

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING BOARD
OLD SAYBROOK
ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004

The Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board (**PHNB**) approved to continue nursing services to residents of the Town of Old Saybrook with the VNA of Southeastern Connecticut (VNASEC). Mary Lenzini, B.S.N., M.A., CHCE is the agency's President and Joanne Dymitruk R.N., M.S.N.; M.B.A. is Vice President of Clinical Services. The VNA of Southeastern Connecticut will provide nursing services for FY 2004-2005 to the Town of Old Saybrook at a cost of \$79,498.00, \$3755.00 less than last year's budget.

The VNA of Southeastern Connecticut provided the following health care services to the residents of Old Saybrook during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004:

- 26 nursing visits for the care of the ill, frail elderly, mental health support, maternal/child healthcare and communicable diseases.
- 115.5 nursing service hours for flu clinics, blood pressure screening, and communicable disease control.
- 285 flu immunizations and 20 pneumonia vaccines were administered

VNA of Southeastern Connecticut used town funds to pay for nursing services only as a last resort in FY 2003-04; therefore the town's expense was greatly reduced. VNASEC was able to secure alternate funding to provide 147 visits for nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and/or speech therapy. Additionally, 142 hours of home health aide services were paid for by sources other than town funds. VNA of Southeastern Connecticut's Old Saybrook nurse met with all area physicians, nursing homes and hospital discharge planners to introduce herself and explain available services. The VNA provided Cholesterol Screening, Diabetic Screening and Blood Pressure checks at the Estuary Center as well as Blood Pressure Clinics at the Saybrook Village. An "Open House" was held at the L&M Medical Office Building in September. VNASEC's president attended an Old Saybrook Rotary meeting to discuss how to VNA can help Saybrook's residents.

The cost to the town for these services was \$7,444.50 for the 2003/2004 fiscal year. The **PHNB** collaborate with the director of public health, and Board of 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. This year funds were approved by the **PHNB** to recognize the Town's School Nurses during National Nurses Week. Annually the **PHNB** awards a \$1,500.00 scholarship to an Old Saybrook high school senior planning to pursue a career in the healthcare field. This year the scholarship was awarded to Angela Civitello, an Old

Saybrook High School graduate who will enter Elms College majoring in Nursing in the fall of 2004.

In 2001 the **PHNB** approved funds to establish a medical information center in the Acton Public Library in memory of Francis L. Flanagan. The **PHNB** is committed to annually review and renew as appropriate the needs of the Flanagan Medical Information Center and update materials 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 (Treasurer).

Diane Aldi DePaola RN BA
Chairman