

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING BOARD

During the 2015/2016 fiscal year the PHNB approved the renewal of the Visiting Nurses Association of Southeastern Connecticut (VNASC) contract providing nursing services to the residents of the Town of Old Saybrook. Mary Lenzini, B.S.N., M.A., CHCE is the agency's president and Tina Belmont BSN is town nurse. The PHNB budget for 2016/17 submitted to and approved by the selectmen is \$42,653 of which \$30,044 is earmarked for the VNASC nursing contract, \$11,409 is earmarked for primary and secondary public health services by other providers, and \$1,200 for administrative expenses.

The VNASC has been very successful in providing nursing care to our residents at minimal cost to the Town. Alternative funding sources were utilized whenever feasible, with town funds allocated only as a last resort. During 2015/2016 FY, the total cost to the Town of VNASC nursing services was \$29,320 which was below the contractual agreement budget of \$29,409. The VNASC provided another \$37,644 of nursing services, covered by alternate funding sources. Of the \$12,044 budgeted for nursing services offered by all providers \$12,014 was spent.

PHNB Funding Activity	Actual Spending 2015/2016	Below / (Over) The Budget
VNASC Contractual Nursing Services	\$29,320	\$81
Administrative Expenses	\$1,174	\$26
Un-contracted PH/ Nursing Services	\$12,014	\$30
Total Spending FY 15-16	\$42,508	\$145
VNASC Services Funded from other Sources	\$37,829	NA

The VNASC provided a variety of health/nursing and outreach services for the residents of Old Saybrook during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 paid by town funds. Programs provided at the Estuary were Cholesterol, Blood pressure, Diabetic and Nurse Health Counseling clinics. At Saybrooke Village the nurse provided Blood Pressure and Foot Care Clinics. She also provided a Blood pressure clinic at Acton Library and Nurse Outreach Clinic at the Food Pantry. The total number of people served by the aforementioned clinics was 530; total visits were 1,394. Nursing Service hours spent in outreach home visits was 20.75 and 65 Nursing hours was spent in community outreach, health education and advocacy. The VNASC participated in the Estuary Health Day and worked closely with the Connecticut River Health District to provide flu clinics for residents of all ages. The Town Nurse also attends Early Childhood Education Council meetings to identify at-risk families who may need town services. This year the Town Nurse continued participation in the planning and implementation of the Dental Initiative, organizing mobile dental health clinics and identifying Old Saybrook residents in need of dental care and/or financing. The Town Nurse worked closely with Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services, assisting with the Holiday Giving Program, as well as with the monthly Help Day.

In FY 2015/16 the PHNB continued to offer nutrition education at the Old Saybrook Food Pantry, Saybrooke Village, and Youth and Family Services. Kathy Cobb, MS, RD, provided several hands-on nutrition education programs at those locations. The programs have been well received by those attending; the cost of these nutrition classes was \$714.00.

Old Saybrook Social Services requested grant funding from the PHNB for FY 2016/17. The grants will be used to provide financial help to un/under-insured Old Saybrook residents. These individuals with complicated health issues, lack the resources to pay for their medical/health care, for example: emergency prescription refills, health equipment, and health/hygiene supplies. The PHNB funded a \$3,300 grant for emergency medical care and \$1,500 grant for health/hygiene supplies/equipment.

Since 2011, the PHNB has worked in collaboration with other local health professionals to alleviate an identified gap in dental services/care to residents of Old Saybrook. In FY 2015/16 the need for dental care

assistance by Old Saybrook residents was so great the PHNB funded an additional \$4,000 grant to Social Services earmarked for the Dental Fund. The PHNB also allocated \$2,500 for dental care in FY 2016/17. Also the PHNB solicited and received a public donation to the Dental Fund of \$500 from the Lions Club of Old Saybrook.

In FY 2015/16 the Nursing Board received a request from Old Saybrook the Youth & Family Service's Youth Action Council, requesting a \$3,000.00 grant to help fund the "Assets in Action Program". The PHNB provided a \$3,000.00 grant from the Morris Fund.

Our second mission is to enable the development and expansion of nursing resources by providing financial assistance for continuing education and scholarship programs at no additional cost to the Town. Our objective is to provide private funding for these programs without impacting the overall financial integrity of our existing endowment. We currently manage three private endowments—the "Flanagan Fund", "Nightingale Fund", and the "Morris Fund". The following table summarizes the current financial condition of these funds:

Endowment	Funds Available
Flanagan Fund	\$89,763
Nightingale Fund	\$39,907
Morris Fund	\$11,721
Total	\$141,391

To supplement the Nightingale Scholarship Fund, the PHNB sponsored its annual appeal in March of 2016. Appeal letters were mailed to the residents and businesses of the Old Saybrook area. This year's appeal raised \$5,290. These funds combined with the interest generated from our endowment allowed the nursing board to offer three 2016/17 scholarships totaling \$10,500. The scholarships were awarded to: Julia DiBella, Libby Scherber, and Sarah Smith all graduates of Old Saybrook High School. The recipients will enter a nursing program this fall. The PHNB also paid \$11,000 in scholarship funds to the 2015/2016 Nightingale Scholarship recipients: Megan Sullivan, Erin Featherstone, Ashley Savino and Christine Gosselin, who just completed their first academic year in their respective nursing/medical programs.

PHNB members are: Sharon Craft, Linda Demas, Diane Aldi DePaola, Priscila Funck, Mary Kennedy, Don Mill, Elizabeth Owen, and Joseph Termine. PHNB meetings are regularly scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month with the exception of the months of July and August. Meetings are held in the Old Saybrook Town Hall. Please visit the Public Health Nursing Board on the Town of Old Saybrook web-site for more detailed information.

Diane Aldi DePaola BA, RN, *Chairman*