

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2012

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Secretary
William F. Lynch, MD
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
George Gensure, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Susan Shaw, Board of Alderman Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

George Gensure, Board of Education Liaison was introduced to the Board members and Staff. He stated that should he looks forward to working with everyone.

Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2012

The minutes of the meetings held on January 17, 2012 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by C. Gonillo .

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS

Environmental Health Staff Training Recently, Tina McCarthy, an Epidemiologist from the CT Department of Public Health came to MHD to provide training to the Environmental Health Division staff on how to use the DPH MAVEN software as it pertains to lead cases.

The Connecticut Electronic lead surveillance system is one component of the MAVEN computer software application used by the CT DPH for public health tracking. In utilizing this software, MHD will be able to monitor and update the status of current lead cases, file paperwork with CTDPH and enter any activities pertaining to lead cases electronically. In the past MHD shared confidential information pertaining to open lead cases through the mail or by faxing. Using this software will save time and improve communication.

I95 Service Plaza Northbound Construction is complete on the northbound side of I95. With the completion of the service plaza, ten new food service establishments opened their doors on March 16th.

I95 Service Plaza Southbound Construction continues on the southbound side. Once complete, an additional eleven new food service establishments will also be opening.

Anti-blight activities As of the week ending March 16, 2012 the Health Department received 69 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 306 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, eight 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. These eight properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance.

Comments: None

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

School Health Services

The Connecticut State Department of Education Health Services Survey – The Milford Health Department has participated in the statewide School Health Services Survey for the past eight years. The survey is designed to assist the CT State Department of Education to understand the status of school health services in CT school districts, the needs of school districts and students in the area of school health services and progress being made in these areas over time. The survey addresses several areas in school health services such as student health care needs, screenings and referrals, staffing and health coordination. The annual survey also provides an opportunity to review district specific information such as, 92.5% of students return to class within 30 minutes of receiving a nursing intervention and the most common chronic health conditions in our schools are asthma, food allergies and behavioral/emotional health issues.

The Health Department hosted a visit from Donna Mazyck, Executive Director of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), the recognized professional organization that advances the specialty practice of school nursing to improve the health and academic success of all students. Ms. Mazyck was the keynote speaker at the Critical Issues in School Health conference sponsored by the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Ms. Mazyck visited our schools, met school nurses, teachers and Principals and concluded her visit at the Health Department where she discussed the integral role of the school nurse in public health and leadership.

Milford Prevention Council

The Milford Prevention Council (MPC) is an organization that is dedicated to reduce underage drinking and substance abuse through prevention education, the support of law enforcement and the strengthening of community collaboration. The Nursing Administrator is a member of the Advisory Committee and also serves on the Programs Committee. The Programs Committee's mission is to develop and facilitate youth, parent and community events that promote the mission of the MPC. Events that the MPC has held over the past year include;

Underage Drinking Forums – The first annual forum was presented in the fall at both Jonathan Law and Foran High Schools. Speakers presented brief presentations from the point view of legal implications of underage drinking, health & social effects and cases of personal loss association with underage drinking. The Milford Public Schools require mandatory attendance at the events for freshman and their parents.

TIPS Training – TIPS Training (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) is a program that provides education and training for liquor store and restaurant & bar owners and workers for the responsible service, sale and consumption of alcohol. The program is designed to prevent intoxication, underage drinking and drunk driving.

Drug Take Back Day - The MPC collaborates with the Milford Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to hold periodic *Drug Take Back Days* in Milford. The focus is to collect and dispose of prescription medications in a safe way. Residents are encouraged to bring their unused or expired medications to the collection site for proper disposal. The event serves two purposes; it will reduce the number of medications that can potentially contaminate the water or soil if improperly discarded. Additionally, this effort can reduce the number of narcotic medications that may be kept in homes that may be taken and abused by adolescents and adults in the community.

The next *Drug Take Back Day* is scheduled for April 28th from 10am-2pm at the Milford Senior Citizen Center.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Reports

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report – Steve Maheux

Upcoming Conferences

Region 2 was recently awarded funds to host a series of conferences that will focus on multi-municipality shelters. These funds are coming from the Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) Steering Committee, and will allow the Milford Health Dept. to provide valuable training opportunities that are consistent with the exercise objectives put forth by Governor Malloy for the upcoming statewide exercise (scheduled for July 28-30). An exercise planning team is being formed to outline the format and content of these conferences.

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) Workshop

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a competency-based training and recognition program that assesses preparedness planning and response efforts. The program builds preparedness capacity and capability through a continuous quality improvement model. The assessment consists of the evaluation of all-hazards preparedness plans, exercising the plans, and development of a strong workforce through training. Under contract deliverables, each of the five [5] regions in Connecticut will complete a PPHR application by 2013. We will be forming a Region 2 Committee to work on this project, ensuring that our application meets the standards established by the National

Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and that our regional plan is as robust as it can be.

