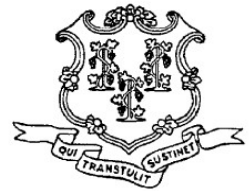


# News



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 22, 2005

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## **DPH and Community Health Network Join Together to Improve Health of Connecticut Families**

**Hartford** – The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced a partnership with Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc. (CHNCT) to improve the health of Connecticut families through improved nutrition and increased physical activity.

The partnership, titled *DPH-CHNCT Choices – A Nutrition Initiative*, will create sustainable health promotion initiatives in underserved communities in Connecticut by working with school districts and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). Additionally, this alliance will help educate Connecticut families about strategies to maintain good health and services available to them.

“The *DPH-CHNCT Choices* initiative combines the strengths of both organizations to assist a greater number of children and adults in making lifestyle choices that can improve overall health and reduce the risk of obesity, diabetes, and coronary artery disease,” stated DPH Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H.

Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc., is a not-for-profit managed care organization that is sponsored by seven FQHCs in Connecticut. It provides statewide health care services to approximately 92,000 members through the State's HUSKY A, HUSKY B, and State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) Programs. The FQHCs offer a statewide network for primary and specialty care, including inpatient as well as outpatient locations, to provide health services.

"This partnership between Community Health Network of Connecticut and the Department of Public Health will enable both organizations to jointly focus on the needs of Connecticut's underserved population. Through our nutrition and health education efforts, in collaboration with local schools and health centers, significant numbers of individuals will be able to adopt positive and sustaining nutrition and health habits," stated Sylvia Kelly, President & CEO of Community Health Network of CT, Inc.

DPH will provide nutrition education as well as assistance to FQHCs and schools in developing strategies to increase physical activity in adults and children through a variety of programs

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offered to health center patients and families with school-age children. Special nutrition workshops will be conducted for parents that will focus on healthy supermarket shopping on a limited budget, healthy and safe food preparation, and strategies to help families eat healthier and be more active together. Children will participate in school-sponsored events that have healthy active lifestyle themes.

“Our hope is that through this partnership, we can help families make relatively small changes in their activity levels and food choices that will have a significant impact on their overall health,” stated Dr. Galvin.

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