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Local Team Participates in Public Health Leadership Program

Burlington, Vermont. February 28, 2013 – Four representatives of four local health care and planning organizations will participate in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention program, the National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health (NLAPH). NLAPH focuses on working with multi-sector leadership teams and provide trainings to public health professionals using an applied, team-based collaborative leadership development model to improve public health practices within their service areas. This team will focus on hunger and nutrition.

A team consisting of Charlie Baker, executive director, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Penrose Jackson, director of Community Health Improvement, Fletcher Allen Health Care, Amy Carmola, director of Community Impact & Volunteer Mobilization, United Way of Chittenden County, and Heather Danis, director, Burlington District Office, Vermont Department of Health will attend a three-day retreat in Atlanta, Georgia, the week of March 4, 2013.

They plan to return with new skills designed to create community-based approaches to the issues of hunger and good nutrition.

“With this training, these leaders will be able to drive critical efforts, such as the adoption of evidence-based policies and practices at the community level. Evidence-based practices have a tangible impact on health outcomes,” said Carmen Rita Nevarez MD, MPH, director, Center for Health Leadership and Practice, a California-based organization focused on advancing public health by increasing the capacity of leaders to work past traditional boundaries, work collaboratively, and transform their communities.

“We are hopeful that we will return to Chittenden County equipped with innovative techniques to address the needs of our underserved population,” said Baker. “The impact on people in our area who face hunger and poor nutrition every day is not well-known by others in our community. Hunger impacts their quality of life and it also places stress on our health care system. By learning more about ways to improve public health, I think we can make a bigger difference more rapidly in our region.”

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The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) consists of the 19 municipalities in Chittenden County and additional members representing key sectors of our community (www.ccrpcvt.org). The CCRPC took the lead role in the ECOS Project to develop one integrated plan for our region, our economy and our transportation system (www.ecospsproject.com). The ECOS Plan's vision for Chittenden County is to be a healthy, inclusive and prosperous community. The ECOS Project mission is to have a collaborative

planning process with citizens, public and private organizations to develop a consensus regarding priority actions to achieve the ECOS goals. The intent of this effort is to strengthen and enhance coordination, accountability and implementation of the plans of participating organizations such as state and local governments, planning organizations and other partner organizations - including business, environmental, education, and human services.

The Department of Health is the lead public health agency in Vermont that serves to protect and promote the health of all Vermonters. Essential public health and disease prevention services are available across Vermont through 12 district offices. Heather Danis is the Director of the Burlington District Office, which serves Chittenden County. www.healthvermont.gov.

Fletcher Allen Health Care, together with our partners at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, is Vermont's academic medical center. Fletcher Allen, along with Central Vermont Medical Center, CVPH Medical Center and Elizabethtown Community Hospital, are members of Fletcher Allen Partners, established to develop a more coordinated system of care throughout the region. Fletcher Allen's mission is to improve the health of the people in the communities it serves by integrating patient care, education and research in a caring environment. Fletcher Allen also serves as a regional referral center -- providing advanced care to approximately one million people in Vermont and northern New York -- and as a community hospital for approximately 150,000 residents in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties. For more information about Fletcher Allen, find us online at <http://www.fletcherallen.org>.

United Way of Chittenden County mobilizes the community by taking a wide-angle view to understand root causes of our most pressing problems. We make program investments and engage volunteers to improve people's lives, one person or one family at a time. We are also a coalition builder like no other, inspiring the collective power of critical and diverse partnerships to find solutions, focusing on three priority areas we believe are building blocks for a better life: Education, Income and Health. We have the expertise, the flexibility, the courage and the tenacity to look wide and deep -- to uncover what is truly at the root of our challenges to that prosperous future we all envision and to develop sustainable solutions. www.unitedwaycc.org.