

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2010**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
William F. Lynch, MD
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Deborah Woods
Diane Kruger-Carroll, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Howard Fink, MD, Secretary
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Deepa Joseph, MPH, Community Health Coordinator

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2009 & January 19, 2010

The minutes of the meetings held on November 17, 2009 and January 19, 2010 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by W. Lynch.

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller

Anti-Blight

To date, the Health Department has received 92 complaints of blight, 22 of which are repeat complaints. Each complaint is in various stages of the process – some properties do not meet the criteria set up in the 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. After several inspections, reviews, and discussions with owners, thus far, 10 properties have been issued a notice of violation under the blight ordinance. Two of these properties, 71 Timber Trail and 36 Regent Terrace, have 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, meaning the owners of these properties will be fined \$100 for each day the violation(s) continue to exist.

In an effort to keep residents aware of the progress of their complaint, we have put into practice a process to follow-up with the complainant notifying them that their complaint has been received, assigned to an Environmental Health Sanitarian and is in the process of being investigated. If there is no cause for action or if the property is cited under the blight ordinance, the complainant is again notified of the action of the Health Department.

Total # of blight	Submitted by anti-	Submitted by other	Repeat complaints	Notice of Violation	Under Investigation	Abated/remedied/closed	No cause for enforcement
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complaints	blight complaint form			issued			action
92	55	36	22	10	8	36	16

Recalls

Recently the Environmental Health Division followed up on several retail food recalls. On January 12, 2010 the Health Department was informed that Parkers Farm, Inc of Coon Rapids Minnesota was recalling products because they had the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. The recalled products consisted of peanut butter, dips and cheese spreads and were distributed nationwide to the following retail stores in Milford: Costco, Target, Shoprite and Whole Foods. Fortunately we did not find any of the products in Milford.

On January 25, 2010 the Health Department was informed that Daniele International Inc., an establishment with operations in Pascoag and Mapleville, R.I., recalled ready-to-eat (RTE) varieties of Italian sausage products because they may be contaminated with *Salmonella*. During the ongoing investigation of this multi-state outbreak, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) became aware of a confirmed finding of *Salmonella* in an unopened salami product not included in the previous recall. This recall was considered major. The Milford Health Department shared the recall information with the retail and food service establishments in Milford and conducted follow-up site-visits with establishments that serve highly susceptible populations especially in day care, health care, schools, and elderly feeding programs.

For all recalls, the Environmental Division posts notice on our website, issues a health alert, 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 the site-visits, we are able to provide education and product disposal guidance.

Comments:

- D. McBride reviewed the process for receipt of blight complaints at the Health Department.
- D. Kruger-Carroll asked if any special considerations are granted with housing complaints where the property owner has mental or physical health issues. D. McBride responded that the Health Department investigates each case to evaluate whether a public health issue exists regardless of ownership. However, Health Department staff works closely with each case to resolve matters and makes referrals to appropriate agencies as necessary, depending on individual circumstances.

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

H1N1 Influenza and H1N1 Influenza Vaccination

Influenza Like Illness Surveillance

Influenza Like Illness (ILI) surveillance continues to be collected from our school nurses in the public and parochial schools. Currently we are experiencing a period of good consistent student attendance with little to no influenza like illness observed by the school nurses in the school setting. This is in sharp contrast to last school year (SY 08-09) during the month of February, when absenteeism escalated to concerning levels and evidence of influenza like illness was prevalent. It is significant to note that measures to provide both seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccination to Milford residents was a priority of the Health Department, as well as encouraging primary care providers to administer influenza vaccine to their patients

H1N1 Vaccination Clinics

The Milford Health Department continues to hold weekly H1N1 influenza vaccination clinics at the Health Department throughout the month of February. Weekly clinics, held on Tuesday evenings at the Health Department, will continue through March. All people, age 6 months and older are eligible to attend the clinic to receive their vaccination.

Immunization Coordinator

A part time Immunization Coordinator, Beth Boyd, RN, BSN was hired in January. Her role is to coordinate the H1N1 influenza clinics, plan new clinics, analyze the data from the clinics and provide the documentation to the Connecticut Department of Public Health. She will also oversee the monthly Immunization Clinics, working with the Lead Nurse, to provide immunizations and tuberculin tests for adults and children. The position is a grant funded position that will run through June 2010.

School Health Services

Kindergarten Registration

All public and parochial schools will hold kindergarten registration at their schools in late February and throughout the month of March. The school nurses will participate in the registration process by meeting with parents to review immunization status, inform parents of the physical examination and immunization requirements and to discuss special health concerns of children entering school in September 2010.

