

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2009**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EDD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, MSN, RN
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Howard Fink, MD, Secretary
William F. Lynch, MD
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Deborah Woods
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman Liaison

Health Department Staff Present

Laura Miller, Chief, Environmental Health
Beverly Hayes, Administrative Assistant
Sonja Devitt, Esq., Community Housing Inspector
Lesley Darling, Case Manager

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., however, due to lack of quorum, the Board meeting continued as informational only with no voting taking place.

Food Protection Presentation - presented by Laura Miler, RS, Chief. Environmental

Troubled Housing & Hoarding Presentation – presented by Sonja Devitt, Esq., Community Housing Inspector and Lesley Darling, Case Manager

Environmental Health Report – prepared by Laura Miller, RS

Sheltering

During extremely cold temperatures, typically below 32 degrees, the Beth-el Center opens a no-freeze shelter so that people who have no other options for over night housing in extreme cold weather have a place to stay. The no-freeze shelter can accommodate up to eight individuals overnight, and is open from 9 p.m. – 7 a.m. In addition, last week the Governor opened five State Armory's around the state, Stratford being the closest one, open from 8 p.m. – 10 a.m.

These shelters are available during extreme cold temperatures and are for overnight only. Individuals must leave during the day while the temperatures remain at or below freezing, and some may have no place to go and warm up. The Health Department plans to meet with representatives from the Human Services department, Red Cross and Beth-el to help address this gap in services and identify a warm place for people to go during the day.

Peanut Butter Recall

On January 10, 2009, the Milford Health Department was notified that King Nut Companies, a distributor of peanut butter manufactured for them by Peanut Corporation of America, announced a recall of peanut butter distributed under the King Nut label. It was determined that an open 5-lb tub of peanut butter tested positive for *Salmonella Typhimurium*, the positive sample was matched to the current multi-state *salmonella* outbreak affecting 42 states.

On January 14, 2009, Kellogg Company announced, as a precautionary measure, that they are putting a “hold” on the following products that use peanut paste manufactured by Peanut Corporation of America and are encouraging consumers to hold and not eat these products until regulatory officials complete their investigation and Kellogg provides further information.

On January 19, Peanut Corporation of America expanded its previous voluntary recall to include more products and lot numbers relating to peanut butter and peanut paste products manufactured on or after July 1, 2008, at its Blakely, Ga., plant because of potential *Salmonella* contamination. Additionally, other peanut butter and peanut paste containing products from manufacturers using the recalled product have been recalled.

Because this is an expanding recall, this office continually posts notices on our website, issues health alerts, via fax and or email, to all applicable establishments i.e. Long Term Care Facilities, Health Care/Hospitals, Schools, Daycare Centers and Food Service Establishments, etc., in addition to following up with inspections. During site-visits, we are able to provide education and product disposal guidance. To date we have no reports nor have we seen any of the peanut butter at any Milford establishment.

Comments:

Nursing Division Report – prepared by Joan Cagginello, RN, MS

Seasonal Influenza Status

An increasing level of influenza activity has been observed both at the state and national level. Connecticut is now reporting “local” activity, which is an increase from the “sporadic” activity that was noted in past weeks (see attached U.S. Map from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Milford has 3 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza to date. The influenza vaccine will be offered at the Milford Health Department Immunization Clinics through February.

Head Lice – Program to Assist Families

The schools encounter cases of pediculosis (head lice) throughout the school year. The school nurses work with the student and family to instruct and advise them in the approved treatment protocol developed by the Milford Health Department. The protocol is in accordance with recommendations from the Center’s for Disease and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Occasionally, families require additional assistance related to care of the home environment. The Visiting Nurses Association can be called to assist families, however often this offers a challenge if the family does not have health insurance coverage.

The Health Department has instituted a new program, enlisting the assistance of the sanitarians. A sanitarian can be called by a school nurse to make a home visit and provide education about care of the environment to families that are struggling with treatment of cases of repeated head lice infestation. This will hopefully meet the need of families that need additional guidance in providing treatment for their children.

School Health Services

There is currently an open position for a school nurse. The permanent part time nurse hired in August has resigned to take position in another district. We are seeking applicants for the position.

The school nurses will have a program presented by the Yale Medical Library Staff. Janene Batten and Lynn Sette are reference librarians who work at the Medical Library and are liaisons to the Yale School of Nursing and Medical School. They have written and received a National Institute of Health (NIH) grant to detail the challenge that school nurses have in accessing health information. Our school nurses participated in their initial assessment survey. Their project, *The Information Needs of CT School Nurses: Assessment and Resource Implementation* has been implemented and they will share strategies and resources with our nurses. The school nurse project has been well received in the nursing community and they will present their paper at the International Congress on Medical Librarianship in Brisbane this summer and also at the National Association of School Nurse conference in Boston in June.

Comments:

Community Health Division Report – prepared by Deepa Joseph, MPH

Disease Surveillance

There were 22 cases of disease reported for the month of December. The Health Department received 2 reports of laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza. We have had a total of 3 cases of influenza reported in Milford to date for the 2008-2009 influenza season.

2nd Annual Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Health Department, in collaboration with Kids Count and the Discovery Initiative in Milford, kicked off the 2nd Annual Milford PLTI on Saturday, January 10, 2009 with a one-day retreat. There are 23 participants in the class this year with a broad range of interests regarding children, including health and education issues. Honored guests who attending the morning welcome of the retreat included Dr. McBride, Mayor Richetelli, Representative Paul Davis, Representative Barbara Lambert, Dr. Harvey Polansky (Milford Public Schools), Peggy Kelly (Kids Count of Milford), and Gary Johnson (United Way of Milford). In addition, several members of the PLTI Design Team also attended. The retreat was followed by the first evening class on Monday, January 13, 2009. Classes will continue to take place on Monday nights from 5:30pm-9:00pm at the First United Church of Christ, Congregation.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program has received a total of 56 referrals for this contract year, with 10 of those referrals received in December. Due to the significant increase in referrals, the Community Health Coordinator is in the process of looking for additional grant funds to support the program. Based

on the trend of referrals thus far, the program may be in need of additional funds to support the program for the last few months of the contract year.

3rd Symposium on Compulsive Hoarding & Troubled Housing

The Milford Health Department is in the process of planning our third regional symposium on compulsive hoarding and troubled housing issues to be held in June. The symposium will focus on three major areas including public housing needs with a focus on the idea of neighborliness, animal hoarding, and best practice behavioral interventions. The planning committee is currently working on identifying a venue and speakers for the symposium. The target population for the symposium will include health departments, animal control agencies, community development, housing authorities, area agencies on aging, mental health professionals and other social support service agencies.

Comments:

Emergency Preparedness Report

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - prepared by Diana Yassanye, MS

Regional Preparedness Grant

State DPH has awarded the Milford Health Department with a grant to collect information on agencies in Region 2 which serve vulnerable populations. This information will be compiled into a database for use during a public health emergency. The grant is going to be used to work with the 30 towns to collect this information and to host three training meetings with these service organizations in the region to introduce them to the work of public health preparedness. This grant is slated to last until September 2009.

Cities Readiness Initiative

The full-scale, regional exercise (1st MEDs) on May 19, 2009 is in development. The exercise will focus on dispensing antibiotics to public health "critical staff" which will include first responders such as police, fire and POD volunteers.

The regional Technical Assessment Reviews conducted by the CDC and DPH last spring are being returned with baseline scores for each mass dispensing area. This review tool will be revisited once more exercises and planning has been documented. The concept allows for major improvements in the second round of evaluation due to documented expectations from the CDC.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report – prepared by Tara Mustakos, CHES

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

On Tuesday January 13th, the Milford Health Department requested members of the two Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) be put on stand by for the potential operating of an emergency municipal shelter. The American Red Cross requested the assistance of the Milford

Health Department volunteers in the event a shelter had to be open. Volunteers were asked to be on stand by throughout the weekend.

On Saturday, January 17th, health department staff contacted volunteers of the 2 CERT groups for availability through the weekend to staff a “warming center” at the health department. This was only to be implemented as a last resort for eight (8) or more people without shelter during daytime hours. Many volunteers did respond positively to assist although the warming center was not activated.

The Milford Health Department is planning it’s next all volunteer meeting for Tuesday January 27th at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at Platt Technical High, Milford’s public Point of Dispensing (POD). The agenda for this meeting will include discussion of the “3 Days, 3 Ways” public health preparedness program. The focus of the program is preparedness for individual residents: “have a plan, make a kit and get involved.” Bruce Varga and Chelsea Donini will provide volunteers with an overview of the program and how it will be implemented for the Milford community.

A second program developed by Washington State Emergency Management will be introduced into the MRC/CERT volunteer community. “Map Your Neighborhood” is an initiative to prepare individual neighborhoods for public health emergencies. The presentation will emphasize building relationships and strengthening disaster readiness among neighbors. The program is being introduced to public health volunteers as a pilot prior to introduction to the larger community.

Comments:

New Business:

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder