



Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut, Inc.

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Enthusiastic Response to New Training Program for Administering Medications Ensures Safer Child Care**

A "Train the Trainer" program for a new medication administration curriculum for child care providers recently drew an overwhelming response from nurses throughout Connecticut. Originally designed for 50 trainers, the program prepared 81 nurses with another 20 signed up on a waiting list.

Medication administration was identified as a major source of concern in a 2009 study funded by the Children's Fund of Connecticut that examined results of 676 unannounced licensing inspections in 41% of Connecticut's child care centers and 746 inspections of licensed family day care homes (28% of homes). The study's authors, Angela Crowley, PhD, APRN, PNP-BC, FAAN (Yale School of Nursing) and Marjorie Rosenthal, MD, MPH, FAAP (Yale School of Medicine) cited findings that indicated:

- 1 in 5 centers had no staff members trained in medication administration
- 4 in 10 medications were being administered without an approved prescriber's order
- 1 in 8 licensed family day care homes that administered medication were not certified to do so

Ensuring safe medication administration in child care settings continues to grow in importance. Increasing numbers of children with special health care needs, for example those with asthma and serious allergies that may require emergency medications, are enrolling in child care. The 2009 study indicated that continuing education of child care center staff was the most frequent predictor of compliance with health and safety regulations designed to minimize risks. Child care providers trained on best practices for health and safety - including medication administration - demonstrated a clear and consistent pattern of compliance. For a copy of CHDI's Issue Brief on this subject, please click on this link: <http://www.chdi.org/download.php?id=513>

Although participation in a "train the trainer" session is not required for licensed healthcare professionals, utilizing a best practice curriculum is important to ensure the highest quality training and reduce liability. Training is vital to ensure that emergency medications and medications for chronic conditions are given

accurately and safely as prescribed. Connecticut regulations require that child care providers who administer medication be trained to do so by a physician, physician's assistant or a registered nurse (RN) or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN).

The new training curriculum, *Connecticut Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings*, combines generic content from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Medication Administration Training Curriculum with elements of the Healthy Child Care Connecticut (HCCCT) curriculum to provide a comprehensive training that meets Connecticut's needs and regulations. The two-part course covers general principles of medication administration, the various types of oral, topical and inhalant medications as well as the principles of administering auto-injectable medications for emergencies. Prospective trainers also learned strategies for contacting child care providers, setting up classes and securing reimbursements.



Standing by the demonstration kits are: Carol Ann Turner (APRN), Angela Crowley (APRN), Patty McCarthy (RN), Sue Ann Uccello (RN), and Lori Yu (APRN)

In addition to the course itself, participants received a demonstration kit and electronic and hard copies of all training materials and authorization forms. By June 30, the new curriculum will be available free of charge via CT TRAIN ([www.ct.train.org](http://www.ct.train.org)). There are also plans to transition this project to an organization or agency in order to sustain the program, ensure dissemination and accessibility to child care providers across the state as well as to explore resources for a Spanish version, once funding can be secured.

Three trainings were held in late April and early May at the Yale School of Nursing, taught by Angela Crowley from the Yale faculty and Lori Yu, MSN, APRN, CPNP, an independent health care consultant. Participant reaction to the program was uniformly very positive. Participants cited "listening to seasoned trainers" as the most helpful aspect of the program along with "it's great, solid core curriculum". The "materials ... make it so much more defined and not nebulous." Other positives noted included the clarity and structure of the presentations and the opportunities for discussions among participants.

The training program was supported through funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Connecticut's Department of Social Services, with supplemental funds from the Children's Fund of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center's Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and was administered through the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI).

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