Mumps Disease Advisory

The school nurses have been alerted to the multi-state mumps outbreak in the northeast region of the country. Connecticut has experienced 13 suspected cases of mumps since January 1, 2010. The nurses will be alert to signs and symptoms of mumps in their students. They have also been encouraged to be aware of students who have religious or medical exemptions for some or all immunizations, rendering those children more susceptible to communicable disease. The Connecticut Department of Public Health has issued information to local public health and primary care providers about clinical manifestations of mumps, disease transmission, management of disease and testing available.

Comments:

- C. Young highlighted the Mumps Advisory portion of the nursing report and asked about the immunization status of school children in Milford. D. McBride responded that students are well immunized and that the school nurses are monitoring those students who have religious or medical exemptions for immunizations.

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 11 cases of disease reported for the month of January. Since August 30, 2009, there have been 39 laboratory confirmed cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza in Milford. The Community Health Coordinator continues to be involved in H1N1 surveillance activities, including Influenza-Like Illness surveillance in the community.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The Milford Family Resource Center is in the process of developing a 4-part television series for Milford Government Access Television. The first part will focus on the issue of asthma. Specifically, the 30-minute segment will feature the Putting on AIRS program. Program staff will discuss environmental triggers of asthma and go through an actual home visit during the program. The Milford Family Resource Center hopes to air the asthma episode in March 2010.

Physical Activity Grant

The Milford Health Department has been working with the Boys & Girls Club of Milford on implementing physical activity programs during the Club's after-school program. The Boys & Girls Club of Milford currently works with over 100 youth from elementary, middle, and high schools in Milford. As part of the after-school program, the Boys & Girls Club allows students to utilize their gym for "free play." The Community Health Coordinator is working with the Unit Director at the Boys & Girls Club on a running program that students would be encouraged to participate in during the after-school program. The long-term goal is to establish various physical activity programs that youth see as a positive, healthy, fun habit that any child can participate in. Activities that will be promoted include walking, running, and "backyard games" that promote increased physical activity levels per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Comments:

None.

Emergency Preparedness Report – Amy Shields & Tara Mustakos

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - Amy Shields

A Regional H1N1 After Action Report will be submitted to the State Department of Public Health under the Cities Readiness Initiative Grant. This report will focus on H1N1 pandemic planning and operations among the ten (10) Mass Dispensing Areas in Region 2. Information regarding shipments of H1N1 vaccine from the state to the locals will be included along with vaccination clinic activity and the overall handling of the pandemic.

The Youth Clerk program was developed this past Fall as an opportunity for high school students to work within health departments, or other related organizations, throughout the region. Currently there are two clerks working at the Milford Health Department. The Wallingford Health Department has shown interest in the program, and has selected a high school student from the Wallingford school system to begin as a clerk. The Hill Health Center in New Haven has also found a candidate from West Haven High School. Clerks working in Milford are in the process of coordinating presentations within the high schools on the 3 Days, 3 Ways emergency preparedness program. Other activities have included assistance in H1N1 clinics, completion of new articles for local bulletins, data entry regarding ID Badges for volunteers, and bulletin board development.

The University of New Haven has developed an Emergency Management Certificate Program. The university is working to have the program available this Fall. The program will consist of 4 courses, and can be completed in one academic year. The overarching goal is to develop the future of emergency management by raising the level of professionalism in emergency management personnel.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report - Tara Mustakos

The Milford Health Department continues to host H1N1 flu vaccination clinics. Vaccination clinics are held at the Health Department office due to logistical and staffing limitations. Hosting the clinic at the health department allows for greater recognition of the health department to our residents while still allowing non-residents to receive the vaccine. Vaccination clinics will continue into the spring and are scheduled through the end of March at the Health Department.

The Milford Health Department MRC/CERT volunteers were recently called upon to assist with the cleanup process from the Middletown Kleen Energy Plant explosion. The MRC/CERT member volunteers across DEMHS Regions 2 & 3 were activated to be on site for logistical support. Three CERT members from Milford participated last week for this effort. Volunteers were utilized at check points for security purposes. It is anticipated volunteers from both Regions will continue to assist with the operation through the end of this month.

MRC/CERT members will receive additional training coming this spring. Training topics on the docket include shelter operation training, N95 Fit testing updates and animal rescue training for those volunteers interested. The Regional Full Scale exercise scheduled in July will also be an opportunity for Milford volunteers to participate. Training is becoming a regional effort for volunteer corps throughout the DEMHS Regions to ensure consistency and offer additional volunteer opportunities.

Comments:

None.

New Business

None.

Director's Report:

- D. McBride highlighted the Health Department's progress in implementing and enforcing the Anti-Blight Ordinance.
- D. McBride provided an overview of the Department's proposed budget for next year and reported that he attended the Board of Finance budget meeting earlier in the week. The budget process will continue for the next several weeks.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deepa Joseph, MPH
Recorder