

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**April 19, 2016**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

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

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN  
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Others Present: None*

*Health Department Staff Present:*

Deepa Joseph, MPH, Director of Health  
Marianne Klinga, Recording Secretary

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

**Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on March 15, 2016 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 2016 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 5, 2016, 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.

### Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending April 15, 2016 the Health Department received 296 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 296 complaints, 41 were complaints of blight for the 2015/2016 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:*

- *Discussion ensued about the Mosquito Control Program event kickoff, which was well covered by the media and a good opportunity to educate the public about standing water in containers on their property and prevention techniques.*
- *Discussion ensued about anti-blight activities and the investigation and enforcement process.*

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

#### Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

For the week ending April 9, 2016, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity has peaked in Connecticut and in most of the country and is currently classified geographically in Connecticut as “widespread”. A total of 3,985 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 1,156 being in New Haven County. A total of 969 hospitalized patients with laboratory confirmed influenza have been reported. A total of 25 influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date, with most associated with illness occurring during peak activity weeks in March. Sixteen of these individuals were greater than 65 years of age, seven were 50 – 64, and two were 25 – 49 years of age.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, flu activity has decreased but remains slightly elevated in the United States. The CDC has reported a flu vaccine effectiveness of close to 60% this season.

The Milford Health Department has concluded its seasonal influenza campaign. A total of 962 influenza vaccinations were administered. The school nurses and Health Department continue to monitor the influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools.

#### School Health Services

The nurses are in the process of completing the State of Connecticut Asthma Reporting Survey. Connecticut General Statutes (10-206) require that schools annually report to the Department of Public Health information on the total number of students who have asthma in each school and in each school district. School nurses will be collecting data on students with a provider diagnosis of asthma indicated on the Health Assessment Record (HAR). DPH uses this information to look at asthma trends and distributions among school-aged children in Connecticut.

Lisa Skawinski, a Milford public health/school nurse and Certified Asthma Educator presented a continuing education program for the school nurses on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Skawinski provided the school nurses with an overview of assessing students for asthma, the importance of having an Asthma Action Plan in school for students diagnosed with asthma, and the referral process for the Putting on AIRS Program which is a program that provides a **free** in-home assessment of asthma triggers and patient education.

The vacant public health/school nurse position has been posted. The closing date for applications is Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Nursing Conferences

The annual school nurse conference, **Critical Issues in School Health**, was held on March 31 in Cromwell, CT. The Milford Health Department had four nurses attend this conference. Information on a wide variety of school health issues was presented. Topics included: transgender youth, school absenteeism, epilepsy, peer victimization, legal and practical issues for the school nurse, confidentiality and several others. The conference was very informative and enjoyed by everyone.

Several Milford school nurses are planning on attending the New England School Nurse Conference on April 30 – May 1. The NESNC is a professional nursing conference hosted by one of the New England states every spring. This year, Connecticut will host the conference for over 200 participants in Groton. The conference will feature speakers to discuss managing students with asthma and allergies, supporting the grieving student, assessment of pediatric abdominal pain, transgender youth, diabetes technology, and many other topics.

#### *Comments:*

- *D. Joseph noted that the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) data showed Milford has significant prevalence of asthma, based on self-reporting.. Discussions in the CHNA meetings have suggested mapping asthma prevalence data in order to look at the data geographically.*
- *D. Joseph reported that final interviews for the open Dental Hygienist position will take place this week.*

#### **Emergency Preparedness Report**

- *D. Joseph reported that the statewide full scale training exercise took place last week, with activities specific to Milford taking place on Thursday. Overall the exercise went well and provided a good learning experience and identification of opportunities for improvement.*
- *D. Joseph reported that Milford was awarded the \$15,000 NACCHO MRC Challenge award that was applied for. Health Department staff will be working with staff at Yale to look at why residents do or do not evacuate during an emergency and looking at the role of volunteers. A survey will be developed and the Health Department hopes to recruit additional volunteers as well.*

*Comments: None.*

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

### *Disease Surveillance*

There were 98 cases of disease reported for the month of March, with influenza being the most reported disease.

### *Putting on AIRS Asthma Program*

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 15 referrals for the month of March, for a total of 74 referrals received this program year with 44 home visits completed. As you know, a follow-up is conducted to discuss whether individuals and/or families have implemented the recommended control measures, to determine outcomes as a result of the home visit, and to discuss any challenges/barriers/etc. The Program Coordinator completed 2 Three month follow-up calls and 8 six month follow up calls for the month of March. Through collaboration efforts the Coordinator has been able to have one pediatrician from Yale PCC accompany her on a visit this month and met with an additional 6 pediatricians/interns to provide program overview. We have recently shared an update with DPH regarding some of the work that we describe as growth and development of the program and they have reported back with “What you have accomplished is truly what we aspire to see happen in all regions. Congratulations for the great work”.

### *Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)*

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. Recently the group received a presentation from superintendent of schools, Betty Feser. This appearance not only increased their interest but also created lots of questions and discussion. They are looking forward to next enjoying a couple of presentations about local and state government and how it works. One presentation will be from the city Mayor. The group also plans on walking to city hall to attend a Board of Aldermen meeting. This phase of the training seems to be a very busy and informational point for the group.

### *PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board)*

The Milford Health Department is still preparing itself to submit an application to become accredited. The accreditation has a seven step guide and step one is Pre-application which is where MHD currently stands. This step includes self assessment compared to PHAB standards and measures, identifying weakness and strengths and addressing weaknesses then finally completing an online orientation. The standards and measures that serve as the guidelines for the accreditation process have been outlined. The department has now begun to use the materials received by PHAB to collect documents based off the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to fulfill the first group of domains.

*Comments: None.*

**Old Business:** *None.*

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

- *The budget hearing with the Board of Alderman took place last week. C. Young attended with D. Joseph. The hearing went well and there are no expected changes to the Mayor's recommended budget.*
- *A request has been made to restart the panhandling campaign, "Have a Heart - Give Smart", in Milford. Discussion ensued about panhandling areas in Milford, and education and outreach efforts. The Health Department will reconvene the panhandling task force and focus on education and outreach.*

**New Business:**

- *C. Young and H. Mulrenan reported that they attended the community forum on opioids and heroin use held in the City Hall Auditorium on April 11, 2016. H. Mulrenan gave an overview of the forum and her takeaways from the evening. Both agreed it was a very informative forum.*
- *C. Young inquired if the increase in e-cigarette use was pushing youth to smoke. D. Joseph responded that smoking was one of the topics being discussed in the Community Health Needs Assessment meetings currently taking place. The data collected in Milford shows a higher percentage of smoking in Milford. CHNA follow-up meetings will include discussions regarding strategies to encourage smoking cessation.*
- *E. Judson inquired if smoking e-cigarettes leads to an increase in smoking marijuana. D. Joseph responded that she has not seen data specific to correlation between e-cigarette use and marijuana use. However, historically, it is important to look at the issue of reduced perception of harm relative to use of a particular substance.*

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga  
Recorder