Connecticut Mentorship Participants

Chatham Health District, CT

**Background**

**State:** Connecticut  
**HD Population Size Served:** ~63,000  
**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 214  
**Retail Program Standards Met/Working On:** 4, 7, and 9  
**Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2010  
**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 7  
**Version of Food Code:** Not yet adopted

**Mission and Background:**
The Chatham Health District will, through community partnerships, promote, protect, and improve the health of its residents, by monitoring health concerns, preventing illness, and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

The retail food regulatory program consists of a total of 214 food service establishments varying by class and must include approximately 500 routine food service inspections per year throughout the district.

Chatham Health District has 3 full time Sanitarians who participate in the food program and 3 part time Sanitarians and a Chief Sanitarian.

**Role in Mentorship Program**

Chatham participated as a mentee in the seventh cohort. Mohegan Tribal Health Department (CT) mentored them on Standards 4 and 5.

**Lessons Learned/Tips**

- Create a continuation plan to make sure all standards met are revisited at appropriate time and manner.
- Organization makes life easier – creating separate folder for each standard for document retention.
- Group Effort – it can be too much for one person to handle alone, especially if all of their time is not devoted to the standards. Try to engage all members of your environmental health team.

**Contact**

Name: Melissa Pierce  
Email: Melissa.Pierce@westhartfordct.gov  
Phone number: 860-561-7906
Mohegan Tribal Health Department, CT

Background
State: CT
HD Population Size Served: The Mohegan Tribal Health Department (MTHD) serves a unique population including nearly 2,600 Mohegan Tribal members, 7,000 Mohegan Sun employees and over 10 million transient visitors to Mohegan Sun each year.

# of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 56 licensed establishments; ~525 temporary food service permits
Retail Program Standards Met/Working On: 9
Year Enrolled in the Standards: 2001
NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 7
Version of Food Code: 2017

Mission and Background
MISSION: The Mohegan Tribal Health Department provides tribal members, their families, and employees with a variety of educational opportunities and wellness programs while ensuring a safe and healthy environment on the Mohegan Reservation.

BACKGROUND: Food establishments are categorized based on the menu and associated risk using the table in Annex 5 of the 2013 FDA Model Food Code. The risk categories are 1-4 with the number of yearly inspections corresponding to the risk category. A risk category 1 is inspected once a year, risk category of 2 is inspected twice a year, risk category 3 is inspected 3 times a year, and risk category 4 is inspected 4 times a year. Any risk factor violations not corrected at the time of the inspection must be rechecked within 2 weeks based on the criticality of the violation and the re-inspection must be documented on the re-inspection report form. Repeat violations are discussed with the certified food protection manager. The inspector may assist in writing and/or reviewing risk control plans and SOP’s (standard operating procedures) as well as providing information on training options including formal and/or informal training of food employees by the inspector. The inspector may also provide information charts and other forms of effective training materials as needed. All licensed food establishments are required to submit a written HACCP plan upon request. HACCP Plans are based on Section 8-201.14 Contents of a HACCP Plan in the food code. The MTHD uses the HACCP Plan validation checklist in the Special Processes at Retail book (revised 4-2014).

Role in Mentorship Program
Mohegan Tribal Health Department participated as a mentor in the seventh cohorts. Mohegan mentored Chatham Health District (CT) and West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District (CT) on Standard 9.

**Contact**

Name: Jaime Ellis  
Email: Jaime.ellis@chathamhealth.org  
Phone number: 860-365-0884

**West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District, CT**

**Background**

State: Connecticut  
HD Population Size Served: ~84,000  
Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: ~600  
Retail Program Standards Met/Working On: 4 and 5  
Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2016  
NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 7  
Version of Food Code: Not yet adopted  
Pursuing Accreditation (Y/N?) N

**Mission and Background:**
The West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District inspects all licensed food establishments to assure compliance with the requirements of the Public Health Code. We seek to reduce the public risk of foodborne illness by providing reasonable protection from contaminated food and by improving the sanitary condition of food establishments. The Health District investigates reports of illnesses caused by food. By identifying the cause of the illness, we can prevent future occurrences. All plans for new and renovating food establishments are reviewed and approved by the Health District to help ensure that they are built or renovated according to current food safety standards.

**Role in Mentorship Program**

West Hartford-Bloomfield participated as a mentee in the seventh cohort. Mohegan Tribal Health Department (CT) mentored them on Standards 4 and 5.

**Lessons Learned/Tips**

- Create a continuation plan to make sure all standards met are revisited at appropriate time and manner.  
- Organization makes life easier – creating separate folder for each standard for document retention.
• Group Effort – it can be too much for one person to handle alone, especially if all of their time is not devoted to the standards. Try to engage all members of your environmental health team.

Contact

Name: Melissa Pierce
Email: Melissa.Pierce@westhartfordct.gov
Phone number: 860-561-7906

Link to food safety program website:
https://www.westhartfordct.gov/gov/departments/health_district/services/environmental.asp