

From: Traugh, Kathi <kathi.traugh@yale.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2013 7:57 PM
To: SIM, OHA
Subject: Comments on CT Healthcare Innovation Plan

I am pleased to provide comments on the CT Healthcare Innovation Plan, Draft 1.1. In addition to my position in workforce development at the Yale School of Public Health, I also serve as the President of the Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA).

First, the plan's emphasis on health equity and integration of community resources makes it a strong proposal to improve the health of CT residents and reduce healthcare cost and use of healthcare resources. Primary prevention – keeping disease from happening in the first place – is the best cost saver. I am pleased to see a strong role for the CT Department of Public Health in the systems change proposed in the plan. While the plan includes some innovative ideas for community level integration with primary and acute care – HECs and certified community-based practice support entities – I am concerned the plan is not specifically looking to strengthen and regionalize the local existing public health system in CT. The best use of limited resources would be to build on and improve what we have.

As regards workforce development, I applaud the proposal to train and certify the community health worker workforce in CT. This workforce is instrumental in linking primary care to the community, particularly for underserved communities. I suggest the plan also address workforce development for the public health workforce.

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