimed at promoting the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of our community in all walks of life.
Prevent T2
Delaying or preventing the onset of Type 2 Diabetes for individuals at risk.

20 Participants Reached

36.2 Total Pounds Lost

A Matter of Balance
Helping seniors build strength and confidence to prevent falls.

6 Courses Taught

115 Participants Reached

Communications

Health Matters Newsletters Released

4

Newsletter Articles Published

32

Social Media Posts Made

334

New Facebook & Instagram Followers

170
The Farmington Valley Health District is charged with monitoring and investigating disease outbreaks and environmental hazards that may threaten the health of our community. This includes routine monitoring of health data and responding to reports of new outbreaks.

- **Foodborne Illness Investigations Conducted**: 13
- **Infectious Disease Investigations Conducted**: 4
- **Exposed Traveler Interviews Conducted**: 6
- **Surveillance Data Reports Generated**: 51
- **COVID Test Kits Distributed**: 1000+
- **Radon Test Kits Distributed**: 75
- **Housing Complaints Investigated**: 140
NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

COMPLETED A COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

This collaborative, systematic, data-driven report helped us better understand the health gaps in our community.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE AND EASIER THAN EVER

We have continued to expand what permits can be applied for and renewed on our online OpenGov portal to include food, temporary events, salons, pools, and more.

RECOGNIZED AS SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS

From advising our towns on allocation of opioid settlement dollars to our staff being invited as keynote speaker at a national conference, the FVHD continues to be your resource for public health expertise.
The Farmington Valley Health District is responsible for delivering the 10 Essential Services of Public Health. The Essential Services outline the functions that should be expected of a local health department to improve and protect the health of the public.
BOARD MEMBERS

AVON
Brandon Robertson, Chair
Maura Shea

BARKHAMSTED
Debra Brydon

CANTON
Warren Humphrey
Tim Murphy

COLEBROOK
Christopher Johnstone

EAST GRANBY
Angela Ciottone

FARMINGTON
Kathleen A. Blonski
Jadwiga Gocłowski
Mary Jane Parlow

GRANBY
Erica Robertson
Jean Donihee-Perron

HARTLAND
VACANT

NEW HARTFORD
Daniel V. Jerram

Simsbury
Susan Beardsley
Maria Capriola
Tom Fitzgerald
Melissa Appleby

BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR '22-'23

REVENUE
$2,101,831

EXPENDITURES
$2,101,839

Municipal Per Capita
39.2%

 Operating Expenses
16.2%

Personnel
74.3%

Grants
28.8%

State Per Capita
13.6%

Food Permits
9.7%

Other Permits
8.7%

Grants
1.9%

Contractors
5.8%

Software Licenses
1.8%