

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2010**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Secretary  
Howard Fink, MD  
William F. Lynch, MD  
Diane Kruger-Carroll, Board of Education Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Deborah Woods  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison  
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Others Present: None*

**Health Department Staff Present**

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

E. Judson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2010**

The minutes of the meetings held on May 18, 2010 were approved unanimously, on a motion by J. Costello and seconded by H. Fink.

**Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS**

*Anti-blight activities*

As of the week ending 06/11/2010, the Health Department received 141 complaints of blight, 26 of which are repeat complaints. Each complaint is in various stages of the process – some properties do not meet the criteria set up in the 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. After several inspections, reviews, and discussions with owners, twelve properties have been issued a notice detailing violations. They are currently within the specified compliance date.

Eleven properties have 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.

Total # of blight complaints	Submitted by anti-blight complaint form	Submitted by other	Repeat complaints	Notice of Violation issued	Under Investigation	Abated/remedied/closed	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney
141	79	62	26	12	8	58	23	11

### Mosquito Control

The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program is again monitoring mosquitoes for the presence of viruses that can cause illness in people including West Nile virus (WNV) and eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE) in 2010. The mosquito trapping and testing program, coordinated by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), began June 1st. Monitoring and risk assessment for WNV emphasizes mosquito trapping and testing results. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station has 91 mosquito traps set throughout Connecticut, two in Milford. All Habitat Services, the mosquito contractor for Milford continues to monitor and treat all breeding sites in Milford for mosquito activity. The City of Milford mosquito control program consists of controlling mosquitoes through breeding site reduction. Activities in the 2009 season included inspection, monitoring and treatment of 88 breeding sites including spring pool and flood areas and routine treatment of approximately 7,574 catch basins. All activities are directed at both salt water and fresh water mosquitoes; with priority shifting to disease-bearing mosquitoes should a public health threat be identified at any point.

### Beach Monitoring

June 2, 2010 kicked off the start of the beach-monitoring season. The Health Department collects water samples and conducts sanitary surveys at 16 different locations along the Milford coastline, water samples are sent to the State Lab for analyzing.

*Comments:* None

## **Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello**

### School Health Services

The school nurses are completing their school year, with the official final day of school for Milford Public Schools on Wednesday, June 23, 2010. The remaining days of school are filled with transition plans for students in our elementary schools as students and their families prepare for a Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grade 3-Grade 5 elementary school structure. The nurses have participated in activities to ease the transition for students in addition to the tasks of moving health records and giving report to the receiving school nurses to ensure continuity of care for students.

The Connecticut State Department of Education in collaboration with the Connecticut chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (CTAAP) has developed a new form for physical examinations for students. The form will serve as both a required school physical examination form (required at school entry, Kindergarten, grade 6 and grade 10) and a sports physical examination (required annually for those participating in sports). This will streamline the paperwork for physical

examinations that is required, facilitating the process for both the parent and the medical provider. The new form is a significant change for our pediatric medical community and we will provide guidance on the use of the physical examination form during the summer months.

The school nurses completed their continuing education programs this month with a presentation from Ken Lacilla, LCSW and Dr. Marty Schwartzman from Bridges. They learned more about the Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Service (EMPS) which is a service that can send a trained therapist to school in the event of a psychiatric emergency and also discussed recognition of mental illness among school students and resources available to them at school.

Marsha Schultz, a school nurse with the Milford Health Department since 1988, announced her retirement this month. Marsha has been an exceptional school nurse and also served as our Lead Nurse for the past three years. Her retirement date is September 10, 2010. We are fortunate that Marsha will stay with the Milford Health Department as a substitute nurse when she is available.

#### Extended School Year Programs

There has been one change to the extended school year program for summer 2010. The elementary school program, routinely held at JFK school has been changed to Simon Lake School. The middle and high school program will continue to be held at Harborside Middle School. Both programs will be held from July 6<sup>th</sup>-August 6<sup>th</sup>. There are currently approximately 100 students enrolled in the extended school year programs. There are approximately 75 children enrolled in the Camp Happiness program which will be held at The Academy.

