

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2008**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Joseph Reingold, Secretary
Howard Fink
Robert Toronto
Mitchell Quintner

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Deborah Woods
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman Liaison

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Joan Cagginello, Nurse Administrator
Deepa Joseph, Community Health Coordinator
Tara Mustakos – Local Public Health Preparedness Coordinator
Diana Yassanye, MS, Cities Readiness Initiative Coordinator
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Election of Officers

D. McBride called for nominations for Chairman. E. Judson cast a ballot seconded by B. Toronto for C. Young. The board voted unanimously for C. Young, Chairman. C. Young called for nominations for Vice Chairman. M. Quintner cast a ballot seconded by C. Young for E. Judson. The board voted unanimously for E. Judson, Vice Chairman. C. Young called for nominations for Secretary and cast a ballot for J. Reingold seconded by B. Toronto. The board voted unanimously for J. Reingold, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes – December 18, 2007

The minutes of the December 18, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by E. Judson seconded by J. Reingold.

Environmental Health Report – presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

65-145 Furniture Row - Remediation

The Furniture Row Milford site is a 12-acre parcel located at 65-145 Furniture Row in Milford, CT. The Site building was constructed in 1965 and was owned by the Hyman H. Smith and Eleanor C. Smith Trust, which leased space to various tenants. The western portion (Bays 1 through 5) of the warehouse and the former adjacent Tank Farm parcel were leased to Connecticut Aerosols, Inc. between 1971 and 1988. Operations included blending chemicals and filling and packing aerosol cans with a wide variety of chemicals and propellants. In 1988, an undetermined amount of solvent was released to the ground surface, contaminating the groundwater under the industrial site.

The Milford Health Department is working with the CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) and AIG Investments, Owner, to address contaminated groundwater under the property located at 65-145 Furniture Row, formerly, Connecticut Aerosols. The 12.06-acre parcel has two structures present at the site, an industrial warehouse (main building), and a two-bay garage. The remediation work will focus on the westerly portion of the warehouse structure.

Under CT DEP oversight, AIG Investments has completed an assessment and evaluation of the site, and contracted with Innovative Engineering Solutions, Inc. (IESI) to conduct the remediation activities. Under CT DEP oversight, IESI will be utilizing bio-remediation techniques to cleanup the chlorinated solvents that contaminate the groundwater. These techniques use microorganisms to destroy environmental pollutants found in the groundwater at the site. Although this technology is considered innovative, this method to clean groundwater contamination has been safely used in other communities in Connecticut and other States around the Country.

The CT DEP issued a legal notice on 1/11/08 stating its' intent to issue a permit; remediation work could start within thirty (30) days. Before the work starts, the Milford Health Department plans to canvass the area to distribute information regarding the remediation activities.

Wampus Lane

The environmental clean up conducted by HRP Associates is successfully complete. The cleanup process remained on schedule and the final loads of contaminated soil were transported off-site during the week of December 10th. HRP workers filled the area to grade with clean soil and installed silt fencing and hay bales to prevent erosion through the winter. In early spring, HRP Associates will return to the site to plant the vegetation.

No Freeze Shelter/ Safe temperatures for outdoor activities

For use during a crisis situation, the Beth-El Center is working with the Health Department, Human Resources Dept, Fire Department, Police Department and other City Departments to establish an emergency, temporary shelter for a small number of single adults and families who have no other options for over night housing in extreme cold weather. Taking temperature, time of day and wind chill into account, the Health Department is working to create certain criteria under which the no freeze shelter will be opened.

Additionally, the Board of Education recently requested that we provide some temperature parameters under which it is safe for children to be outdoors. Currently we are working on guidelines that would define certain weather conditions and provide recommendations regarding the amount of time that it is safe to be outdoors.

Student Intern

On Monday January 14, 2008 Ashley Carlson, an Environmental Public Health Student from Southern Connecticut State University, started an internship with the Health Department. Because her major area of study is in Environmental Health, she will be spending a large chunk of her time with the Environmental Health Division where she will gain valuable field experience and will be exposed to the many facets of environmental health. During her internship, Ashley will also be working on special projects. Beginning in April, she will rotate to the other departments in the Health Department.

Comments:

- E. Judson inquired with regards to Furniture Row whether this cleanup would also involve Turtle Creek. D. McBride responded the remediation is restricted to the Furniture Row property only, however the DEP will be contacted regarding the clean up of surrounding properties in need of remediation. C. Young asked who is responsible for subsequent monitoring? D. McBride responded that the DEP is responsible.
- C. Young asked who is monitoring the No Freeze Shelters. D. McBride responded that the Red Cross is the key partner and will take the lead with Joan, Laura, and Deepa assisting in the development of policies and procedures.

Nursing Division Report – Presented by Joan Cagginello, Nurse Administrator

Seasonal Influenza Status

An increase in influenza activity in Connecticut is listed at the “local” level according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the first week in January. The remainder of the country notes a modest increase of influenza cases at this time; Colorado is listed as having widespread activity and the state of Vermont is the only state reporting no influenza activity. In Connecticut, as of January 5, 2008, there have been 109 confirmed cases of influenza, with approximately one-fourth of the cases in New Haven County.

As planned, influenza vaccine was offered at the routine January Immunization Clinic. The total influenza vaccinations administered during the 2007-08 season is 2465, approximately 500 fewer than the previous year.

Pandemic Influenza Education – Milford Schools

An informational letter regarding pandemic flu was sent to all parents and guardians of students in the Milford Public Schools. The letter, signed by both Dr. McBride and Dr. Polansky, notes that although a flu pandemic does not exist at this time, the best time to plan is before it occurs.

