

# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING BOARD

## ANNUAL REPORT

### FISCAL YEAR 2007 / 2008

The mission of the Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board (PHNB) operating in collaboration with the first selectman and the Connecticut River Area Health District is to:

- Ensure nursing services are available to the frail elderly, economically disadvantaged, under-insured or uninsured residents of Old Saybrook.
- 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.

With regard to our first mission statement, our objective is to: 1.) ensure that the quality of health care service remains high; 2.) the needs of our community are met with comprehensive care; and 3.) that the health provider contract is cost effective.

During the 2007/2008 fiscal year the PHNB approved the renewal of the Visiting Nurses Association of Southeastern Connecticut Contract (VNASC) providing nursing services to the residents of the Town of Old Saybrook. The contractual nursing budget for 2008/2009 is **\$42,973**. 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 PHNB budget for 2008/2009 submitted to and approved by the Selectmen is **\$43,973**.

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 2007/2008, the total cost to the town of VNASC nursing services under the contractual agreement was **\$27,461**. The VNASC provided another **\$37,658** of nursing services, covered by alternate funding sources. The PHNB was able to substantially under run our spending budget for services with a surplus of more than **\$14,439** by year-end.

Town Funding Activity	Actual Spending 2007/2008	Better / (Worse) Than Budget
VNASC Contractual Nursing Services	\$27,461	\$14,439
Administrative Expenses	\$1,000	0
Total Town Funding	\$28,461	\$14,439
VNASC services funded from other Sources	\$37,658	N/A

VNASC health care services for the residents of Old Saybrook during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 included:

- **53** Nursing visits for the care of the ill, frail elderly, mental health support, maternal child healthcare and communicable disease control.
- **229** Homemaker hours to assist patients with their household chores so that they can remain at home.
- **34** Home health aide hours to provide personal care and assist with activities of daily living helping patients stay in their homes.
- **306** Nursing service hours for flu clinics, blood pressure screening, health counseling.
- **390** Flu immunization vaccines were administered.

VNASC was also able to secure alternate funding to provide the following services during fiscal year ending June 30, 2008:

- **427** Visits for nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and/or speech therapy

➤ **85.75** Hours of Home health aide services.

The VNASC provided cholesterol screening, diabetic screening and blood pressure checks at the Estuary Center as well as blood pressure screenings and health education programs at the Saybrooke Village. In addition, the town nurse, Tina Belmont attended the Soup Kitchen Food Pantry each week to offer health counseling. She also provided blood pressure screenings at the Acton Library. The VNASC participated in the Estuary Health Day, and worked closely with Youth and Family Services and the Social Services Department. In partnership with the Connecticut River Health District, the VNA provided stroke screenings to 35 people at the Estuary. The Rehabilitation supervisor conducted a Fall Prevention Education session. UCONN nursing students worked with the VNASC town nurse, Tina Belmont to provide services to Saybrook residents.

As indicated previously, the cost to the town for these services was **\$27,461**. The relative disbursement of Town funds for these various activities is summarized in the following exhibit:

Activity	2007 / 2008 Spending
Free Care Visits	\$9,369
Health / Wellness Visits	\$499
Clinics	\$17,593
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>\$27,461</b>

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 two private endowments – The “Flanagan Fund” and the “Nightingale Fund”. The following table summarizes the current financial condition of these funds

Endowment	Balance On-hand
Flanagan Fund	\$102,194
Nightingale Fund	\$49,424
Total Endowment	\$151,618

To supplement these financial resources, the PHNB sponsored its third annual scholarship appeal to the residents of Old Saybrook. The appeal was very successful raising an additional **\$9,210**. These funds combined with the interest generated from our endowments allowed us to offer three **\$2,000** nursing scholarships. The scholarships were awarded to Elizabeth Clampett, Justine Pastore, and Stephanie Turi ; all graduates of Old Saybrook High School. We also paid out \$6000 in scholarship funds to the 2007/2008 Scholarship recipients Sara Ferrantelli, Kristen Leighton, and Pamela Murac who just completed their first academic year in their respective Nursing Programs.

The PHNB voted to appoint Beth Ruth, BSN as the nursing board’s representative to the Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services.

This year, PHNB reviewed and revised the commission’s By-laws which were subsequently approved by the Board of Selectmen.

PHNB members include: Janet-Hodge-Burke, Sharon Craft, Diane Aldi DePaola, David Frankel, Kathy Ferrantelli, Robert Hallisey, Mary Kennedy, Thomas McKean and Joseph Termine. PHNB meetings are

regularly scheduled at 7:00 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.

**Diane Aldi DePaola**, *Chairman*