*Comments:* None

### **Community Health Division Report - Linda Gallick and Betty Murphy**

#### Disease Surveillance

There were 24 cases of disease reported for the month of May, with no new cases of H1N1 influenza reported for the month. Since August 30, 2009, there have been 39 laboratory confirmed cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza in Milford. The Community Health Coordinator continues to be involved in H1N1 surveillance activities, including Influenza-Like Illness surveillance in the community.

#### Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 15 referrals for the months of May for a total of 103 referrals received this contract year. This was the smallest number of referrals in many months because Region 6 is almost out of resources. The coordinator made contact with the major referral sources and asked to hold off on sending additional referrals until word is heard on the department of Public Health's offer of additional funding that may be streamlined to the program at a time yet to be determined.

May was Asthma Awareness month - Region 6 joined forces with the NAACP Health Fair this year on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup> at the New Haven field house. This year it was decided by the New Haven regional Asthma Coalition to fold Asthma Awareness Day into the NAACP health fair. That way there would be a stronger regional asthma presence because the event is open to the public. The event allowed asthma awareness to reach a much larger audience (approximately 2000) of both parents and children who live within Region 6.

*Comments:* None.

## **Emergency Preparedness Report**

### **Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - Amy Shields**

The CT Department of Public Health issued a Regional Preparedness Grant Application to each of the 5 DEMHS Regions. This 3-Year grant will fund Regional Preparedness activities in Region 2. The Milford Health Department is applying for funding in order to lead regional preparedness efforts. The application is due to the State by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Milford is seeking support from Regional Planning Organizations and other Health Departments/Districts to continue as the lead agency for public health preparedness.

The Leap of Faith Table-Top Exercise is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> at the New Haven Health Department. Ray Crowley will facilitate the exercise. A second training opportunity on Closed-POD operations is scheduled for participating faith organizations. Regional Security lead, Phil Maloney, will assist New Haven Health Department staff with the training.

The New England/New York Regional Meeting for the Strategic National Stockpile Program is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> in Northampton, MA. The meeting will cover issues related to Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) planning, alternate dispensing methods, and H1N1 funding. Each state will provide an update of preparedness successes, challenges, or best practices within their CRI Region.

### **Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report - Tara Mustakos**

Milford Safety Day was held on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Milford Bank. The day was hosted by Milford Fire and Police Departments. Two youth clerks from Milford promoted the 3 Days, 3 Ways emergency preparedness campaign. Milford Clerks disseminated educational materials and coordinated games for the kids.

Milford Animal Control hosted a training on June 5<sup>th</sup> for the Connecticut State Animal Response Team (SART). SART members had the opportunity to set up a tent designed for housing numerous animals, create a field station, and learn how to care for animals during their stay in a shelter. A total of 5 Regional SARTS are forming in Connecticut. Region 2 and 3 are currently the only regions with operational teams.

Volunteer Coordinator Bruce Varga is organizing his second Volunteer meeting at the Milford Library. The meeting will be conducted at the end of June, and include presentations on Pet Preparedness (referencing the recent SART training mentioned above) and issues of climate change and public health.

*Comments:* None.

**New Business:****Director's Report:**

- D. McBride stated that blight complaints come in everyday and he explained the process of enforcement and the appeal process available to the property owner. J. Costello inquired as to grants available for property owners to bring their properties into compliance for which D. McBride responded that Tom Ivers of Community Development handles those types of grants. D. McBride added that he would like to put their success stories on the city website, because there are several. E. Judson asked how the Health Department staff is dealing with all the blight complaints. D. McBride stated that each complaint requires lots of time, however, some are repeat complaints. He added that the Community Development Block Grant that Sonja worked under was not renewed, however, they have funds to keep her and also they have Lesley Darling who works closely with her.
- D. McBride stated that an appeal of the Olive Tree Hookah Lounge decision has been filed and the hearing is scheduled for June 22, 2010 at the DPH Hearing Office. He invited the Board members to attend. He also explained that there are other organizations that support the Milford Health Department in this among them, the American Cancer Society. H. Fink added that if the hearing officer rules against the Health Department, the Board of Health will publicly support the Milford Health Department combat this public health nuisance.

**Adjournment:**

H. Fink 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