

# Connecticut Mentorship Participants

## Chatham Health District, CT

### **Background**

**State:** Connecticut

**HD Population Size Served:** 70,000

**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 272

**Retail Program Standards Met/Working On:** Met 7, Working on 2,4,8

**Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2013

**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 7, 8, 9

**Version of Food Code:** Not yet adopted the 2017 FDA Code, in process. Current CT Code.

### **Mission and Background:**

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

### **Role in Mentorship Program**

- Mentee or Mentor? Mentee in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> cohorts
- Who were you paired with? In the 7<sup>th</sup> cohort, Mohegan Tribal Health Department, CT mentored them on Standards 4 and 5. In the 8<sup>th</sup> Vineland Health Department, NJ mentored Chatham on Standards 4 and 7. In the 9<sup>th</sup> cohort, Vineland mentored Chatham on Standards 2 and 8.

### **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.
- Staffing changes very quickly, try to include as many staff members to assist. Choosing only 1 or 2 people to help can be a nightmare when someone quits.
- Schedule time to work solely on the Standards and try to stick to that plan otherwise time will slip away very quickly.
- Plan ahead
- Any progress made in the Standards will definitely improve your food program.
- With the help of my mentor I was able to get changes made to the State of CT Quality Assurance Program; if I were not in this program I would have never even noticed the flaw.
- Always have more than one person involved in working with the Standards, people leave and then one person is stuck doing all the work. Time restraints can have a major effect on progress.

### **Contact**

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Link to food safety program website: [www.chathamhealth.org](http://www.chathamhealth.org)

## **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 Standards 4, 5, and 9.

### **Lessons Learned/Tips**

- Schedule a “snow/rain” date for your site visit when you schedule your initial site visit with your partners. Trying to reschedule can be problematic so having a rain date established in advance will make this easier
- The more the merrier – consider inviting one or two area local health departments who aren’t mentees to your site visit. Other LHDs can serve as such a rich resource to yourself and your mentees

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

### **Background**

**State:** Connecticut

**HD Population Size Served:** 84,869

**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 504

**Retail Program Standards Met/Working On:** 4 and 5

**Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2016

**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 7, 8, 9

**Version of Food Code:** CT Public Health Code

**Pursuing Accreditation (Y/N?)** N

### **Mission and Background:**

Our Mission at the West Hartford –Bloomfield Health District is to provide services to promote wellness and assure healthy communities for the towns of West Hartford and Bloomfield, CT. The WHBHD provides public health services to a combined area of 48.6 square miles and has a population of 84, 569 residents. The WHBHD provides public health promotion, prevention and protection services in the Towns of West Hartford and Bloomfield from our central office located in Bloomfield CT. The WHBHD is recognized by the State of CT as a separate municipal governmental entity.

### **Role in Mentorship Program**

- Mentee or Mentor? Mentee in cohort 7, 8, 9
- Cohort 7: Mohegan Tribal Health Department, CT mentored West-Hartford on Standards 4 and 5.
- Cohort 8: Vineland Health Department, NJ mentored West-Hartford on Standards 5 and 7.
- Cohort 9: Vineland Health Department, NJ mentored West Hartford on components of Standards 2, 3, 4, and 7.

### **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.
- Document everything!
- Use tools that are provided by the mentor

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