

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
April 18, 2017**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN  
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary  
Ernest Judson  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN  
Thomas Jagodzinski, Board of Education Liaison

*Others Present: None.*

*Health Department Staff Present:*

Deepa Joseph, MPH, Director of Health

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

**Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on March 21, 2017 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

**Public Session:** *None*

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

**Mosquito Control:** The 2017 mosquito control program kicked-off this month when All Habitat Services, the mosquito control consultant for the city of Milford, started monitoring the wetlands habitats in Milford for mosquito larva and treating the marshy areas throughout the City. On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, the Milford Health Department (“MHD”) held a media event to kick-off the mosquito season and to discuss our Mosquito Control Program. The primary focus of our mosquito management program is on preventive efforts through mosquito breeding site reduction, especially in densely populated areas, and education about personal protection. In June, the CT Agricultural Experiment Station will begin mosquito monitoring throughout Connecticut to identify, trap and test insects for early detection of West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, as well as monitoring for Zika virus. Mosquito trapping is conducted daily from June through October at 91 permanent locations throughout the state with two locations in Milford.

*Emergency Preparedness:* On Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> the MHD tested a new location for our closed medication point of distribution (“POD”). The exercise tested the distribution of medication to critical City employees. The Environmental Health Division works diligently to ensure all logistical needs are met during any Public Health emergency. In particular, during this exercise the Environmental Division staff played a critical role during the planning and implementing of the POD exercise. Members of the Environmental Health Division are responsible for ensuring that all MHD POD’s are set-up, organized, run and broken down smoothly, in addition to providing logistical support wherever needed.

*Anti-blight activities:* As of the week ending April 14, 2017 the Health Department received 295 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 295 complaints, 51 were complaints of blight for the 2016/2017 fiscal year thus far. 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. Properties that fail to comply with the orders defined in the issued Notice of Violation are 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.

*Comments:*

- *R. Vitali asked where the CT Agricultural Experiment Station trapping sites are in Milford. D. Joseph responded that they are on Erna Avenue and Fresh Meadow Lane.*
- *E. Beatty asked what the larvicide used for mosquito control is comprised of. D. Joseph responded that the larvicide is an organic material, specifically a naturally occurring microbe that is extremely effective in controlling a wide species of mosquito larvae.*

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

*Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign*

For the week ending April 8, 2017, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity is past peak in CT, although there are localized areas of increase. Current flu activity is low but is still classified geographically as “widespread”. Influenza Type B has been the predominant flu virus in recent weeks, although the predominant 2016-17 season circulating virus remains Type A, subtype influenza A (H3N2). A total of 6,119 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 1,389 being in New Haven County. A total of 1,828 hospitalized patients with laboratory confirmed influenza have been reported. A total of 46 influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date, with 41 in individuals greater than 65 years of age, 4 between 50-64 years of age, and 1 between 25-50 years of age.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that flu activity continues to decline yet activity remains elevated in parts of the country. According to the CDC, the effectiveness of the flu vaccine this season was 48%. Vaccine effectiveness against Type A (H3N2) was 43% while vaccine effectiveness against B viruses was 73%.

The Milford Health Department has concluded its seasonal influenza campaign. A total of 867 influenza vaccinations were administered. The school nurses and Health Department continue to monitor the influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools.

#### **Bloodborne Pathogen Training**

Bloodborne Pathogen Training for identified employees in the Public Works Department was held on several days last month. Make-up sessions continue this month. Several employees have requested the Hepatitis B vaccine as a prophylactic measure and a clinic will be scheduled in the near future.

#### **School Health Services**

The school nurses are in the process of completing the CT Department of Public Health Asthma Surveillance survey. This is an annual survey based on the School Health Assessment Record (HAR blue form). Requested information is only reported for students with asthma in grades requiring a physical exam and prior to school entrance (Pre-K, K, 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades).

#### **Nursing Conferences**

The annual school nurse conference, ***Critical Issues in School Health***, was held on March 30<sup>th</sup> in Cromwell, CT. The Milford Health Department had good representation with two school nurses, Dr. Carlson and myself attending. Information on a wide variety of school health issues was presented. Topics included: sentinel injuries, ear exams, common orthopedic and musculoskeletal complaints, identifying high risk violent behavior, supporting LGBTQ youth, and several others. The conference was very informative and enjoyed by everyone.

#### **Comments:**

- *None.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) participated in a regional functional exercise March 22<sup>nd</sup>, to continue the planning for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)/infectious disease response. Two mass dispensing areas (MDAs) from Region 2, Milford and Meriden staffed the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in their town/city and working through a scenario to address an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) situation.

