



For Immediate Release

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New Data Institute Helps Communities Target Health Resources

Farmington – Today, eight early childhood community collaboratives representing 12 cities and towns in Connecticut participated in the new Early Childhood Health Data Institute. The project is coordinated by the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI) and jointly funded by the Children’s Fund of Connecticut, the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund (WCGMF) and the Grossman Family Foundation, as part of the WCGMF’s Discovery Initiative*. The Data Institute enables selected community collaboratives to utilize information from the Connecticut State Department of Education’s Early Childhood Health Assessment Record (a.k.a. “yellow form”) to inform their school readiness and early childhood plans.

“Historically, it has been very difficult to access community specific early childhood health data,” said Judith Meyers, President and CEO of the Children’s Fund of Connecticut and its subsidiary CHDI. “The yellow forms are a wealth of health information for communities and for the State. We are excited to help mine this data source so communities can accurately target and efficiently address their most pressing early childhood health and development issues.”

The Early Childhood Health Data Institute is providing \$5,000 grants and a customized database developed by the UCONN Center for Public Health and Health Policy to each collaborative. The database will provide easy aggregation and reporting of health information in childcare sites. The Data Institute also offers three technical assistance Learning Sessions (March 4, April 23 and May 21) to provide community teams training on data entry, data aggregation and reporting and using data for planning purposes.

The communities participating in the first round of the Data Institute are:

- Middletown
- Bristol
- Danbury
- Norwalk
- Bridgeport
- Eastern Highlands Health District
- East Hartford
- Stamford
- (5 community consortium: Mansfield, Coventry, Stafford, Chaplin and Vernon)*

Communities have largely relied on existing public use data sources to guide their intervention planning. The yellow form provides data on a range of physical health, chronic disease and developmental indicators. Examples of these indicators include: height and weight, vision and hearing screening, dental health, developmental delays, chronic diseases (asthma, allergies, diabetes and seizures), and whether the child has a medical home. All licensed early care and education programs are required by the State to have a completed form on file for every child in their care but the information from the forms has never been tabulated. Participating childcare programs will only share aggregated and de-identified data with community planning teams to ensure confidentiality of all children’s health information.

***The WCGMF Discovery Initiative** currently supports 52 communities in building early childhood systems that ensure early learning success for children age birth to eight. The Children’s Fund of Connecticut (CFC) collaborates with the WCGMF to provide funding for selected communities to integrate health in their early childhood plans. In addition, CHDI provides ongoing technical assistance to communities to engage health professionals, assess health needs and gaps, and develop and monitor health results and indicators for health related objectives. CHDI has also developed a free [Community Tool Kit](#) to help communities integrate health into their health planning efforts.

For more information on CFC, CHDI, or the Early Childhood Health Data Institute contact Julie Tacinelli [tacinelli@uchc.edu] 860-679-1519. A CHDI Issue Brief on the Data Institute can also be found at <http://www.chdi.org/news-detail.php?id=67>. For more information on the WCGMF or the Discovery Initiative, contact Nancy Leonard [nleonard@wcgmf.org] 203-230-3330.

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