

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2011**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Secretary
Deborah Woods
William F. Lynch, MD
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Christine M. Gonillo
Diane Kruger-Carroll, Board of Education Liaison

Others Present:

Health Department Staff Present

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

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

Approval of Minutes – April 19, 2011

C. Young amended the minutes for April 19, 2011 to include the following:

New Business:

The Board discussed sending information to the Board of Alderman to reflect its concerns about the health and safety of the citizens regarding the loss of a sanitarian and school nurse. Details were discussed with the chair. The chair agreed to follow up with a letter reflecting input from the board members. Attached are the two letters sent to the Board of Alderman from the Board of Health concerning the proposed loss of a sanitarian and a school nurse.

The minutes of the meetings held on April 19, 2011 along with the amendment were approved unanimously, on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS

Anti-bligh activities

As of the week ending May 16, 2011, the Health Department received 72 complaints of blight during the current fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the

division received a total of 221 complaints. Currently, seventeen properties are under investigation and monitoring while fifteen have been issued correction orders from the Anti-blight Enforcement Officer. 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, six 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 five properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance.

Total # of blight complaints	FY 2010/2011	Under Investigation <u>OPEN</u> Record	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	Record Complete d/closed	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
221	72	17	15	125	32	6

Concession Stand Training

On Wednesday April 20, 2011, the Environmental Health Division conducted a training session geared toward volunteer food handlers working in the concession stands. This year we trained 10 volunteers from various organizations. 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.

Oyster Festival

On May 10, 2011, Dr. McBride and Laura Miller attended a meeting with Milford City Officials and some of the Milford Oyster Festival Organizers. The 2011 Milford Oyster Festival will be held on Friday, August 19th and Saturday, August 20th. This year the health department will continue to provide safe food handling training to all volunteers in addition to inspecting and monitoring food vendors on Friday and Saturday nights. In an effort to stream line the pre and operational inspections, we are requiring that all food booths be ready for their pre-operational/set-up inspections by 7:30 am so that they can be inspected and open by 10:00 am. Sanitarians will then move up to the green to inspect food vendors on and around the green by 8:30 – 9:00 am. In addition, we are hoping that all food vendors on the green can be grouped more closely together or in the same general area. In the coming months before the festival we will be working directly with the Milford Oyster Festival organizers to confirm the details of these important and beneficial changes.

Mosquito Control

At the end of April, All Habitat Services, the mosquito contractor for Milford, started inspecting monitoring, treating spring pools, and flood areas, some of the primary mosquito breeding areas, for mosquito activity. This spring has shown to be a wet one and we are finding some breeding. 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.

Comments:

- D. McBride stated regarding blight complaints, there is concern over the long term how to integrate the property owners into the community. The assistance of the neighbors might be part of the solution. He added that the Anti-blight and the Housing Code enforcement is at risk if budget cuts are made to the position of the sanitarian. J. Costello commended the staff on their continuous efforts.
- J. Costello stated that she thought the Agricultural Station might close due to budget cuts at the state level and adversely affect mosquito monitoring. D. McBride explained that would not affect the city because we have a contract with All Habitat, a company which does the monitoring and reporting directly to us.

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

Influenza Vaccination Campaign 2011-12

Planning for the upcoming influenza season has begun at the federal, state and local level. There are several companies that are manufacturing the influenza vaccine and report that vaccine supplies will be substantial with delivery of vaccine to the states beginning in July and continuing through October. The Health Department will continue to purchase influenza vaccine through the Connecticut Department of Public Health contract. We plan to order both seasonal vaccine for adults and children and also the high dose influenza vaccine that is indicated for individuals over 65 years of age.

Influenza clinics are scheduled for the Senior Citizen Center on October 3rd and 5th. Other community clinics will be scheduled for the fall as it gets closer to influenza season.

Vaccine Restitution Policy

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides nearly \$4 billion worth of free vaccines to health providers nationwide. The Milford Health Department provides VFC vaccines, provided by the CT Department of Public Health at our monthly vaccination clinics. The cost of state supplied vaccines continues to increase and to that end, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has instituted a new policy for the VFC program aimed at keeping vaccine wastage at a minimum.

Health providers, including the health Department, who incur a vaccine waste situation such as allowing vaccine on hand to expire, handling or storage errors or drawing up vaccine prior to patient screening, will be responsible for the cost of the vaccine that it wasted. The Health

Department has not had issues of vaccine wastage in the past and will remain vigilant in monitoring our vaccine supply.

School Health Services

The school nurses are actively involved in 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.

The school nurses enjoyed speakers from the CT State Department of Education Cadre of Trainers at their May staff meeting who offered a presentation and discussion on laws associated with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Both of these acts involve protecting privacy for students and families. The nurses frequently have questions about protecting the privacy of the student in regard to their medical record in school.

Comments:

- D. McBride stated in regards to Influenza for the 2011-2012 season, the Health Department will be ordering 2,000 doses that will supplement the many available resources for getting the vaccine throughout the city.

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 16 cases of disease reported for the month of April, with chlamydia being the most reported disease. The Health Department has received 46 reports of laboratory-confirmed seasonal influenza to date.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 6 referrals for the month of April, resulting in a total of 87 referrals for this contract year. Program staff completed work on the Asthma Friendly School Initiative (AFSI) grant by the American Lung Association. The AFSI grant is designed to provide tools and resources to assist local communities plan and implement comprehensive asthma management programs within their local schools and existing school structure. Based on our performance this contract year, the American Lung Association of CT is requesting continued funding for this project in the coming contract year.

