**WHO WORKS IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND WHAT DO THEY DO?**

**What is a Health Officer?**

A health officer is the administrator of the Local Health Department. The health officer is an individual with statutory authority and responsibility to enforce public health law within that agency's jurisdiction, to administer funds for public health programs, enforce local ordinances and support qualified public health staff. This individual must meet qualifications as specified in State and Administrative Rule.

**What is the Board Of Health?**

The Board of Health (BOH) is a governmental structure comprised of elected and appointed community members. Its major function is to assess the health needs, establish policy and program direction, and assure that the local health services are responsive to the health needs of the community.

**What is a Public Health Nurse?**

The public health nurse (PHN) is a registered professional nurse who has a special education to combine professional nurse practice with the basics of public health practice for the purpose of improving the health of the community through primary prevention and health promotion. She/he meets the qualifications specified in State Statutes and Administrative Rules.

A generalized public health nursing program includes components of professional nursing practice such as direct care, risk assessment, health education, and counseling. Also included are the distinguishing components of public health nursing practice: 1) community analysis; 2) case finding and concern for those who do not present themselves for care; 3) an emphasis on prevention at the most appropriate level; and 4) referral to other agencies to ensure comprehensive health services.

PHN services are not limited to a specific segment of the population designated by age, setting, or health problem. Health promotion, health maintenance, coordination, and continuity of care are utilized in a holistic approach to the family, group, and community according to established program priorities consistent with identified community needs and expectations.

**What is a Public Health Sanitarian?**

The public health sanitarian is an environmental specialist who, through education, training, and experience applies this knowledge and skill in the protection of both human and environmental health. This individual must meet the qualifications as specified in State Statutes and Administrative Rules.

A generalized environmental health program is directed toward the assessment, control and prevention of environmental factors that may adversely affect the health, comfort, safety or well-being of individuals.

**What is a Public Health Nutritionist?**

A public health nutritionist is a dietitian registered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, the credentialing agency of the American Dietetic Association, and certified by the Department of Regulation and Licensing under s448.70 (1m), who:

1) creates partnerships in the community to assure adequate and appropriate food and nutrition resources for the whole population, all ages and life stages;

2) facilitates nutrition system and policy changes in the community;

3) assures nutrition expertise and leadership in programs, services, and those community initiatives focused on nutritional health improvement; and

4) assesses the whole community or targeted groups of the population to identify priority areas for population-based nutrition intervention.

Public health nutrition efforts are primarily focused on nutrition behaviors, the nutrition environment, and food and nutrition policy.

**What is a Public Health Educator?**

A public health educator is a professional that has education or experience in the science of health education.

Public health educators assess individual and community needs, plan and implement effective health education programs and evaluate the success of the program.