Milford conducted a full scale exercise in tandem with this exercise to test the new location of the closed point of dispensing (POD) for city employees. The main purpose of a POD is to get medications to people in a public health emergency i.e. white powder exposure. The full scale exercise exposed some strengths and opportunities for improvement. In less than two hours several hundred cases of medication, in this case Tic Tacs, were distributed to city employees. A comprehensive after action report (AAR) is being developed and will be submitted to the CT Department of Public Health as required by grant deliverables.

The survey sent out to the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers created by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPPCC) will be closed out for responses in the next week. The survey was meant to assess knowledge and attitudes of hurricane preparedness

and evacuation. Data will be compiled by the Yale group and submitted to MHD in a final report. The plan is to improve community resiliency and storm preparedness.

The monthly Region 2 MRC meeting was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at ESHD in Branford. Only one of the two Region 2 MRC Coordinators that attended the February 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary people trained to save lives in shootings, attacks was present to provide feedback on what they thought of the 2/15 meeting. New Haven had positive comments and seemed to feel that the program had merit. The Region 2 MRC Coordinator explained to attendees that Region 2 is considering making this a Regional training program or individual MRC's could do their own program in their town or city. Since then, a prepackaged program called "Until Help Arrives" has been released by the National MRC organization and it looks like it might represent an alternative to the program we just presented. Further investigation into this program will be conducted by this group.

MHD staff attended the Regional Family Assistance Center (FAC) workgroup meeting. The goal of this meeting was to go through the plan section by section to identify forms needed, training sheets needed by position and additional addendum material which would be required to make this plan operational. Local representatives will be doing presentations at the next Emergency Management Support Function (ESF) 8 meetings for all public health and medical partners. Go-kits are also being developed to be distributed to local health departments.

*Comments:*

- *E. Judson asked whether MHD has considered conducting Point of Dispensing (POD) exercises more often. D. Joseph responded that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend testing each POD site at least once every five years.*

**Community Health – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA**

Disease Surveillance

There were 70 cases of disease reported for the months of March, with Influenza as being the most frequently reported.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

New contract changes have allowed the program to modify eligibility, while extending the number of home visits as directed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The program now offers up to three (3) home visits and a 6 month follow up after a participant has been enrolled. In total we received 130 referrals since the beginning of the contract year. For the month of March we received 12 referrals, completed 39 initial home visits, 27 second and 19 third home visits. We have completed one (1) 6 month follow up call. The new database has created a challenge in keeping track of home visits which has been shared with DPH. Inputting and extracting accurate data for our program has been an on-going challenge that DPH is working on with us.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

PLTI will begin its eighth training institute on January 14, 2017. PLTI has successfully maintained 18 diverse participants for this year. The relationship building and cohesion of this group has come together with its own distinctiveness. We have had great success from this program with 107 graduates. PLTI which 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 are now sharing and receiving feedback on their project ideas and development.

*PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board)*

The Milford Health Department is still preparing itself to submit an application to become accredited. Our next step is looking at quality improvement for the department. We have continued to work on drafting and reviewing our first project in the environmental division. We will continue to work in the health department as a team to become accredited while keeping a look out for other funding opportunities.

*NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) Challenge Award*

The Department is nearing the end of its 2015-2016 NACCHO's Medical Reserve Corps Challenge Award. We have worked with Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) to conduct a survey of MRC volunteers and Milford Residents to assess their hurricane knowledge, risk perceptions, training experience, communication skills and resources to conduct face to face conversations. The survey was disseminated to the public in March with expectation to close mid-April. We are looking forward to closing the survey and analyzing the results. Results will then be utilized to develop recommendations for a training and recruitment program for Milford MRC to serve as neighborhood ambassadors.

*Comments:*

- *None.*

**Old Business:**

- *None*

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

- *D. Joseph reported that she attended the Board of Alderman budget hearing on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and thanked C. Young for attending as well. D. Joseph reported that the Mayor requested that all Department Heads submit contingency budgets that may be considered depending on what happens with the State budget.*
  - *C. Young stated that one of the Alderman's question really spoke to the tremendous amount of work being done by a small staff of Sanitarians in the department. Board members asked about the status of the existing Sanitarian vacancy. D. Joseph responded that she would like to post for the position as soon as possible, however the timing is dependent on the current spending freeze.*

**New Business:**

- *None.*

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deepa Joseph  
Recorder