



Connecticut Environmental Health Association

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

Volume 49, Issue 1

Winter 2021

President's Message - Kevin Elak

2021. What a time to be a public health professional! The COVID-19 pandemic has worn us thin and pushed us to our limits. But, would we have it any other way? As public health workers, we are accustomed to picking up the workload that is often overlooked by other agencies. This is our time to prove to the world that public health has a crucial role during this crisis.

Despite the long hours and increased workload due to the pandemic, I am honored to be your CEHA President for 2020-2021. A little bit about myself - I have been working in public health for almost 20 years. In fact, I started my first job working at the Farmington Valley Health District exactly one week after the tragedy on 9/11. After 16 years at FVHD, I landed a sanitarian position in my hometown of Middletown. I have receive two promotions since joining the health department in Middletown – first to Public Health Manager, and more recently to Acting Director of Health.

Sandra Long, President of the National Environment Health Association, wrote in the March edition of the Journal of Environmental Health about the importance of credentialing and a competent workforce. The CEHA Executive Board recognizes this as well, and voted recently to establish a new workforce development committee. The committee is tasked to collaborate with DPH, CADH, academia and other public health agencies to establish hands-on, standardized training for new public health workforce to provide them with the skills they need to succeed in public health.

The CEHA Executive Board has two vacant positions that we desperately need to fill. We are looking for a Secretary and Vice President. Please email me at kev-in.elak@middletown.ct.gov if you are interested, or would like more information.

This pandemic has taught us that we need to be fluid and think outside of the box. We need to maintain this mindset for CEHA for the foreseeable future. Just remember public health professionals thrive when under pressure and faced with challenges! Lastly, I urge everyone to carve some time out of your busy day and take a mental health break. We are hard-wired to always want to help others, but remember to take care of yourself as well – mentally and physically!

BOARD MEMBERS/COMMITTEES

Kevin Elak, President
Chris Buter, President-Elect
Scott A. Cook, Treasurer
Mindy Chambrelli, Past President
Elizabeth Kavanah, Legislative
Maryam Hosseini, Membership
Phyllis Amodio, Nominations/Elections
Erica Mikulak, Scholarships/Awards
Dianne Harding, Education
Lisa Yu/Michelle Blackall, Publicity
Steven Yenco and Katie Baldwin,
Food
Kristen Amodio, Housing/Lead
Brian Falkner, Body Arts/Personal
Services
Jeff Polhemus/Ryan McCammon,
Subsurface Sewage
Don Kendrick, Private Well

Newsletter Editing by

In This Issue

- Board Members/ Committees Updates
- Scholarships Awards
- COVID-19 News from Health Departments
- Announcements
- Upcoming Trainings



Connecticut Environmental Health Association

!! CEHA NEEDS YOU !!

Please consider joining the CEHA Executive Board or nominating a colleague for one of the following positions.

We are accepting nominations for the position of Vice President and Secretary for 2020-2021. The position of Vice President is a 3 year commitment.

The Secretary position is a two year term. This is an opportunity for both new and experienced Sanitarians in CT.

Please contact me with any questions at: phyllisamodio@bristolct.gov or any CEHA Executive Board Officer

The nomination application is available on our CEHA website:

<https://ceha.wildapricot.org>

THANK YOU

Phyllis Amodio Nominations and Elections Chair

CEHA Members:

Just a friendly reminder to please renew your 2021 CEHA membership. You should have already received an invoice from CEHA. The renewals can be done by:

Logging into your CEHA account online: <https://ceha.wildapricot.org/> and paying online, or mailing a copy of the invoice and a check payable to CEHA, or

Complete the membership paper application along with the appropriate fee and mail it to:

**Maryam Hosseini
Mashantucket Pequot Tribe
Regulatory Affairs Dept.
550 Trolley Line Blvd.
Mashantucket, CT 06338-3202**

***If you cannot remember your login password, click on "forgot password". Please do NOT open a new account. If you are interested in participating in a committee, please log into your account and choose the committee(s).**

CEHA's First Annual Environmental Health

Professionals Week

In CT was from **November 9 to 13, 2020** to promote and increase CEHA's social media presence was a success.

[Click here to see how we celebrated!](#)

Posts reached close to 300 people with over 100 engagements during the week. Please continue to visit our CEHA facebook page for updates on current issues within our environmental health profession and to share your stories:

<https://www.facebook.com/conneha/>

**See [attached](#) proclamation from
Governor Ned Lamont declaring
November 2, 2020 as Environmental
Health**

Professionals Day!

**THANK YOU
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS!**

UPDATES FROM CEHA BOARD MEMBERS



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

-Dianne Harding-

“ Learning is not attained by chance, but by ardor and diligence”

Thanks to the pandemic, educational opportunities for the foreseeable future must be virtual. It's unfortunate because in-person trainings are the types I enjoy producing for CEHA members and prefer to attend. However, there are many on-line learning opportunities available. Please regularly browse NEHA and other websites (some listed below) to take advantage of their offerings. Also, many informative webinars have been recently advertised through Everbridge.

<https://www.neha.org/professional-development/education-and-training/neha-e-learning>

<http://www.afdo.org/AFDO-professional-training>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/elearn/index.htm>

***A webinar will be announced soon on the topic of**

VENTILATION*

Legislative committee report

-Liz Kavanah and Suzanne Blancaflor-

The 2021 Legislative Session is remote this year. We encourage CEHA members to learn who your representatives are in the CT General Assembly. You may sign up for their updates to be sent directly to your email, or follow them on social media sites.

Follow the attached link to look up your elected representatives:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgarepresentation.asp>

Hope you find the attached [Roadmap to Analyzing Legislative Proposals](#) a useful guide, it was designed to help determine if a proposed bill is realistic, has a fiscal component, actually fills an important need, how it's funded if at all, and other aspects.

The 2021 session started off a little less hectic than in previous years, thus far there are fewer proposed bills introduced, but there could be a twist and turn mid-way or even towards the end of the session.

Committee schedules and deadlines are easy to locate on the cga website, public hearing testimony on a bill is received after the public hearing notice is posted. Written Public Testimony becomes part of public record, even after the hearing date has passed.

Salon New Licensing Requirements

Questions & Answers:

If you hold a cosmetology license will you still need to acquire a separate nail license? Yes, you will require a Nail Technician License.

Is there a grouped license for providing services? Yes the only licenses that can be applied for in combination are Esthetician, eyelash technician and nail technician.

In the State of Connecticut a cosmetology license currently covers nails, waxing and hair. Will this still hold true? No, the language passed by the legislature in Public Act 19-117 Sec. 204 removed manicuring from the hairdresser/cosmetologists scope of practice.

Is there an approved esthetician, nail or eyelash tech School at this time? No, the only current path to licensure is by meeting the experience requirement.

Will we need to acquire a separate nail license if we are a licensed Esthetician? Esthetics programs do teach nails not sure if the state is recognizing that? Yes, you will need a separate Nail Technician license.

Is a license required to do waxing? Waxing is covered under the Esthetician license, Cosmetology is not.

Is license required to apply make-up? Make up services offered in a salon is covered under the Cosmetology or Esthetics license.

Estheticians are currently licensed out of state, looks like they can all apply for a temporary license that will hold them for 120 calendar days. Will they need to acquire a CT license to practice esthetics after the 120 days? Once DPH receives their completed application along with the fee and the required documents, they will issue a temporary license that is valid for 120 days and it's not renewable. See below from DPH website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Practitioner-Licensing--Investigations/Esthetician/Practice-Act>

Micro-blading and permanent makeup. At this time a Tattoo Technician License is required to perform these services.

10. Who can provide Lash Lifting and Tinting? Eyelash Technicians and Sec. 191 (4) Esthetics means services related to skin care treatments, (A) including, but not limited to, cleansing, toning, stimulating, exfoliating or performing any similar procedure on the human body while using cosmetic preparations, hands, devices, apparatus or appliances to enhance or improve the appearance of the skin; makeup application; beautifying lashes and brows; or removing unwanted hair using manual and mechanical means, and (B) excluding the use of a prescriptive laser device; the performance of a cosmetic medical procedure, as defined in section 19a-903c of the general statutes; any practice, activity or treatment that constitutes the practice of medicine; makeup application at a rented kiosk located in a shopping center or the practice of hairdressing and cosmetology by a hairdresser and cosmetician licensed pursuant to chapter 387 of the general statutes that is within such licensee's scope of practice;

The language that was passed to establish these new professions clearly state that an eyelash technician license will be required to perform eyelash extensions, eyelash lifts or perms and eyelash color tints. The Department is working on guidance through a declaratory ruling or statutory change to determine if the term "beautifying lashes and brows" in the esthetician scope of practice includes eyelash extensions, eyelash lifts or perms and eyelash color tints. In the meantime, a complaint related to an esthetician or eyelash technician providing these services in a manner that does not conform to the accepted standards of the profession should be reported to the Department of Public Health.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2021 Scholarship and Awards

Opportunities

Are you looking to further your education? In the process of earning your undergrad or completing an Environmental certification program? CEHA has awesome scholarship opportunities for you!

Marvin L. Smith Scholarship, Current Award \$1500.00

Joseph Hock Yankee Conference Scholarship, Current Award \$1000.00

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: JUNE 30th, 2021



How to Apply for CEHA Scholarships:

Go to our website, ceha.wildapricot.org and download the application to become a member of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association. Once membership application is submitted you can then download the application packet and apply to the scholarships applicable to you. Please take a moment to view the listing of past recipients on the website, along with scholarship criteria. All applications will be reviewed and scored based solely on the information you provide. Now is your time to wow us! Do you deserve to be the next 2021 Scholarship recipient? Do not wait until the last minute, start working on your application today. Good Luck!

Awards

Two awards are given for excellence and give the highest recognition to professionals in the environmental health field of public health. Individuals whom have received these awards have been recognized and nominated by their peers.

Raymond W. Brunelle Award - [Download Nomination Form Here](#)

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: OCTOBER 1ST, 2021

Robert C. Perriello Award - [Download Nomination Form Here](#)

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: AUGUST 1ST, 2021



Our CEHA Board Meetings Look a little Different These Days...



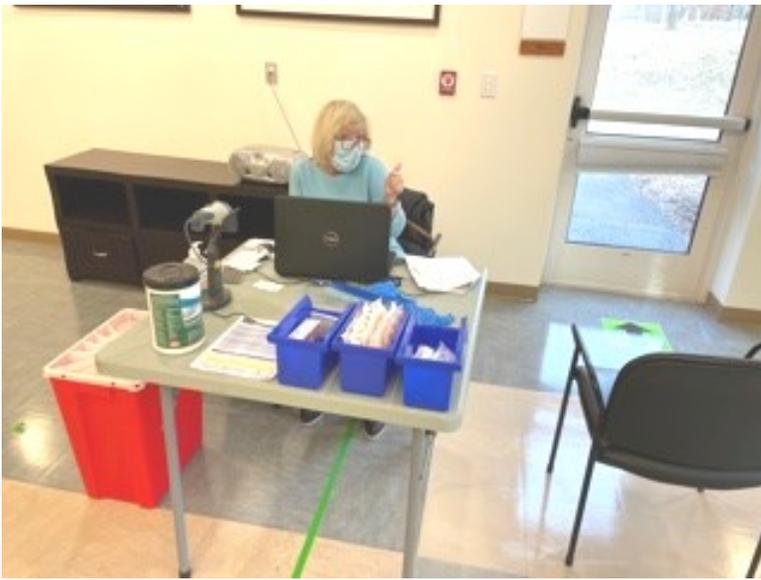
Perspective on COVID-19 as a New Sanitarian in Connecticut submitted by Nicolette Arrotti, BBHD

I recently graduated from UConn as an environmental sciences major with a concentration in human health. During my senior year, I interned with the environmental health section of BBHD and loved it – I was hired as a full time sanitarian in July 2020. The first time I remember hearing about the virus was during the food section of Southern’s environmental health course last January, where it was nonchalantly and very briefly mentioned from time to time. No one, including myself, batted an eye. A month and a half later, I’d be sitting in my living room reviewing septic installation for the very same class, this time on zoom – a manila folder of massive proportions stuffed inside my desk at the office, titled COVID. As the number of positive cases steadily increased, I found myself picturing the exponential growth curve from microbiology that we’re all so familiar with... no plateau or die off in sight. Endemic, epidemic, pandemic... the structure of flu strains, hemagglutinin and neuraminidase proteins... herd immunity, vaccination... in a very morbid way, I was living through the most practical 4000 level science course I’d ever taken. Only this time, there’s no professor and no concrete answers (at least for a while). Is it spread by aerosols? How long can it live on the shelves of grocery stores? Should we wear gloves? Masks? No masks? N95 or surgical? And what about the ventilation in apartment buildings? During the first few months especially, there seemed to be mass amounts of misinformation circulating. Everyone, including people I look up to, scurried to apply every last drop of knowledge they had to control the spread of the virus. It was humbling to see those around me remain cool, calm and collected despite the chaos around them.

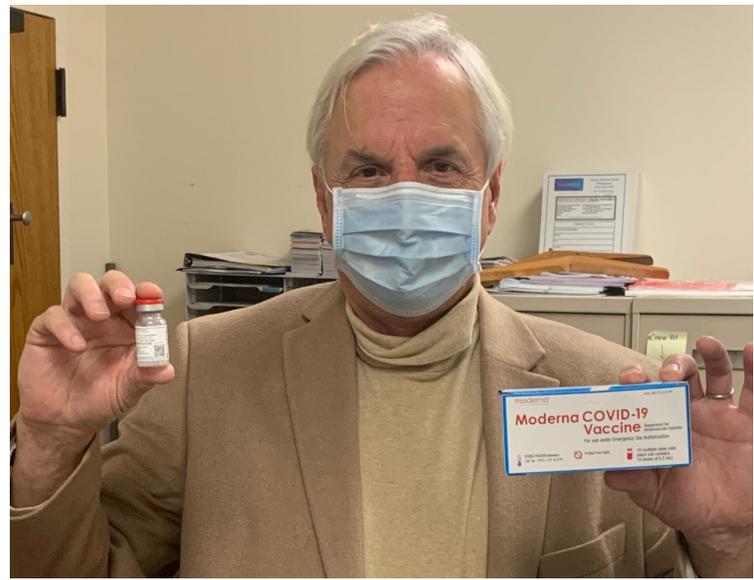
Once we had access to the state’s sector rules for re-opening, it was nearly summer and the public was itching to get outside. There seemed to be immense pressure on public health officials to re-open certain sectors and do it fast. Misinformation was now replaced by rapid-fire updates and guidance from DECD. The office was inundated with calls – either about lack of PPE or plexiglass or for clarification on what was needed. The early versions of sector rules were helpful but required near constant oversight and were easily misinterpreted by business owners and health inspectors alike. It seemed like we were having weekly meetings to discuss how to approach certain situations that were touched upon in DECD guidance, but still very unclear.

I read an article recently on phys.org about how people are responding to lockdowns and restrictions in England. While there is widespread support for COVID restrictions, the general consensus is that lockdowns were mismanaged by government. The University of Exeter dispatched surveys to English residents each time a lockdown was either issued or lifted. The study found that when respondents’ answers indicated lockdowns were being poorly managed by government, a dip in compliance occurred. What this tells me is that public understanding of the current crisis is critical, as is a general consensus with the timing and application of restrictions and lockdowns. In my opinion, the way we relay the state’s decisions to our residents and businesses is invaluable. Education on transmission and WHY certain restrictions are necessary is key. Compliance comes with understanding the value in restrictions, even if we hate them. When we educate business owners and employees, they are able to educate their customers, who educate their friends and families – the list goes on.

The biggest impact I think COVID has had in our field, from what I’ve experienced, is that it’s solidified the difference business owners can make when they do the right thing – and I think they see this too, because now it’s personal. At this point, everyone has been impacted by the virus in some way - someone they know has gotten sick, they have family in nursing homes, or out of state, that they haven’t seen in nearly a year. Generally, the restaurants and gyms and salons in our community that have gone above and beyond to protect their guests through COVID protocol do so with a smile on their face – if not that, at least with some sense of pride, which is really nice to see. There is incentive for everyone to be on board with COVID regulations. The virus had added another layer of intensity to what we deal with on a daily basis. Enforcing not only the codes we are familiar with, but sector rules, executive orders and infractions.



