

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION Public Health Nurse of the Berkshires

Eileen Myers, Vice President of Home Care, Berkshire Medical Center

Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association has served Berkshire communities for over 100 years in many capacities. Our homecare department makes available Home Health services to homebound town residents on an intermittent basis. These services include but are not limited to: nursing, home health aide, homemaker, physical therapy, occupational therapy, mental health nursing and maternal child care. Our community health services include public health nursing service to the residents of your town. Public health nursing is population based. Population based nursing services are interventions aimed at health promotion and disease prevention that improve a community's health outcomes. Interventions are actions implemented by a public health nurse on behalf of individuals, families, and communities that can occur in any setting. The health of populations is most effectively promoted and protected through interdisciplinary and inter-organizational collaborations and partnerships.

Agreement of Provision of Community Public Health Services by the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association to the Board of Selectmen of the town of Dalton for the period from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

I. Purpose of Agreement

To make available Public Health services to residents such as:

- Care of individual residents through regularly scheduled health promotion clinics.
 - Individual and community health protection through the administration of immunizations including but not limited to; annual influenza and pneumococcal vaccine clinics, Hepatitis B vaccination clinics in the public school setting and to local fire and police departments, and other vaccines on an individual basis.
 - Health related activities and programs to provide health teaching for the individual and the community.
 - Administration of lead testing for individuals and follow up teaching of lead risks to families.
 - TB skin testing and education for individuals.
 - Communicable disease event investigation with gathering of data regarding threats to the population, ascertaining the source of the threat, identification of cases and others at risk, and determination of control measures in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the town Board of Health.
 - Distribution of MDPH funded vaccines to local health care providers.
 - Provide public health resource information to other disciplines in the community and for the local Board of Health.
 - Provide the town Board of health with statistics regarding members of the community served through quarterly and annual reporting.
- (Some immunization and testing activities may involve a fee to the recipient).

OVERVIEW: As we at the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association celebrate more than 100 years of service to the residents of Berkshire County, we also celebrate our ongoing relationships with the Boards of Health in Berkshire County. Berkshire Visiting Nurses Association, through the Dalton Board of Health, provides disease prevention and health promotion services throughout the year to the residents of Dalton. These services include regularly scheduled prevention clinics where residents receive personal attention in

- monitoring blood pressure
- testing blood sugar
- counseling on health related issues and
- referral as necessary to other medical care providers and wellness programs

Immunization clinics are held on a regular basis and on request to provide routine immunization to children and adults. These clinics include the annual flu and pneumonia clinics in the fall, and other adult immunizations such as tetanus throughout the year. Routine childhood immunizations and lead testing are made available and an annual Hepatitis B program is provided to 6th graders in the school setting. Communicable disease reporting and tracking is an ongoing part of the Public Health program.

WELLNESS PROMOTION;

- 324 Individuals were served at health promotion clinics in the year 2003
- Clinics were held at 5 different sites (the town hall, community house, and the 3 senior housing sites)
- 370 flu shots; and 10 pneumonia vaccines were given

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE TRACKING: Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires reporting of all communicable diseases, the following incidents were reported, investigated and received follow-up:

- 5 Campylobacter
- 3 Salmonella
- 1 Meningitis
- 1 Hepatitis C
- 2 Lyme disease
- 1 Tuberculosis
- 3 Pertussis

COLLABORATION: Susan Kaufman, RNC, our Public Health coordinator, works with the Dalton Council on Aging to provide coordination of services for residents. Primary providers, Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities receive State Department of Public Health vaccines and immunization information. Curtis Manor residents were provided administration of flu and pneumonia vaccines.

As a member of the community health care continuum of Berkshire Health Systems, collaboration with and referrals to the other health care professionals are readily made. The Community Health Information Center provides access to on site health professionals and the latest computer online health information. During time of illness or disability, BVNA professional home care clinicians provide treatment and health guidance for the entire family. Registered Nurses, Physical and Occupational

Therapists, Speech Therapists and trained Home Health Aides are part of the team to provide care and assistance in times of illness and family crisis.

Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association wishes to thank the Select Board for the opportunity to serve your residents. Please feel free to call BVNA for information at 1-800-788-2862. We look forward to our continued relationship in maintaining and promoting good health in Dalton.

(The printed report also includes a page of statistics from the Health Promotion Clinics.)