Dear ASNC Members,

As I am sure that the lazy, hazy days of summer are somewhat of a distant memory, I am also sure that you have been invigorated to start the challenges, both known and unknown, that the 2015-16 school year may bring. I am certainly excited to begin my role as the ASNC President and anticipate that many challenges of my own lie ahead. We have established a purposeful and hard-working Board that I feel blessed to work with as should you to have them representing you as a CT school nurse. I think that it is important to remember that whether it is for the legislative agendas, professional development or state wide initiatives, The ASNC Board should be your voice. For that to happen, I encourage you to let your voice be heard. Through surveys as well as one to one discussions, I hope to align the initiatives of ASNC to those that you as our constituents feel are important to your school nurse practice.

The establishment of the School Nurse Advisory Council, which consists of Board attorneys, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), the Department of Public Health (DPH), School Administrators, The Connecticut Nurses Association (CNA), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as well as school nurses, is a new avenue for us to GET THINGS DONE and educate our educational partners on the importance of a school nurse in every school. The advisory council is strengthening our partnerships to promote the vision and goals of school nurses in CT.

Dialogue with legislators and parents around school health issues have continued to improve. As we have seen with recent legislation passed around diabetes, allergies and seizure disorders, school nurses must stay diligent with the legislative process and be an expert voice at the table. ASNC’s plans for the 2015-16 legislative agenda include:

- Remove the school nurse as a signer for the immunization waiver
- Continue to increase the number of school nurses in schools and in the state
- Continue to be vigilant as legislation impacting school nurses appears

Another area in which we hope to continue to evolve is to increase the clinical resources and educational opportunities that ASNC can offer. We have recently purchased the otoscope video camera which is a state of the art tool in providing training in the assessment of the ear. In addition, we hope you will utilize our website as we continue to expand its usefulness with clinical resources you can use in every day practice, job postings and upcoming educational offerings. I also encourage you to get on our ASNC listserv and share your questions as well as your expertise.

More exciting news is that this year CT will be hosting the New England School Nurse Conference. Save the Date for April 29, 30 and May 1st. We have lined up fabulous speakers both for general and breakout sessions. We will be hoping for a beautiful spring weekend at the Mystic Marriott in Mystic CT. We have nighttime entertainment already lined up with a highly acclaimed unique play planned for the evening. Of course the casinos are close, and transportation will be provided. (continued page 2)
Once again I encourage you to reach out to myself or other Board members with any suggestions, concerns or feedback. I also encourage you to become involved with ASNC whether it is from your school health office and simply taking part in the listserv, assisting at our regional conference, joining a committee or joining the Board. I hope that we will be able to look back 2 years from now and know we have made a difference in the world of school health and more importantly in the lives of our students and the families we serve.

Honoring a Colleague
By Donna Kosiorowski

I had the privilege of representing ASNC at the 11th annual Connecticut “Pretty in Pink” Brunch and “Women of Strength” Awards for the Get in Touch Foundation held at great River Country Club in Milford, Connecticut on October 11, 2015. A member of ASNC was honored for her work with the Foundation for being instrumental in “promoting breast health education with the Daisy Wheel and to allow all girls and boys to grow up in a climate of knowledge and awareness of their bodies.”

 Joan Cagginello is well deserving of the Get in Touch Foundation’s “Healing Team” award. Joan is a true example of what school nursing is and what a school nurse can do. I am honored to have been present when Joan received this award.

An additional bit of information about Joan is that one week before this event, Joan became the proud Grand-ma to twins, Sadie and Jack. The twins join their big sister, Grace.

Congratulations to Joan and family.
An Introduction to the School Nurse Advisory Council (SNAC)
by Donna Kosiorowski MS RN NCSN

Purpose

Section 1 of Public Act No. 13-187, An Act Concerning A School Nurse Advisory Council and an Advisory Council on Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections, calls for the establishment of a School Nurse Advisory Council (Council), effective July 1, 2013. This Council shall advise the Commissioners of Public Health and Education concerning professional development for school nurses; school nurse staffing levels; the level of health care services by school nurses in schools; and other matters that affect school nurses.

Since August 2013, SNAC has been meeting monthly throughout the school year. Meetings are held at SERC, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown from 8:30-10:30 am. The Council is required to consist of members specified in legislation.

The Council is obligated to submit recommendations no later than February 1 of each year. The goals for the coming year of 2016 are:

- SDE and SNAC to follow Governor’s recommendations on SNAC recommendations from 2015; specifically to review school nurse staffing, Professional Development for New School Nurses and define the role of the school nurse and School Based Health Centers (SBHC’s).
- Recommend ASNC member may be a public, private or parochial school nurse.
- Collaborate with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), and Connecticut Federation of School Administrators.
- Recommend the Asthma Action Plan as the standard for managing students with asthma in school.
- Immunization Religious Exemption- revise 2015 legislation; remove the school nurse as a signer of form.
- Recommend access to lead information from the Department of Public Health.

Meetings are public which means anyone is welcome to attend and/or comment.