Public Health Preparedness Contracts

All Technical Assistance Reviews (TARs) have been scheduled for Region 2 and are being conducted over the next several weeks. A seminar will be provided to the Region 2 Mass Dispensing Areas (MDAs) in mid-June, highlighting the results from the last two TAR evaluations.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report - Tara Mustakos

Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The Milford Health Department completed the annual Technical Assessment Review (TAR) on April 10th 2012. The TAR was conducted by the state health department and a representative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this year. This was Milford's first federal review. Milford was chosen as one of two Mass Dispensing areas to be evaluated by the CDC. Public health emergency preparedness plans are under review for compliance and completeness to fulfill TAR requirements. An improvement plan will be developed according to CDC recommendations and submitted to the state health department.

Milford Health Department staff are organizing a schedule to participate in Regional Planning workshops for sheltering and planning for Regional *Project Public Health Ready* application. During Tropical Storm Irene, the Milford Health Department was the lead organization to open, manage, operate and close the emergency evacuation shelter at Jonathan Law High School. Development of a plan for best practices, communication systems and logistic plans used at the shelter will be implemented into an operational document in the event a shelter is needed in the future. A meeting with the Emergency Management Director for approval of this plan will be within the coming weeks.

Comments: None

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 19 cases of disease reported for the month of March, with chlamydia being the most reported. The Health Department has received five reports of laboratory-confirmed seasonal influenza this year.

Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Milford's 4th PLTI class has reached the midway point in this 20-week course focused on teaching leadership skills to parents to encourage advocacy on behalf of Milford's children. All seventeen (17) participants have submitted Community Project proposals. Projects include designing & conducting educational workshops on health topics including healthy eating, environmental health, etc.; clothes closet for Milford children; designing a Milford PLTI Alumni website; community beach clean-ups; a resource guide for parents of adult children with special needs; and many more. Classes will continue through June and will culminate with a local graduation ceremony to be held mid-June.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 16 referrals for the month of March, resulting in a total of 87 referrals for this contract year. As a result of such excellent work in the area of asthma, the Milford Health Department continues to take the lead of the Greater New Haven Regional Asthma Coalition. The Asthma Coalition is a regional group dedicated to improving the health of persons with asthma. The coalition is made up of representatives from the New Haven, Wallingford, Guilford, Meriden and Milford health departments as well as East Shore Health District and Quinnipiack Valley Health District.

Milford Prevention Council (MPC)

The Community Health Coordinator has been an active member of the Advisory Committee of the Milford Prevention Council (MPC) over the past few years. The mission of the MPC is to reduce underage drinking and substance abuse through prevention education, the support of law enforcement and the strengthening of community collaboration. The Community Health Coordinator serves on the Marketing Committee of the MPC. The Marketing Committee works to promote the mission of the MPC within the community and has been actively involved in the development of a website (www.milfordprevention.org), brochure, and outreach for programs related to the MPC.

Comments: None

Old Business:

- *C. Young inquired as to what ESF-8 stood for. She read it in her E-Bulletin from Bruce Varga. D. McBride responded that it stands for Emergency Support Function with the number 8 corresponding to medical services provided for coordinating with Federal assistance for local response to public health and medical disasters.*
- *D. McBride stated that Sonja is working on a report for the Mayor regarding an emergency plan at the Milford Housing Authority during a disaster. This is in response to an inspection and the conditions found on Viscount Drive public housing after Hurricane Irene. He added that he would be meeting with the Mayor regarding this.*
- *C. Young stated that should the Board decide to go into Executive Session, she is to contact the City Attorney's office to be advised on correct wording and placement on the Agenda.*

Director's Report:

- *D. McBride stated that after Hurricane Irene the concern for sheltering caused much discussion in the State. The Governor has called for a full scale exercise at the end of July of this year to deal with sheltering. The ESF groups will be working together on the responsibility of municipalities to set up their own shelters, to educate and provide uniformity. He added that every locality has its own sets of assets. Milford Hospital is included, with Alan Lynn, their employee and co-chair of the ESF-8 group. The Red Cross is also working together with the region. There is discussion of setting up a multi-city shelter not a regional shelter and there will be training in the region before the exercise to create uniformity as to what a shelter ought to do. He added that they would like to build the shelter plan into the Emergency Plan for the City.*
- *D. McBride also stated that Milford Hospital had an lockdown exercise and some of the staff members were there to evaluate the exercise and the hospital did a great job.*

- *D. McBride stated he is giving a hoarding presentation to a Chinese Delegation at the University of New Haven, which was arranged by Bruce Varga, the MRC Coordinator for the Health Dept and professor at the University.*

New Business:

- *C. Gonillo stated that the Bar Association is looking into topics to cover and she mentioned that perhaps public health-legal education might be of interest. Dr. McBride stated that he could give a presentation to them.*
- *D. McBride stated that a student intern conducted an obesity study as her thesis for college which will be shared with everyone including the Board of Education. G. Gensure added that the Board of Education adopted a new Healthy Food Initiative program for the public schools.*

Adjournment:

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by W. Lynch and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder