

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2007

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Joseph Reingold, Secretary
Howard Fink
Robert Toronto
Deborah Woods
Joan Politi, Board of Alderman Liaison
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Mitchell Quintner
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Joan Cagginello, RN, MS, Nurse Administrator
Laura Pagliaro, RS, Environmental Health Chief
Deepa Joseph, MPH, Community Health Coordinator
Diana Yassanye, MS, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of the May 15, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by E. Judson seconded by J. Reingold.

Environmental Division Report – Presented by Laura Pagliaro

Oyster Festival

On June 5, 2007 Deepa Joseph and I met with Paula Smith and Jay Pinto, Milford Oyster Festival representatives. Initially we were hoping to coordinate a local farmers market at the Festival on Saturday but due to space concerns and constraints it is not be feasible. However, this year the Oyster Festival is going to hold “Friday Night at the Festival”. Activities will be held on Friday night August 17th at Lisman Landing. Activities will include music, food and kids rides. Our discussion focused on the possibility of incorporating an area for local farmers to sell nutritious whole locally grown foods during the Friday night activities. We are currently in contact with the coordinator of the Farmers Market that is held during the summer at Walnut Beach and are compiling a list of local farm contacts.

In addition, we provided the Oyster Festival committee with a flyer urging vendors to serve healthy food alternatives in addition to the usual festival favorites. This flyer was distributed to all potential food vendors.

Training – Milford Health Department training dates for food handlers participating in the Oyster Festival are set for Thursday July 12, Wednesday July 18 and Tuesday July 24.

Mosquito Control

The CT Department of Public Health started their Mosquito Management Program on June 4th. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station has 91 mosquito traps set throughout Connecticut. To date all mosquitoes have tested negative for West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis. All Habitat Services continues to monitor and treat 86 breeding sites in Milford for mosquito activity.

Beach Monitoring

May 29, 2007 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.

Due to excessive rainfall on June 4th as a precautionary measure, the beaches were closed for swimming. The areas were re-sampled and the beaches were opened on June 6th.

Milford Arms - 180 Melba St.

New owners of the property located at 180 Melba Street submitted an environmental report detailing the work necessary to properly abate the mold and remediate the building for rehabilitation purposes. The report is currently under review by this office.

Comments:

- C. Young questioned if the Oyster Festival vendors were taking the Health Department advise regarding healthier menus? L. Pagliaro added that on June 28th she would be meeting with the Oyster Festival food coordinators and providers to talk more about offering nutritional foods to their existing menus.
- E. Judson asked if the bacteria in the beach water is coming from West Haven? L. Pagliaro responded that when there is rain typically, debris is flushed out of the storm drains, which bring the bacteria counts up. Dr. McBride added that P. Scholz, our sanitarian for the beaches, should be given credit as he tested the water in the rain and took precautionary measures to close the beaches.

Nursing Division Report – Presented by Joan Cagginello

School Nurses

The school nurses will complete their productive and successful school year on June 21st. The nurses completed all state mandated screenings and reviewed and monitored all required physical exams and immunizations. We enjoyed our first year with a designated Lead Nurse who assumed many duties, including the Immunization Clinic operations, management of the health supplies inventory and assistance in survey data as well as providing orientation and mentorship to our new school nurse and the new substitute nurses. Additionally, we sponsored a four-day visit by

the American Lung Association's *Breath Express* that provided lung health education for 7th grade students in all three middle schools. The nurses continued to participate in the health centered bulletin board projects in every school, and they worked closely with the Pupil Personnel Department to facilitate the Homebound Education and Special Transportation arrangements for students with physical or mental health concerns. The nurses attended several continuing education programs during the school year; the programs ranged from the Annual Critical Issues in School Nursing Conference to Communicable Disease and Pediatric Physical Assessment courses. Our nurses also have ventured out in their schools and statewide to offer health education programs such as Friday is Fruit Day, Health Fairs at Live Oaks School and Foran and presentations to school nurse colleagues on various topics.

Dental Hygienists

Our two Dental Hygienists attended to many children this school year, performing oral screenings of Kindergarten children, oral exams, cleaning and sealants for students in grades 1-5 with parental permission. The dental hygienists have continued to meet with our Dental Consultant, Dr. Birmingham, to discuss our school oral health program. There continues to be a growing need for oral health services for the students in Milford.

Summer Programs

Our 12-month nurse will attend to children at the summer programs being housed at Foran High School, including Camp Happiness. The extended school year programs will be operating at JFK and Harborside schools and we will provide nursing service at each site. Our immunization clinics will continue to be held during the summer months to assist families with immunizations needed for school as well as immunizations for adults as needed.

Comments:

- D. McBride stated that Joan is doing a great job seeing that the nurse's stay current and up to date on training through a self evaluation approach. J. Cagginello added that the nurses follow the National Association of School Nurse standards and the Health Department has purchased a copy of the standards for each nurse. Joan noted that Cheryl Resha, our state school nurse consultant from the Department of Education, convened a group of nurse leaders from across the state, including herself, to develop competencies to use with the standards to help the nurses complete the self evaluation. The process will begin next school year and a portion of each monthly staff meeting will be devoted to studying and discussing the competencies. D. McBride explained that the nurses are isolated and the training budget is limited, so Joan uses the monthly nurses meetings to bring in knowledgeable speakers to enhance their training as well as providing a growing reference library for each school.
- H. Fink asked if there is any interest in the school based health clinics? D. McBride responded that they are waiting for the new superintendent to assume his position.

Emergency Preparedness Report – Presented by Diana Yassanye

Cities Readiness Initiative

Funding for CRI has arrived, creating the opportunity for us to proceed with the greater regional planning efforts.

The conference in Rhode Island last week for the New England CRI cities and states was a good networking opportunity: We learned of CRI areas that were similar to our own and made some good connections so that we won't have to "reinvent the wheel" in our planning.

Pandemic Flu planning

The tri-folds highlighting healthy habits for flu prevention are here. These will be available for the 2007-2008 flu season. It is our intention to make these cards part of the flu season campaign, encouraging hygiene and seasonal flu shots. This campaign is slated for early fall, as the flu season begins.

Volunteer Programs:

Milford Coalition for Community Preparedness & Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Milford's application for a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is in the second phase. The Medical Reserve Corps is another branch of the Federal Citizen Corps program, empowering citizens to become involved in local readiness initiatives, just like CERT. The Coalition for Community Preparedness is already made of medical and non-medical volunteers; this program will provide some standard training that will make our volunteers nationally recognized. We will benefit from the pre-credentialing program offered for MRC medical volunteers. The group is intended to assist in local emergencies but they will also have an opportunity to be deployed in national emergencies if they volunteer to do so.

We are assisting in the development of a "Westfield Mall" CERT team, which will be made of employees and Milford Residents. This team will be specialized for the mall, which could become a major asset during an emergency. The team leader will be Brian Gaus, General Manager for Westfield and graduate of Milford's first CERT team.

We are also in the beginning stages of developing another trainings schedule for a second CERT team for the city, which is slated for the fall.

The HAM radio operators are doing a two-day test of their radio system this weekend. They will be communicating over multiple frequencies, talking to people around the world and within the state. The event officially begins at 2 PM on Saturday at Eels Hill.

Comments:

- D. McBride explained the Cities Readiness Initiative grant money, which the city loaned to us temporarily till the actual funds came in, has come in. D. Yassanye explained that this grant is part of the Strategic National Stockpile to increase the efforts of mass dispensing to the entire population within 48 hours of the call to so. They are encouraging faster and innovative methods, for example utilizing the United States Postal Service to conduct direct drop offs.

Community Health Division Report—Presented by Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 24 cases of disease reported for the month of May with chlamydia being the most reported disease for the month.

Putting on AIRS

The Putting on AIRS asthma home assessment program has received 28 referrals to date. The Milford Health Department submitted an application for continued funding to implement this program next year. The focus for the year ahead is to increase marketing and strengthen relationships with physicians in the region to encourage referrals.

2nd Annual Symposium on Troubled Housing Issues

The follow-up symposium to last year's hoarding symposium will be held on June 27, 2007 at Platt Regional Technical School in Milford. The symposium has been approved for 6 continuing education credits from the Connecticut Department of Public Safety. We have received approximately 50 registrations and expect to reach our goal of 125 participants. Speakers will include Dr. Harry Morgan (geriatric psychiatrist), Probate Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney for Housing Matters Judith Dicine, along with representatives from the Humane Society of the US, Elderly Housing Management, and the Connecticut Department of Social Services-Elderly Protective Services Division. Speaker Amann, Senator Slossberg and State Representative Roy will be in attendance as well.

Grants Management

The Community Health Coordinator is in the process of submitting several applications for continued funding for grants awarded by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. In addition, we are in the process of searching and applying for grants to support the Walking School Bus program as well as the Case Management program for troubled housing issues. The application for a mini-grant from General Mills that was submitted in March was not approved.

Comments:

- C. Young asked how the 28 referrals have been going. D. Joseph responded that there are several home visits, consisting of the initial visit, followed by a 3, 6, and 9 month follow-up. Follow-up data to date indicates that on average ED visits have been reduced, absences from school have decreased and patients report adherence to treatment.
- R. Toronto asked what time the hoarding symposium will take place. D. Joseph responded from 8:00 am. to 2:30 pm., and Board members are welcome to attend.

Director's Report – Presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

- D. McBride stated that he conducted a meeting regarding Blood borne Pathogens with police, fire, public works, board of education, and the risk manager for the City. This was the result of an incident that occurred recently. The goal is to create a uniform policy that all departments follow so situations are handled consistently. It is important to identify the source of the blood borne pathogen and their status and is done on a voluntary basis. He explained that he is working with a private agency, Internal Medicine/Infectious Disease, to oversee infectious control. E. Judson asked if Milford Hospital will be included, for which D. McBride responded yes.
- D. McBride stated the Health Department staff is also writing a policy regarding resistant TB in light of the recent occurrence of a resistant TB patient slipping through the system. We wondered if it could happen here. He added that Joan has been working with Fire Department on TB testing to get a baseline.

- D. McBride stated that he would like to see the Walking School Bus program expanded into a much larger program. He added that D. Joseph did an excellent job marketing the program to Calf Pen and he would like other schools to get involved, perhaps with variations. For example, a walking school bus to a bus stop. In addition we could market this to the older students that drive their own vehicles to school, marketing to them the environmental concerns.
- D. McBride added that he had met with Pat Baker of the Connecticut Health Foundation. The Health Department will be submitting a grant application to them with regards to the Walking School Bus.
- D. McBride submitted to the Board an article he wrote that was published in NACCHO Exchange newsletter regarding Climate Change.
- C. Young asked how the budget hearings went. D. McBride responded that the Health Department and Nursing had some money was cut in training, medical supplies and seasonal temporary lines, but the grants will help.
- E. Judson stated that he spoke with the Mayor regarding the Health Department building be provided with an electrical generator in the case of emergencies. D. McBride stated they have not budgeted for it. E. Judson made a motion for the Health Department to look into buying an electrical generator for the Health Department facility. R. Toronto seconded the motion. The rationale for the need of a generator relates to the pivotal position of the Health Department activities in a public health emergency; for example maintaining refrigeration of essential medications. C. Young asked if the monies could come out of preparedness grants. D. Yassanye responded that the preparedness grants are coming to an end in August; however, she would look into the possibility. D. McBride added that both Police and Fire get Homeland Security monies, and Public Health may be able to pull some money towards the generator. C. Young added to the motion to have a report on the generator back by the end of the calendar year. E. Judson agreed with deadline addition to motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. McBride explained that we are getting radiophones. D. Yassanye added that the radio phones operate on an 800 Mhz frequency that is devoted to the region from the Housatonic River to the Connecticut River. All regions will be able to communicate in the event of an emergency on our own channel. They are battery operated and plug into your car.

New Business

- None.

Adjournment

J. Reingold motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by E. Judson. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS, Recorder