Physical Activity & Nutrition Project

The Health Department has approached the Superintendent of Schools to request that a workgroup be formed to focus on the issue of obesity in school children. The workgroup will be comprised of representatives from school nursing, community health, environmental health, as well as from the Milford Public Schools system. The goal of the workgroup will be to begin to

address this problem using a comprehensive, multifaceted approach with the intent of encouraging a broader community response in the future.

Lead in Toys Project

Through grant funding provided by the CT Department of Public Health, the Milford Health Department is working in partnership with a professor from Quinnipiac University on a program to screen toys at local daycare centers for lead. Over the past few years, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled several toys due to high levels of lead in the items. Through this program, toys at local daycare centers will be screened for elevated levels of lead. The program will be implemented in Fall 2011. During the summer, we will work on enrolling daycare centers in the program and setting up all logistics for site visits in the fall.

Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The local graduation ceremony for Milford's 3rd PLTI class will be held on Monday, June 13, 2011 at City Hall. All Board members are invited to attend. All graduates have submitted Community Project proposals ranging in topics from health, education, safety, and the environment. In addition to the local ceremony, graduates will also participate in a statewide graduation ceremony at the Capitol building in Hartford on Wednesday, June 29, 2011.

Floods & Public Health

The Health Department will be updating the website to include information regarding the health impacts of floods, along with other information that will be useful to the community before, during, and after a flood. Additionally, there will be information regarding the importance of obtaining appropriate levels of flood insurance to ensure financial protection in the event of a flood emergency.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Report

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - Amy Shields

Reorganization of Region 2 Mass Dispensing Areas

Region 2 is separated into ten [10] Mass Dispensing Areas (MDAs). Each MDA has a lead health department that oversees preparedness efforts for their total population in the area. The CT Department of Public Health is currently reorganizing the MDAs throughout the State, possibly cutting the 41 MDAs throughout Connecticut in half. This reconfiguration is being done without the input from local Health Departments. We are currently writing letters to the Commissioner of public health to allow local involvement in the decision process.

Regional Alternative Dispensing After Action Meeting

An after action/coldwash meeting was conducted to discuss successes and areas of improvement regarding the alternative dispensing exercise held in April. Each of the ten [10] participating departments gave a brief presentation on their exercise activities. Overall the exercise was a success, with over 45,000 doses of cipro/doxy were distributed in 3 hours throughout the drill. Areas of improvement included staffing issues, communications, and inventory tracking.

Hurricane Symposium

Region 2 is now coordinating a symposium on hurricane and flood preparedness and response. The symposium will occur in late June and cover hurricane preparedness response specific to impacts on public health. The half day will be separated into 3 sections. A presentation will start the morning with a general overview of hurricanes; next, subject matter experts will cover specific impacts on public health; and lastly, the response roles of local public health will be outlined. Roles of local health will be specific to response 72 hours into an emergency. There will also be a tabletop in August.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report - Tara Mustakos

CT Statewide Volunteer Registry

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is looking to integrate all Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer rosters with the state's Emergency System for Advance Registry of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP). This registry has been in place for some time and the state would like to incorporate local health department's volunteers into this larger group. The Milford Health Department is waiting for this agreement to be finalized for legal purposes and with regard to privacy issues with volunteers' personal information. All volunteers will have the opportunity to ask questions and grant permission for this move at the next volunteer meeting (TBA).

Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The Milford Health Department is coming to the end of the grant year for local emergency preparedness funds. Attached to these grants, both Public Health Preparedness and Influenza are deliverable reports to outline the grant year. This report is a comprehensive summary of Aug. 2010-June 2011 activities. Additional reports include an equipment inventory, an update of plan development and reports from any exercises/drill completed in this timeline.

Comments:

- D. McBride stated that the Mass Dispensing Drill held in April was a success and now the task of after action reporting takes place. This provides areas of weakness and areas for improvements. He added that Milford conducted a drive thru dispensing scenario along with closed pod, which could be a condo assn, nursing home, just to name a few, which picks up all medications for its organization as the result of pre-registration forms.

Old Business:

- D. McBride stated the staff has found no Canada geese eggs to date, although they have been looking for them. He added the staff is going to target daycares and educate children and their parents on why they should not feed the geese.

Director's Report:

- D. McBride stated he attended a Radiation Workshop in West Point, New York on May 11th. He explained that we are part of their region and Columbia & Harvard received a grant and Columbia is going to provide assistance for our tabletop in August. The focus

will be on evacuation and sheltering relevant to the tri state area in the event of hurricane and flooding.

- D. McBride explained that the state is reorganizing the Mass Dispensing Areas (MDA) and is important to note that we are not opposed to reconfiguration of the MDA's , just that we should have some involvement in the reorganization. As of this date, the proposal has still not been shared with any of our Region 2 local Health Directors. He added that the H1N1 vaccinations were a good example of an MDA and is handled differently throughout the region.
- D. McBride stated he wrote a letter and met with Dr. Feser, Superintendent of Milford Schools regarding the rise in obesity in the school children. He added that while we have tried various programs which are not sustainable and we need a much broader approach accepted by the school system. (the letter is attached to the minutes)

New Business: *None*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder