

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2012**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Secretary
William F. Lynch, MD
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
George Gensure, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Susan Shaw, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present:

Joseph Bereski, 50 Fairview Street, Milford

Health Department Staff Present

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

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

Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on April 17, 2012 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by W. Lynch.

Public Session:

Joseph Bereski, 50 Fairview St., Milford – stated that he is here to speak about smoking at the baseball fields of the Milford National Little League. He explained that recently on opening day and again at games, there were adults smoking. He stated that he brought the concern to the League meetings and the idea was tossed around about prohibiting smoking in these areas. He suggested that perhaps the Board could take some action regarding the issue of smoking at the athletic fields. R. Vitali suggested that the Board draft an ordinance and send it to the Mayor's office for review.

E. Judson made a motion for Dr. McBride, Health Director, to write an ordinance to ban smoking at all athletic fields and municipal parks. C. Young seconded the motion for the creation of an ordinance to include recreational areas and municipal parks. The vote carried unanimously.

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS

Mosquito Control

This year's mosquito control program began in April when All Habitat Services, the mosquito control consultant for the city of Milford, started monitoring the wetlands habitats in Milford and treating the marshy areas throughout the City. Because of the hot spell we had this spring breeding activity started early. The primary focus of the mosquito management program is on preventive efforts through mosquito breeding site reduction, especially in densely populated areas, and education about personal protection. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station will start mosquito monitoring, trapping and testing for early detection of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus in early June.

Concession Stand Training On Tuesday, April 10, 2012 the Sanitarians conducted a training session geared toward volunteer food handlers working in the concession stands. This year we trained 20 volunteers from various organizations. In total, there are nine concession stands serving food to the public during sporting events. Organizations utilizing each stand must obtain a license, have their menu approved by this office and have at least two people attend one of our training sessions. Training topics include personal hygiene, food temperatures, proper garbage disposal, food protection and general sanitization.

Anti-blight activities As of the week ending May 14, 2012 the Health Department received 82 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 318 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.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2011/2012	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
318	82	18	37	8

Comments:

- *D. McBride stated regarding the mosquito control, the Mayor would like to work with DEEP in dredging some areas that have still water, which would alleviate some mosquito problems. All Habitat currently larvicides these areas.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

School Health Services

Peter Wild, executive director of The Lyme Research Alliance (formerly known as *A Time for Lyme*), will present a continuing education program for the school nurses and sanitarians on May 30th. Mr. Wild will present the current status of Lyme Disease prevalence in our state, diagnosis and treatment regimes and scientific research that is presently being done. Additionally, he will address the impact of Lyme Disease on students who contract the disease and how the nurses can support and advocate for those students in school. The Lyme Research Alliance, a non-profit organization from Stamford was started in 1998 and is widely recognized in our area as being an educational and advocacy organization whose mission is to focus on supporting critical research into reliable diagnosis and effective treatments in a concerted effort to end Lyme disease.

The school nurses are actively involved with end of the school year activities in their schools. Field trips are planned for many students which require attention by the school nurse to provide training and packing of the necessary medications and first aid equipment to accompany the students and teachers. Field days and school track meets require the nurse to be on site for injuries and/or illnesses associated with days filled with physical activity and competitions. Transfer of records to new school levels is an end of year activity for school nurses that require preparation of records and a discussion with the receiving school nurse to exchange important medical information as the students move from the elementary grades to middle school and on to high school.

Connecticut Department of Health – Immunization Program

The Milford Health Department provides a monthly immunization clinic for children, ages 6 weeks-18 years of age utilizing state supplied vaccine from the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program. On May 25, 2012 the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Immunization program will visit the health department to review our clinic process, storage of vaccine, emergency plans for vaccine related to unplanned power outages and documentation. Dan Wurm, MPH, the epidemiologist assigned to our area, will meet with the nurse administrator to conduct the review of our records.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Reports

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report – Steve Maheux

Sheltering Conferences

There are two conferences being hosted by the Region 2 Sheltering Subgroup, of which the Milford Health Department is the lead organization. The first conference is June 12th and will be

held at the Savin Rock Conference Center in West Haven. The second conference is June 19th at the Old Saybrook Pavilion. Both conferences are scheduled from 9-3 and will cover a variety of topics related to sheltering. Topics will include: legal responsibilities, hospital roles in sheltering, sheltering of vulnerable populations, American Red Cross involvement, and others. The overarching theme will be the preparation of the Governor's upcoming statewide exercise (July 28th – 31st) and the integration of the state's new mass care plan.

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.

A regional workgroup is being formed to formulate and submit a Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) application to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The first draft is scheduled to be submitted in January, 2013.

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. Milford's emergency preparedness plans were given a good assessment. This was Milford's first federal review by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An improvement plan will be developed according to CDC recommendations and submitted to the state health department.

Milford Health Department is in the planning stage to participate in a statewide exercise the weekend of July 28-31st. The Governor's exercise will be a scenario reenacting the Hurricane of 1938. There are several objectives for municipalities to comply with for this exercise. These include, setting up Unified Command, working with utility companies for communications and shelter operations.

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. This plan will be exercised at the time of the July Statewide 4-day event.

Comments: None

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 28 cases of disease reported for the month of April, with influenza being the most reported. Three of the cases were confirmed hospitalizations.

Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Milford's 4th PLTI class has just completed their 17th session in this 20-week course focused on teaching leadership and advocacy skills to parents interested in becoming more involved in the civic life of our community. Each of the seventeen (17) participants is close to completing their community project proposals. Topics include designing and conducting educational workshops on several health topics including healthy eating and environmental health, designing a Milford PLTI Alumni website that will link to PLTI grads across the state, a public speaking course for children and a resource guide for parents of adult children with special needs. Mayor Ben Blake and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Elizabeth Feser have visited with the class to speak on policies, budget planning and opportunities for parents to become involved in the decision-making process. Classes will continue through mid-June and culminate with a local graduation ceremony at City Hall on June 11, 2012.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 12 referrals for the month of April, resulting in a total of 105 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.

Comments:

- *C. Young stated that she would like to have the graduates of the Parent Leadership Training Institute present their community projects, those having to do with public health, with the Board.*

Old Business:

- *G. Gensure stated that he had answers for the Board regarding the masimum distance given for a child to walk to school before a bus is provided. There is one mile for elementary school, one and one half for middle school and two miles for high school.*
- *W. Lynch referenced April minutes under Nursing regarding most common chronic health conditions in the school. After much discussion, C. Young suggested that J. Cagginello attend the next Board meeting to provide some insight.*

Director's Report:

New Business:

- *R. Vitali expressed concern over the deterioration of the Upper Duck Pond. He stated that the walls are crumbling and there are sink holes all along it. Dr. McBride said he would review this.*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder