

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2015**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Joan Cagginello, MS, RN
Ernest Judson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS
Mitchell Quintner, DMD

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present:

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

J. Costello called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on May 19, 2015 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Cagginello.

Public Session: *None*

Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller, REHS/RS

Beach Monitoring May 26, 2015 kicked off the start of the beach-monitoring season. Every week between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Sanitarians collect water samples and conduct sanitary surveys at 16 different locations along the Milford coastline. Water samples are sent to the Connecticut State Lab for analyzing. When collecting sea water samples, Sanitarian's also inspect the tide line to identify potential hazards such as medical waste and/or syringes. If there is something suspicious, the Police Department is promptly notified.

Anti-bligh activities As of the week ending June 12, 2015, the Health Department received 53 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2014/2015 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 592 complaints. Over time each complaint is in various stages of the process, some properties do not meet the criteria set up in the anti-bligh 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, fourteen 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 are being fined \$100 for each day the violation(s) continue to exist after the compliance date specified in the notice of violation and some are in the process of a foreclosure action by the City.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2014/2015	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
592	53	13	14

Comments:

- *E. Judson asked if there were any issues with wastewater overflow in West Haven following heavy rains. D. Joseph responded that there have not been. She added that there is a process in place whereby West Haven notifies the Health Department the time and location of any issues and the resolution thereof.*
- *D. Joseph noted that the Health Department is working to streamline the blight process, specific to adhering as strictly as possible to the timelines involved with moving the process forward. The Health Department continues to work closely with the City Attorney's office on this process.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

School Health Services

The nurses completed their school year today, June 16th. West Shore Middle School will be in session through tomorrow due to an unexpected school closure last week. Foran High School will also be in session one extra day due to a school closure in the fall related to a mechanical issue. St. Gabriel's School will be ending their school year on June 23rd. Our 12 month nurse and substitute nurses will be working at these schools to ensure nursing services are maintained until the last day at these schools.

Once again, the nurses had a very productive year. They completed all state mandated screenings and reviewed and monitored all required physical exams and immunizations in addition to their many other responsibilities. Many nurses attended educational opportunities throughout the year that provided them with up to date knowledge and skills which will help them in their personal and professional growth. Some of these programs include:

- National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference
- New England School Nurses Annual Conference
- Annual CT Critical Issues in School Nursing Conference

- Epilepsy/Seizure Management in the school setting
- Asthma and Allergy trends
- Diabetes – Trends, Treatment and Technology
- Influenza Prevention
- Concussions
- Diversity in the workplace
- Anxiety Disorders in Children and Adolescents
- CT's Response to Human Trafficking in Children
- Epinephrine Administration Training Program for CT Unlicensed School Personnel

Extended School Year Programs & Camp Happiness

Camp Happiness will be held at Foran High School this summer from June 29th – August 6th. The 12 month public health nurse will provide school health services for the program. In addition, the Milford Public Schools will be holding several summer school programs. These will be located at East Shore Middle School, The Academy, Harborside and Jonathan Law. There will be a public health nurse working at all programs.

Nursing Staff

Nurses were notified yesterday of upcoming school assignment changes for school year 2015-2016. Many factors were considered in the assignments including staff departures, school reconfiguration, acuity of health concerns and health needs/nursing services needed at individual schools. The nursing division expects two staff retirements. In addition, it is likely that one of our nurses will resign as she received her APRN degree from Fairfield University in May and is actively seeking new employment related to her advanced degree.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph noted that the Health Department is looking to post the nursing positions for the retiring nurses as soon as possible in order to get a good pool of candidates and ensure a smooth transition in the new school year.*
- *D. Joseph commented that based on the assessment of health concerns at each school, as well as the reconfiguration of the elementary schools, several nursing assignments have been changed for the upcoming school year.*
- *E. Judson inquired if the Health Clerk position referenced last month is a new position. D. Joseph responded that it was not.*

Emergency Preparedness Reports – Tara Mustakos-Wassmer, REHS/RS, CHES

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is working to finalize grant language and deliverables for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). One of the main goals is to further develop the Healthcare Coalition that is Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, health & medical.

The CDC, State and Local health authorities continue to monitor the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak. Authorities are also monitoring for Highly-Pathogenic Avian Influenza A in bird populations. There is a potential for avian influenza to spread to humans.

A graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 22nd for the new Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). CERT members will be sworn in under the Emergency Management Director. Training opportunities planned for the volunteer group include CPR/AED training, HAM radio training and flu clinic training.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph noted that the grant year for Emergency Preparedness is coming to a close. There is an increased focus on healthcare coalition building through Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8. To this end, the state of Connecticut is planning a full scale, 5 day regional exercise in 2016. The expectation is to have one open and one closed point of dispensing (POD) in Region 2. Milford Health Department will be involved with the planning.*
- *E. Judson inquired regarding the HAM radio operators in Milford. D. Joseph responded that there are currently a few key HAM radio operator volunteers that are part of Milford's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and ready to assist if needed.*

Community Health – Deepa Joseph, MPH

Disease Surveillance

There were 35 cases of disease reported for the month of May, with chlamydia being the most reported disease.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received a total of 75 referrals this contract period with forty-two (42) home visits completed. Approximately 60% of referrals came from the patient's physician and/or hospital/ED. For visits completed in Milford, a Milford Health Department accompanies the nurse and conducts the Putting on AIRS environmental assessment, as well as a Healthy Homes assessment. By combining the approaches, program staff have been able to work with referrals on reducing environmental triggers to asthma as well as minimized environmental hazards in the home. Through the increased funding provided by the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) as reported last month, program staff are now able to utilize services of an interpreter for Spanish-speaking families with great success.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The 6th PLTI graduation was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 6:00pm at City Hall. Guest speakers included Mayor Blake, along with representatives from the CT Commission on Children. Following graduation, the PLTI Coordinator worked with a represented from CT Young Professionals and the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven to conduct a focus group of PLTI alumni. The focus group discussed an initiative currently being done in New Haven, where individuals can participate in an 8-month course and then apply for mini grants to

support a neighborhood-based community project. The Milford Health Director and PLTI Coordinator will follow-up regarding the potential for utilizing this type of program to support PLTI alumni with future community projects.

Comments: None.

Old Business:

- *J. Costello asked how the public would be informed of the proposed educational campaign on standing water in residential areas. D. Joseph responded that it would be primarily through a press release.*
- *J. Costello asked about the Tdap Cocoon program. D. Joseph responded that it is a program to vaccinate the caregivers of newborns against pertussis, thus forming a “cocoon” of protection around them. New mothers are offered the vaccine at the hospital. Fathers, grandparents, and other caregivers can receive the vaccine free of charge at the Milford Health Department monthly immunization clinic.*

Director’s Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *The part time Community Health position has been approved, and a job description is being developed.*
- *The Director of Nursing position is changing from a 10 month to a 12 month position as of July 1st.*

New Business: *None*

Adjournment:

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by M. Quintner and was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga
Recorder