All agendas, minutes, and meetings dates are published on the School Health Promotion site of SDE which can be found at http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=335236

Meeting Dates
October 27, 2015  SERC Middletown
November 17, 2015  SERC Middletown
December 15, 2015  SERC Middletown
January, 2016  SERC Middletown

Current members are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Verna Bernard Jones RN</td>
<td>American Federation of Teachers, AFT Connecticut.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Brochu JD</td>
<td>Connecticut Association of Boards of Education CABE</td>
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<td>Leah Hendriks RN</td>
<td>Connecticut Association of Healthcare at Home</td>
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<td>Stephanie Knutson RN</td>
<td>Connecticut State Department of Education</td>
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<td>Donna Kosiorowski RN</td>
<td>Connecticut Nurses Association</td>
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<td>Gary Maynard</td>
<td>Connecticut Federation of School Administrators</td>
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<td>Kathleen Maffuida</td>
<td>Association of School Nurses of Connecticut</td>
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<td>Christine Mahoney</td>
<td>Connecticut Association of School Superintendents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elaine Matulis</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Updegrove</td>
<td>Connecticut Chapter of Pediatrics</td>
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<td>Barbara Ziogas</td>
<td>Connecticut Chapter of Pediatrics</td>
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**Fall Dinner Meeting Highlights**

By Kathy Neelon

The ASNC Fall Dinner Meeting was held on October 29th at the Country House in East Haven. Almost 100 members attended the meeting. We were very fortunate to have 8 vendors providing information on a range of topics. The participating vendors were:

- School Health
- Quick Clot
- Food Allergy Educational Network
- Baby Safe Havens
- Kids HUGS
- Brian's Hope
- Kristine Blauvelt – Jewelry
- Pam Welch – clothing

Prior to the dinner everyone was able to network, visit vendor tables and enjoy a wonderful and abundant assortment of hors d’oeuvres. Sue Levasseur, our new ASNC President, started the meeting with an update on ASNC activities and legislative news. ASNC will be hosting the New England School Nurse Conference in Mystic Connecticut in the spring. We are looking for anyone who may want to help or volunteer in any capacity. The more the merrier! Your help would be greatly appreciated. You can contact anyone on the ASNC board at www.ctschoolnurses.org.

Pam Sawyer from Baby Safe Haven spoke regarding the safe haven law. A distressed parent who is unable or unwilling to care for their infant can give up custody of their baby, no questions asked. They must simply bring the infant to a safe haven location and make sure they locate a person to give the child. As long as the child shows no signs of intentional abuse, no name or other information is required. In Connecticut you can leave your baby, up to 30 days old, with an employee at any hospital emergency room during regular business hours in Connecticut. Pam requested that we share this information with students in schools.

After a dinner we were fortunate to have a terrific speaker, Chris Abildgaard NCSP, LPC, NCC, who is the director of the Social Learning Center located in Cheshire, CT. Chris holds a clinical appointment at the Southfield Center located in Darien, CT. He is a National Certified School Psychologist, a Nationally Certified Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor with a specialization in Autism Spectrum Disorders and social cognitive interventions. Chris was joined by Ashley Zagorski, MS, a Social Cognitive Therapist and Cory Rubeck, MS CC-SLP, a Speech Pathologist.

The presentation highlighted the behavioral, social and cognitive, communication and sensory aspects associated with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Based on the evaluations the seminar was very well received and most all felt that it was very helpful information. Attendees left the meeting with a basic understanding of ASD and ways nurses could help students with ASD to communicate their health needs. School nurses were given strategies to use when interacting with ASD students in order for us to be a safe and comfortable support person for these students.

The ASNC Board is looking for venues in Northern Connecticut to hold future dinner meetings. The venue would need to be fairly easy on and off a major highway. Please contact Kathy Neelon, Program Chair, kneelon@wallingfordschools.org or 203-741-2919 if you have any ideas or suggestions. We welcome your ideas and feedback.

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**School Health Updates**

By Annette Sauerbrunn MPH, RN

Effective August 17, 2015, several revisions and additions to the education statutes were enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly. Some of the changes affecting school health services are described below, effective for the 2015-16 school year and thereafter.
School Screenings
Vision Screenings will be done in Kindergarten, and grades 1, 3, 4 and 5 (formerly K, 1-6, and 9)

Audiometric Screenings (hearing) will be done in Kindergarten, and grades 1, 3, 4 and 5 (formerly K, 1,2,3,5, and 8).

Postural Screenings (scoliosis) will be done as follows:
Females- Grades 5 and 7 (formerly grades 5-9, with the postural documentation on the 6th grade physical being an acceptable substitution for the 6th grade school screening)
Males- Grades 8 or 9 (formerly grades 5-9, with the postural documentation on the 6th grade physical being an acceptable substitution for the 6th grade school screening)

There is no change in the procedure for providing written notice to parents or guardians who do not pass any school screening. However, if their child did not receive such screening, a brief statement explaining why shall be given.

Administration of Medications
Schools are now required to develop policies and procedures for the administration of epinephrine as an emergency first aid to students who experience severe allergic reactions during regular school hours, even if they do not have prior written authorization from their health care provider or a parent/guardian. Under the new state law, epinephrine can now be given by a qualified school employee who has completed the required training, if the school nurse is absent or unavailable during regular school hours. All schools must now stock epinephrine for this purpose. Parents or guardians who refuse to allow the emergency administration of epinephrine by a trained and qualified school employee in the absence or unavailability of the school nurse must submit their wishes in writing to the school nurse each year.

For FDA-approved medications being administered according to an approved study protocol, a copy of the protocol shall be provided to the school nurse along with the name of the medication to be given in school, and the acceptable range of dosage to be given. Previously, investigational or study medications could not be administered in school by qualified personnel, regardless of whether they were FDA-approved. For school readiness programs, and before and after school programs, investigational drugs or research/study medications are still not allowed to be given by the director, director designee, lead teacher or administrator.

For antiepileptic medication, if a student has a written order of a licensed physician and a parent/guardian, a school nurse can provide supervision to a qualified school employee to give antiepileptic medication, including by rectal syringe, to a specific student who has been diagnosed with an epileptic condition. This authorization is limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. An annual training program must be completed by the qualified school employee (who can be a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed PT or OT employed by a school district, coach, or school paraprofessional), with monthly reviews to confirm competency.

A full description of the revisions and additions to the educational statutes can be accessed at https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/act/pa/pdf/2015PA-00215-R00HB-07023-PA.pdf