

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**February 17, 2015**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson  
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Joan Cagginello, MS, RN

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Ernest Judson  
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS  
Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Others Present: None.*

*Health Department Staff Present*

Deepa Joseph, MPH, Director of Health  
Beverly Hayes, BS, Recording Secretary

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – January 20, 2015**

*The minutes of the meeting held on January 20, 2015 were approved unanimously on a motion by J. Costello and seconded by M. Quintner.*

**Public Session:** *None*

**Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller, REHS/RS**

*Emergency Preparedness*

Due the prediction of an extreme weather event and the possibility of wide spread power outages, on January 26, 2015 the Mayor activated the City's Emergency Response Plan and requested that the Health Department make preparations for opening a warming center. Typically whenever the need arises for an emergency warming center it is located at the Senior Center. The Environmental Health Division is responsible for ensuring that all functional areas of the warming center operations have the necessary supplies to maintain adequate levels of care. The Fire Department moved the MHD supply trailer to the Senior Center and Sanitarians pre-staged all necessary supplies inside the building; by the end of the day, the warming center was ready to open if necessary. Further, communications went out to all food service establishments with information about food safety during an extended power outage, defined as longer than 4

hours. Fortunately, the weather was not as harsh as predicted, only several inches of snow fell with no power outages in Milford.

#### Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending February 13, 2015, the Health Department received 32 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2014/2015 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 571 complaints. Over time each complaint is in various stages of the process, some properties do not meet the criteria set up in the anti-blight ordinance and are being investigated under the Housing or General Public Health codes. Others are in compliance and show no cause for enforcement action, while others are still in progress or under investigation.

Currently, six properties failed to comply with the orders defined in the Notice of Violation and have been referred to the City Attorney's office for enforcement action. The owners of these properties may be fined \$100 for each day the violation(s) continue to exist after the compliance date specified in the notice of violation and after 6 months of actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance, the City Attorney will typically initiate the foreclosure process.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2014/2015	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
571	32	3	6

*Comments: None*

#### **Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN**

##### Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity remains high and remains classified geographically as “widespread”. The predominant circulating virus continues to be Type A (H3N2). As of 2/7/15, a total of 2,841 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 697 being in New Haven County. Influenza has been reported in all eight counties. A total of 919 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. A total of 17 flu associated deaths in individuals greater than 65 years of age have been reported to date in Connecticut.

.As of 2/6/15, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports influenza activity remains widespread across most of the country. Nationally, flu activity has been elevated for 11 consecutive weeks and is expected to continue for several more weeks, especially in parts of the country where activity started later.

The Milford Health Department continues its seasonal influenza campaign with monthly immunization clinics held at the Health Department. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through March 2015. Both the regular flu vaccine and the high dose vaccine for individuals over sixty-five years of age will be offered. The school nurses and Health Department continue to monitor the influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools; to date there has been intermittent ILI activity observed among our school age students. The school nurses continue to provide influenza prevention and hand washing education in all of the schools.

#### Measles Outbreak

The United States is experiencing a large multi-state measles outbreak. From January 1 to February 6, 2015, 121 people from 17 states and Washington DC were reported to have measles. Most of these cases [103 cases (85%)] are part of a large, ongoing multi-state outbreak linked to an amusement park in California. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the majority of people who got measles were unvaccinated.

The Milford Health Department, in conjunction with Dr. Carlson, Milford's Medical Advisor, and Dr. Feser, Superintendent of Schools, sent a notice to Milford parents and guardians regarding this outbreak and recommendations on vaccination. This letter was posted on the Milford Health Department and Milford Public Schools websites.

The Milford school system has a high compliance rate with the measles vaccine. Only 1% of our school population is not vaccinated.

#### School Health Services

The Milford School Nurses will be meeting with Dr. Carlson, our new school medical advisor, on February 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be the nurses first meeting with Dr. Carlson. We will be reviewing our updated Forms Book.

Kindergarten Registration is coming up in next month. In prior years, it was held at the individual schools. This year, it will be at Parsons during a two week period in March. Two school nurses will be assigned to participate in the registration process to review health forms and immunization status to ensure compliance for school entry. They will also be available to answer any health related questions or concerns about their child from the parent or guardian.

*Comments: None*

#### **Emergency Preparedness Reports – Tara Mustakos-Wassmer, REHS/RS, CHES**

The City of Milford Health Department is an essential part of emergency response in times of extreme weather events. Last month's plummeting temperatures lead the health department Environmental Health Division Chief and sanitarians to mobilize under the direction of the Mayor, Emergency Management Director and Health Director to set up a Warming Center at Milford Senior Center. The Environmental Health Division staff is responsible for logistics in emergency response. This includes setting up cots (Warming Center or Shelter), coordinating with Milford Fire to move the Response Units (trailer) to the designated location, setting up signs and communicating with Milford Police for security as needed.

Staff was prepared to open the Warming Center and run 8 hour shifts throughout the day and through overnight hours. An emergency call back was sent out to all health department staff including sanitarians, nurses and administrative staff. Additionally, the Milford Health Department Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers were contacted. The decision was made not to open a Warming Center. Environmental Health staff broke down all the materials set up and worked with Senior Center volunteers to demobilize.

The health department continues to monitor the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak. Local health authorities are responsible for the needs of individuals under quarantine monitoring. This can include food, shelter (if applicable), laundry services if needed, medical & prescription needs, entertainment and arrangement of educational services for school-aged children. The Milford Health Department developed a draft plan to address an EVD quarantine person in Milford.