Brookfield Health Department



David Knauf of Darien Health Department

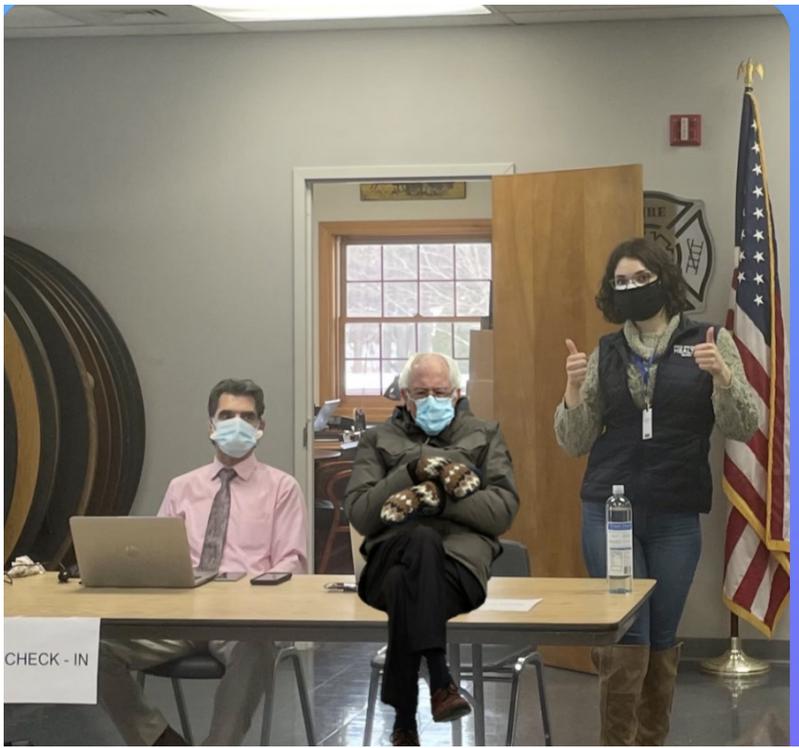


Cromwell Health Department



Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation



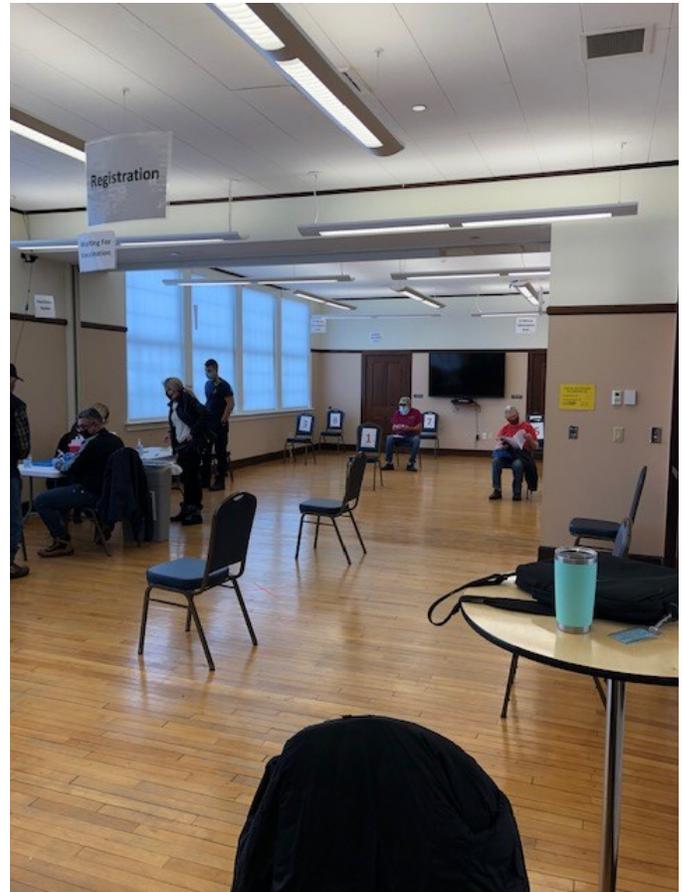
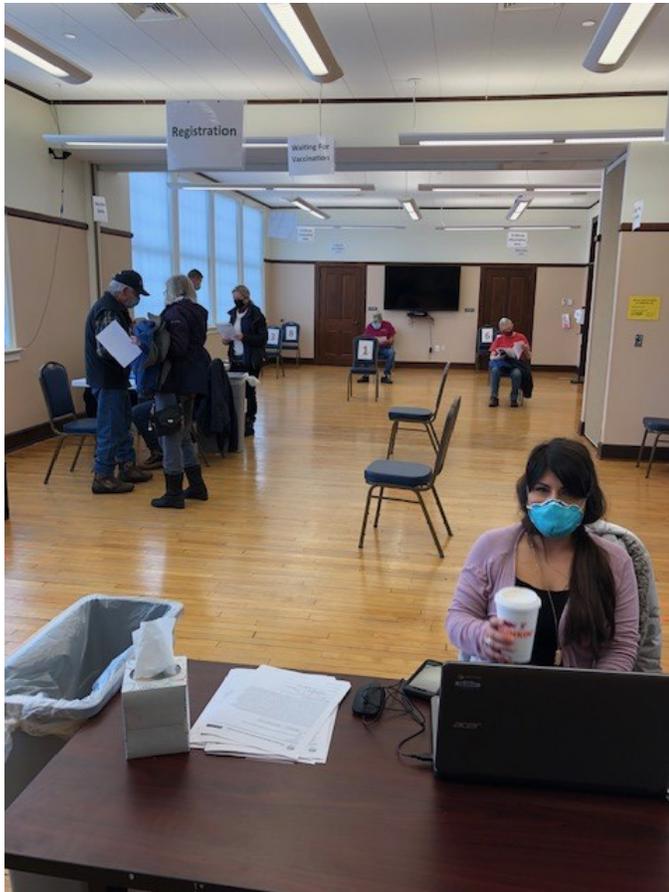


Look who checked into the Bristol Burlington Health District COVID -19 Vaccine Clinic!



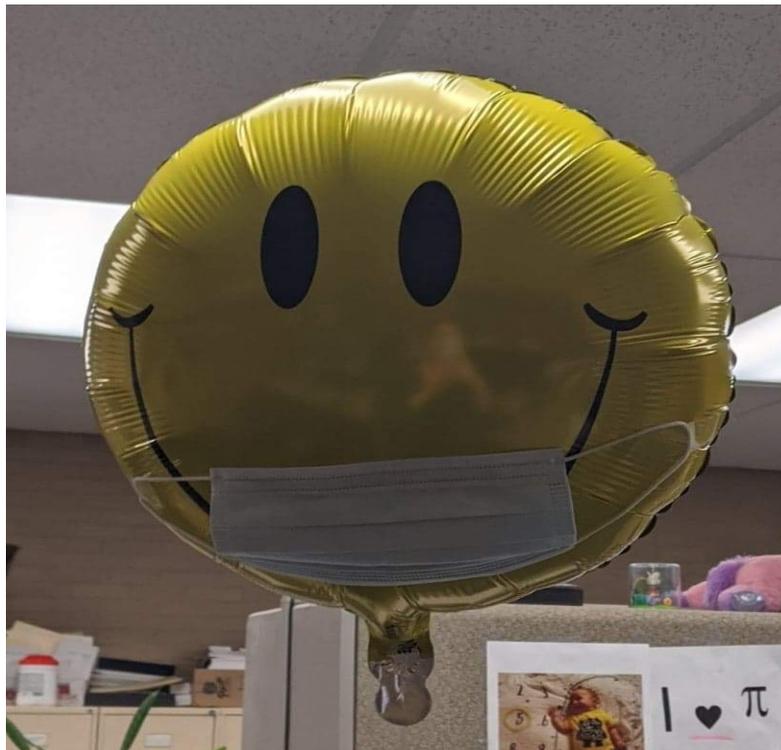
Tom Stanfield of Torrington Area District Health Department

Middletown Health Department



Health Department Spotlight

Do you want to have your Health Department featured in the next issue of the CEHA newsletter? Contact [Lisa Yu](#) for more information!



Check out our CEHA shop!

<https://ceha.wildapricot.org/Sys/Store/Products/14878>



[Stainless Steel Insulated Tumbler](#)
\$15.00



[65th Anniversary Coffee Mug](#)
\$10.00



[Reusable Stainless Steel Straw](#)
\$5.00



[Reusable Shopping Bag](#)
\$5.00

Health Department Spotlight

Do you want to have your Health Department featured in the next issue of the CEHA newsletter? Contact [Lisa Yu](#) for more information!