



Strengthening local public health.

For Immediate Release
March 28, 2013

Contact: Michele Sharp
Director of Communications and Public Affairs
(203) 294-7213
Sharp@chime.org

Connecticut Hospital Association and the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health Unveil Guidelines for Conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment

WALLINGFORD – The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH) today released [*Guidelines for Conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment \(CHNA\)*](#). A CHNA is a comprehensive study intended to identify a community’s health needs and lead to the development of strategies to address them, with a goal of improving community health.

“Improving the health of our communities is a priority for Connecticut hospitals,” said Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association. “We thank our partners in this project for their input, expertise, and guidance. We are proud of the result – a guideline that we can all follow to more comprehensively examine the needs of our communities and ultimately make them healthier.”

“Local public health departments and districts are eager to join their hospital partners and other community stakeholders in this process,” said Charles Brown, Executive Director of CADH. “Joining forces not only strengthens relationships that can maximize use of limited resources, it produces more effective results.”

Hospitals, local health departments, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) have been regularly assessing the health of their communities for many years, sometimes working jointly to do so. Today, the need for collaboration is even greater. Under the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (PPACA), tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) hospitals are required to conduct a CHNA every three years with input from public health experts and community members, and develop and adopt an implementation strategy.

Simultaneously, local health departments are preparing for a voluntary national accreditation process that requires them to conduct strategic planning, including a CHNA conducted every five years and a corresponding Community Health Improvement Plan.

CHA, CADH, Connecticut health departments and districts, hospitals, and FQHCs came together in 2012 to develop a common process for conducting a CHNA. The document, the result of the collaboration, is a model template that provides a standardized method for data collection and reporting on benchmark indicators. It is intended to be used by community health centers, local health departments, and hospitals across the state and country.

To speak with project collaborators including leaders from CHA, CADH, hospitals, health centers, counties involved in Community Transformation Grants, or others, please call Michele Sharp at 203-294-7213.

###

About CHA

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.

About CADH

Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH) is a non-profit organization, comprised of Connecticut's local public health directors, that works to strengthen public health throughout the state. Since it was incorporated in 1996, CADH has and continues to convene, engage, mobilize, and support Connecticut's local health departments and fortify their leadership role in establishing healthier Connecticut communities. CADH is a state affiliate of the National Association of County and City Health Officials ([NACCHO](#)).