The second Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training has been completed. This team consists exclusively of retired Milford Fire Department staff (aka the Dinosaurs). The group is a valuable asset with years of experience in first response and the possession of a canteen truck. CERT is activated under the umbrella of emergency management, under the supervision of Fire Chief Douglas Edo and the Director of Health.

Region 2 Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Public Health & Medical, will meet this month for the first quarterly meeting of the year. Director of Health Deepa Joseph is Chairperson for this group. Region 2 consists of 30 towns, of which all health departments and districts in this geographic area regularly participate for grant deliverable work and attend the quarterly meetings.

*Comments: None*

### **Community Health – Deepa Joseph, MPH**

#### *Disease Surveillance*

There were 110 cases of disease reported for the month of January, with influenza being the most reported disease.

The Milford Health Department, in collaboration with Milford Public Schools, recently sent out a letter to parents regarding the current measles outbreak in the United States. As of February 6, 2015, 121 cases have been reported across 17 states and the District of Columbia. The letter was sent to parents in an effort to raise awareness regarding the current outbreak, as well as to encourage parents to obtain the MMR vaccine for any children that may not be adequately vaccinated. In addition to the letter to parents, the Milford Health Department also sent out a Health Advisory to medical providers regarding the outbreak.

#### *Putting on AIRS Asthma Program*

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 8 referrals for the month of January for a total of 49 referrals this contract period. Through the program's partnership with the REACH program

at St. Raphael's Hospital, this month a pediatric resident accompanied program staff on a home visit in order to learn about the program first-hand. The experience was beneficial to staff, as well as the resident, as they were able to work together to address the referral's asthma management, review medications, and discuss environmental triggers to asthma in the home setting.

#### Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

PLTI enables parents to become leading advocates for children in their community through participation in four phases of training—a one-day retreat, a 10-week course on parent leadership, a 10-week course on civic engagement, and a community project to practice what participants have learned within a community context. Participants have completed week 3 of the class and are beginning to identify their interests for the community project. The PLTI Coordinator is working closely with participants to match projects with community agencies that may share similar interests and goals. There are currently 14 participants in the class.

*Comments: None*

#### **Old Business:**

#### **Director's Report: Deepa Joseph, MPH**

- *D. Joseph attached a packet to the Agenda explaining each:*
  - *A joint letter with Dr. Feser and Dr. Carlson was sent out to all parents of students notifying them of the current measles outbreak in the United States and encouraging immunization for Measles for those who are not adequately immunized. Currently, approximately 1% of students are not vaccinated due to medical or religious exemptions (thus Milford has approximately 99% herd immunity). D. Joseph stated that a Health Advisory was also sent to local medical providers regarding the outbreak. C. Young asked if the breakdown of number of religious exemptions vs. medical exemptions is available. D. Joseph stated that information can be obtained via our current database. D. Joseph added that there is currently a Senator that is reviewing the existing legislation regarding immunization exemptions. J. Cagginello stated that the Senator has received support from several state associations as well.*
  - *Summary of Milford Health Department Activities, Description of Roles & Responsibilities of the Environmental Health Division, & Complaint and Blight Maps. These handouts were presented at the Board of Finance budget hearing in an effort to raise awareness regarding Health Department activities and programs. C. Young added that she would like to see the number of inspections the sanitarians complete throughout the year added to the document. D. Joseph responded that she would add that before her Board of Alderman budget hearing. C. Young added that she would also like to see the Parent Leaders Trained changed to Parent Leadership Training Institute in the Summary of Activities in order to provide clarification.*

- *D. Joseph stated there were approximately 90 applicants that applied for the Administrative Assistant position. Testing begins this week and whoever passes the typing test moves on to the computerized testing for other software applications and then interviews will be scheduled.*
- *D. Joseph added that the extreme cold temperatures allowed the Health Department to pre-stage a warming center, however, there was not a need to open the warming center.*
- *M. Quintner asked for an update regarding the panhandling campaign. D. Joseph stated that the panhandling seems to have decreased recently, however it is not clear if that is due to the weather or the Have A Heart, Give Smart campaign or a combination of the two. D. Joseph has been notified that a few of the individuals have sought the services of agencies listed on the outreach cards handed out for educational purposes in recent months.*
- *D. Joseph stated that Dr. Carlson would be meeting with all the nurses this week and he has already stopped by some of the schools and met some of the nurses. Several changes have already been made to forms and standing orders to bring them up to date. J. Cagginello added that it is beneficial that Dr. Carlson sees what other districts do and knows the practicality of the office as a provider.*
- *D. Joseph explained that as part the budget process the Deputy Director of Health position has been eliminated and funds were put into a 19 hour/week position to cover and the Director of Nursing position is proposed to change from a 10-month to a 12-month position.*
- *D. Joseph stated that one of her long term goals is to work on Accreditation of the Health Department. She is looking to acquire a grant that would help with the funding required to achieve it and is hopeful that the proposed part-time position will assist with obtaining such funds.*

**New Business:**

- *C. Young stated that Laura Fucci has resigned from the Board of Education so she is waiting to find out who is appointed as a liaison the Board of Health.*

**Adjournment:**

*J. Costello motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by M. Quintner and was unanimously approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS  
Recorder