School Health Services

The School Nurses have been providing influenza prevention education to their students and staff throughout the flu season in all of the grade levels. Age appropriate videos are shown to

students demonstrating the importance of hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes and staying home when you are ill.

Lauralton Hall will host a health fair for their students this year, following the success of the high school health fairs at Jonathan Law and Foran over the past few years. The school nurse at Lauralton is working with her Health Education teacher, Physical Education and Guidance staff to coordinate the program.

A continuing education program on Lead Poisoning was presented today at the nurses January staff meeting. Linda Bailey, RN, MSN a nurse consultant with the CT Department of Public Health in the Lead Poisoning Prevention Control Program presented.

A new school nurse has been hired for the vacant position; Mary Jo Smith will begin work on February 11, 2008 at Jonathan Law High School. Mary Jo is currently a nurse at the Yale Pediatric Emergency Department. She brings several unique qualities to our department including her expertise at pediatric illness and trauma assessment, her certification in PALS, as well as being a co-coordinator of the PALS program at Yale and school nursing experience while living in Wisconsin.

Emergency Preparedness Report - Presented by Tara Mustakos **Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report – Diana Yassanye**

Regional Preparedness Grant

Last week, we held an all-inclusive meeting of public health and medical emergency planning partners in Guilford. The meeting contained reports from subgroups working on components of our regional planning such as alternatives to Points of Dispensing, Mass Fatality Management, Hospital & Public Health relations and public health communications capabilities. The meeting was attended by 60 people and will be held again in April.

Rick Fontana and Tara Mustakos have incorporated all of D. Yassanye's regional responsibilities for the duration of her impending leave of absence. The team also has Bill Richards, emergency planning consultant, covering some of the planning initiatives and subgroup work.

Cities Readiness Initiative

Progress is being made to complete deliverables for this grant. One of the regional subgroups is comparing new models for alternative dispensing approaches to PODs and reported out last week at the regional meeting. The two new workstations in the meeting area are going to accommodate three of the part time/ consultant staff on the local, regional and CRI grants.

Local Preparedness Grant

The next volunteer newsletter is anticipated to be out in mid-February. Laurretta Toomey and Tara Mustakos will provide an update of upcoming all volunteer meetings scheduled for March and May. Tara Mustakos will be working to update the volunteer database to reflect the revised medical and non-medical volunteer forms.

Pandemic Flu planning

As a continuation of our local efforts to educate and inform the public about pandemics, Diana Yassanye and Tara Mustakos have attended the Devon Rotary and Milford Kiwanis monthly

meeting to present the Pandemic Continuity Guide for Businesses. Guides are also available through the Milford Health Department or Milford Chamber of Commerce. Requests have also been made from local businesses to the Milford Health Department for the Seasonal and Pandemic Flu Tri-Fold to distribute to employees.

Volunteer Programs: Milford Coalition for Community Preparedness & Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The Milford-Westfield Mall CERT graduated last month and will be highlighted in the next volunteer newsletter. We have verification that this is the first team of its kind not only in Connecticut but within Region 1 & 2 in the nation (15 states).

The Milford Health Department was recently awarded the National Association County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) MRC Capacity Building Award. Tara Mustakos has been appointed the MRC Coordinator for the Milford MRC.

Comments:

- C. Young asked what the new grant from NACCHO would be used for. T. Mustakos responded that it would be used to raise the standards of the training of the volunteers and bring them up a certain level.

Community Health Division Report—Presented by Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 20 cases of disease reported for the month of December with chlamydia being the most reported disease for the month. To date, we have not received any laboratory confirmed cases of influenza this season.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Milford's 1st Annual Parent Leadership Training Institute kicked-off with a one-day retreat held on Saturday, January 12th at First United Church of Christ, Congregational in Milford. We have a diverse group of 22 participants in the class. Speakers who attended the morning breakfast at the retreat to welcome participants included Dr. McBride, Mayor Richetelli, Dr. Polansky, Gary Johnson of the United Way of Milford, and Peggy Kelly of Kids Count of Milford. Participants spent a full day in class and have already provided positive feedback regarding PLTI. The class is extremely excited to move forward and eager to begin their community projects. Our PLTI Coordinator, Lesley Darling, has done a wonderful job. Special thanks to Joan Cagginello for coordinating all of the meals to be provided for the 22 weeks! The class will continue to meet on Monday nights for the next 20 weeks. Graduation has tentatively been scheduled for early June.

Pioneering Healthier Communities

The Health Department has been working with the Woodruff YMCA on conducting the Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative in Milford. The initiative is a community leadership strategy to facilitate healthier living through policy and environmental changes and is being conducted in communities around the country in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goals of the Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative are to raise awareness and strengthen the framework for community-wide movements to reverse

the trends in physical inactivity and increase access to wholesome foods in our community. The Central Connecticut Coastline YMCA received notice of approval of funding to support the Walking School Bus program and the Friday is Fruit Day initiative in Milford.

Comments:

- D. Joseph added that Joan and herself monitor Tuberculosis either at the office or by conducting home visits to observe treatment and make sure patients are taking medicine as directed. H. Fink asked if we monitor those persons recently released from Jail, as TB is high in those environments. D. Joseph explained that when someone new moves to the city or is a recent immigrant she receives notice by the State Department of Public Health or their physician to follow-up to continue treatment or begin treatment.

Director's Report – Presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

- D. McBride stated that he has to submit a proposal for the four possible uses of the Army Facility located on Seemans Lane, as the Health Department is one of the possible tenants. One scenario mentioned is combining Senior Housing and the Health Dept. E. Judson expressed concern over this scenario and asked if they would be tearing the building down or using what is there. D. McBride responded his main concern is to have an environmental assessment of the property to make sure there are no hazardous pollutants or environmental concerns.

Adjournment:

J. Reingold motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by E. Judson and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS, Recorder