

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2014**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ernest Judson
William F. Lynch, MD
Laura Fucci, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant
Joan Campbell, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing

J. Costello, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – April 22, 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on April 22, 2014 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by W. Lynch. .

Public Session: None

Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller

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 for mosquito larva and treating the marshy areas throughout the City. 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.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending May 20, 2014 the Health Department received 57 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2013/2014 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 489 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.

To date, eight property owners failed to comply with the cited violations defined in the Notice of violation (NOV) and consequently had a liens placed on the land records. These properties are being fined \$100 for each day the violation(s) continue to exist after the compliance date specified in the notice of violation. As a result, MHD has sent the property owner information to the City Attorney's office and requested that foreclosure be initiated on these eight properties.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2012/2013	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
489	57	14	8

Comments: None

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

For the week ending May 10, 2014, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity is decreasing but continues to be classified geographically as “widespread” during the second wave of influenza activity. A total of 6,604 positive influenza reports have been reported for the current season with 2,014 being in New Haven County. Of the 6,604 positive influenza reports: 1,373 were Type A (2009 H1N1), 500 were Type A (H3N2), 3,538 Type A (subtype unspecified), 1,124 influenza B viruses, and 69 of unknown type. A total of 1,871 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. A total of 37 influenza-associated deaths in individuals greater than 30 years of age have been reported.

At the end of Influenza Season Week 19 (May 10, 2014), the Center for Disease Control reports that seasonal influenza activity is low across most of the country but influenza viruses are still causing illness. The school nurses and the Milford Health Department continue to monitor the influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools.

School Health Services

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.

Transfer of health 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.

Nursing Staff –

There were nine applicants for the Public Health Nurse vacancy. The first round of interviews will be conducted on June 9th.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Reports – Tara Mustakos

Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

Milford Health Department staff, Milford Public Works and the State Police participated in the CT Department of Public Health's statewide full scale exercise on April 24th, 2014. The state health department delivered assets to all Mass Dispensing Areas (MDAs) and hospitals throughout the state. Delivery was scheduled for:

- 41 MDAs (city/town)
- 34 hospitals

The goal of this exercise was for the state to test their ability to delivery materials in the allotted time and to verify access to all local drop points. Participation in this drill was to fulfill a grant deliverable.

The next exercise required by local emergency management is June 2014; Governor's Annual Emergency Preparedness and Planning Initiative (EPPI). This is also a statewide drill and will focus on local response to a hurricane. Health Department planning efforts have been made to meet with local emergency management.

The Milford Emergency Management committee, through the Milford Fire Department met on April 24th, 2014. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July.

Public Health Preparedness Activities

The Milford Health Department Volunteer Coordinator was an exhibitor at the local Boy Scout Troop food drive providing preparedness information to the public. Presentations were conducted for the Milford Condo Association and the Kiwanis on emergency preparedness. Additionally, the health department high school intern did an after school program on emergency preparedness at East Shore Middle School.

Milford Health Department is finalizing paperwork and a training plan for two new Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Grant money from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) will be applied for to provide training from certified individuals and supplies to the new teams.

Comments: None

Community Health – Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 95 cases of disease reported for the month of April, with seasonal influenza being the most reported disease. Data from CT Department of Public Health suggest that influenza activity remains widespread in Connecticut. Increased influenza A and flu B activity have also been observed during this phase of the 2013-2014 flu season.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

PLTI 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 completed the course on May 12th and will participate in a local graduation ceremony at City Hall on Monday, June 9, 2014. Fourteen (14) individuals will be graduating from the program this year.

The Milford Health Department anticipated that the funding announcement for the 2014-2015 grant cycle will be released shortly.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 82 referrals for this contract year. The Milford Health Department is the lead health department in Asthma Region 6. In this role, the department chairs the Region 6 Greater New Haven Area Asthma Coalition. This coalition has been invited to take part in the development of strategies to address Greater New Haven Community Health Improvement plan (CHIP), specific to Focus Area #4—Asthma. This effort is being led by Yale New Haven Hospital and the Partnership for a Healthier New Haven in an effort to address the needs of residents in Yale New Haven Hospital's catchment area. Program staff continues to meet and discuss funding for asthma in the upcoming year with DPH. The Putting on AIRS program in our region has had much success and may be used to pilot future program enhancements specific to home-based asthma interventions and decreasing Emergency Department utilization and hospital admissions.

Comments: None

Old Business:

- *J. Costello asked D. McBride how the budget hearing went, for which he responded that the funding stayed flat and nothing was cut. He added that most grant funding is getting tight, the preparedness grants are drying up; however, the Asthma grant is doing very well.*

- *J. Costello asked D. McBride for an update on the letter to Animal Control regarding dog bites. D. McBride responded that Animal Control has agreed to provide them information on all dog bites to humans, not just rabies exposures.*

Director's Report:

- *D. McBride stated that in regards to Dental Health they would conduct a needs assessment survey. He added that he went to a CME presentation sponsored by Shoreline Dental Health regarding oral health and its connection to heart disease. M. Quintner explained the connection between poor dental health and the cardiovascular system. Educating children early and receiving good oral health is the goal. M. Quintner added that perhaps a survey could go out along with the permission slip for dental hygienist services. D. McBride added that he will contact Dr. Feser's office over the summer to discuss this survey.*

New Business:

- *D. McBride introduced Joan Campbell, Director of Nursing. J. Campbell informed the board of her nursing background prior to her current position. She spoke about the First Visit Program, a collaborative effort between the health department and the VNA of South Central CT in providing home visits to new parents in Milford. There is a VNA outreach worker visiting area hospitals, obstetricians, and pediatricians promoting the program.*
- *L. Fucci questioned if there was a 504 training that the nurses attended. J. Campbell responded that the nursing staff has attended two training sessions. The rules for Section 504 changed in 2009 in that it significantly expanded the class of persons with disabilities. The nurses are part of the school team to determine the students who are now eligible for Section 504. D. McBride stated that he will be meeting with the other Medical Health Advisors to tackle this issue, especially issues regarding the growing problem of mental health issues. We need a more formal way of dealing with these medical issues.*
- *L. Fucci added that the Board of Education is enforcing the school bus policies regarding distances a child lives from the school. High school students who live within two miles of their school are supposed to walk; for middle school the distance is 1.5 miles, and for elementary school the distance is one mile. She was against the change, citing concerns over backpack weight, items carried to participate in extracurricular activities such as a band instrument as well as concerns of parents having to drive their child to school. D. McBride responded that walking to school has many health benefits. Walking helps fight obesity, citing the health department programs, walking school bus and the pedometer program, adding that he would look into the impact of the new policy.*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder