

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING BOARD
OLD SAYBROOK
ANNUAL REPORT 2002/2003

The Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board (**PHNB**) decided to put the town nursing service contract out to public bid this year. Four agencies submitted bid proposals in response to the solicitation notice issued by the Selectmen's Office. After lengthy review and analysis of all four-bid proposals and a presentation by each of the agencies, the PBNB unanimously voted at the December 12, 2002 meeting to recommend that the contract be awarded to the VNA of Southeastern Connecticut. The decision was based on choosing the agency that can deliver quality and cost effective public health/homecare service to meet the needs of the people of Old Saybrook. The Old Saybrook Board of Selectmen voted at their January 2, 2003 meeting to recognize the OSPHNB recommendation and award the 2003-2004 Public Health Nursing Contract to VNA of Southeastern Connecticut. The VNA of Southeastern Connecticut will provide nursing services for FY. 2003-2004 to the Town of Old Saybrook at a cost of \$83,253.00, \$3,847.00 less than last year's budget.

VNA Services, Inc. provided the following health care services to the residents of Old Saybrook during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003:

- 157 nursing visits for the care of the ill, frail elderly, mental health support, maternal/child healthcare and communicable diseases.
- 611 nursing service hours for flu clinics, blood pressure screening, well child clinics, and communicable disease control.
- 2224 hours for home health aide and homemaker service.

The cost to the town for these services was \$87,100.00 for the 2002/2003 fiscal year. The **PHNB** collaborate with the Old Saybrook Director of Health, First Selectmen and Selectmen to oversee the activities related to the provision of healthcare. Jointly, we ensure that quality of service remains high, the needs of our community are met with comprehensive care and that the healthcare provider service contract is cost effective. We believe that the objectives set forth for the **PHNB** were met.

The **PHNB** is also charged with the control and dispensation of two private funds – the Flanagan and the Loan Closet. Funds were approved for paying the membership dues for the five school nurses to The National Association of School Nurses. This year the PHNB recognized the Town's School Nurses during National Nurses Week. A \$1,500.00 scholarship was also awarded to a 2003 Old Saybrook High School senior planning to pursue a career in the healthcare field. This year the scholarship was awarded to Meghan Brown, an Old Saybrook High School graduate who will enter Saint Joseph College majoring in Nursing in the fall of 2003. A plaque was designed and purchased to honor the contributions of all past members of the PHNB. The plaque has been placed in the Francis L. Flanagan Medical Information Center section of the Acton Library this year.

The **PHNB** is committed to annually review and renew as appropriate the needs of the Francis L. Flanagan Medical Information Center at the Acton Library. The **PHNB** established the Francis L. Flanagan Medical Information Center in the Acton Public Library in memory of Mr. Flanagan in February of 2001. Presently the Center includes medical information and related books, reference materials, periodicals, as well as electronic information. The board will continue to review the library's requests for donations and provide help if financially feasible.

PHNB meetings are regularly scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month of the year with the exception of the months of July and August. Meetings are held in the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

The Town of Old Saybrook is ably served by the following current members: Janet Hodge-Burke, Cathy Custer, Diane Aldi DePaola (Chairman), Kathy Ferrantelli, Marilyn Giuliano, Donna Konarski (Secretary), and Vito Savino.

Diane Aldi DePaola RN BA
Chairman