

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2017

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Joan Cagginello, MS, RN
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Ernest Judson
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison
Thomas Jagodzinski, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None.

Health Department Staff Present:
Deepa Joseph, MPH, Director of Health

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on May 16, 2017 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

Public Session: *None*

Environmental Division Report – Laura M. Miller, REHS/RS
Vector Control

- Mosquito monitoring: In addition to the routine mosquito monitoring, inspecting, and larvicide treatments conducted by All Habitat Services since the start of spring 2017, MHD Sanitarians and All Habitat Services have investigated 21 complaints/concerns about potential mosquito breeding areas on private property. In instances where stagnant water is found, property owners are notified that stagnant water exists on their property and that it is likely to afford breeding places for mosquitoes. Stagnant water within a residential district is considered a public health nuisance and is a violation of the CT Public Code. 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 started mosquito monitoring, trapping and testing for early detection of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus at 91 sites throughout CT earlier this month.
- Tick testing: According to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (“CAES”) tick testing program, there is higher tick abundance in CT this spring that can be related

to warmer winter temperatures in the State during the last two years. Not only is there a higher tick abundance this year but the CAES reports seeing more ticks infected with the causative agent of Lyme disease and other tick-borne pathogens. Since the beginning of the 2016/2017 fiscal year, MHD has received from residents and submitted to the CAES 117 ticks for identification and testing. Of these, 55 were tested and 21 (38%) were positive for the causative agent of Lyme disease (41 insects are still pending results). Due to the warmer winter temperatures, the MHD receives and submits ticks for testing year round. At this time of year, personal protection measures and conducting personal tick checks remain the most effective ways to reduce the risk of tick-borne diseases.

Beach Monitoring

May 31, 2017 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 17 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-blight activities: As of the week ending June 16, 2017 the Health Department received 393 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 393 complaints, 84 were complaints of blight for the 2016/2017 fiscal year thus far. 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. Properties that fail to comply with the orders defined in the issued Notice of Violation are 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.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph added that as the number of tick specimens submitted have increased significantly, the State Laboratory is backlogged. As such, residents are being advised to consult with their physician if they have been bit, rather than waiting for the sample results. J. Costello asked about the size of ticks that are being submitted to the Health Department this season. D. Joseph responded that we are seeing ticks of varying sizes from very, very small to large sizes.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

School Health Services

The nurses completed their school year on June 14th.

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:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Early Signs of Mental Illness
- Arthritis in Children
- Oral Health in CT
- Eating Disorders and Current Recommended Treatments
- Social Media Trends and Substance Abuse impacting Milford Youth
- Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network
- Asthma/Open Airways American Lung Association School Education Program
- Ear Exams
- Common Pediatric Dermatoses
- Assessing Student Vision in Schools
- Assessing Student Hearing in Schools
- Allergy and Anaphylaxis
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Opiate Abuse
- Fragile X Disorder
- Concussions

Extended School Year Programs & Camp Happiness

Camp Happiness will be held at Foran High School this summer from June 26th – August 10th. Mary Fowler, RN, 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, Orchard Hills, Pumpkin Delight and Foran High School. There will be a public health nurse working at all programs.

Bloodborne Pathogen Training

Bloodborne Pathogen Training was provided to the Milford Recreation Department lifeguards and summer playground staff this past month.

Comments:

- *None.*

Emergency Preparedness Report - Tara Mustakos Wassmer, REHS/RS, CHES

Milford Health Department (MHD) is working to complete and finalize any last grant deliverables to submit to the CT State Health Department. Overall, Milford met objectives for planning and operational drills for 2016-2017. The remaining item is to develop a multi-year training and exercise program. As our office has several vacancies it would be ideal to wait until these positions are filled and identify gaps to develop a training program around new and current staff abilities.

The review of survey data sent out to the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers created by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) is complete. MHD should expect a report for review shortly from the Yale group. Review of survey data results may be presented to Milford volunteers in coordination with the “Until Help Arrives” civilian preparedness program. Released by the National MRC organization; “Until Help Arrives” is a program for civilians on what to do in an active shooter/terrorist type emergency. At the monthly Region 2 MRC meeting Milford’s volunteer coordinator discussed further evaluation of the program to be presented regionally.

MHD attended the most recent Family Assistance Center (FAC) planning meeting. Final review of the draft plan was discussed as well as plans to present the document at the September 2017 Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 meeting. The FAC workgroup lead is working to purchase and complete FAC go-kit materials to distribute to all Region 2 local health departments/districts. Each health department/district will be provided with forms, an electronic copy of the plan, etc and one additional kit will be centrally located including start-up logistical supplies, hard copy forms, etc. The goal is to have the plan be operational and ready to implement in a time of catastrophe. Discussions are ongoing for training a FAC task force; a combination of single resources assembled to meet a tactical need. In this case public health officials will combine with local officials, outside agencies, etc to meet the needs of a FAC.

Comments:

- *None.*

Community Health – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Disease Surveillance

There were 32 cases of disease reported for the months of May, with Lyme disease as being the most frequently reported.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

New contract changes have allowed the program to modify eligibility, while extending the number of home visits as directed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The program now offers up to three (3) home visits and a 6 month follow up after a participant has been enrolled. In total we received 182 referrals since the beginning of the contract year, in the same time frame last year we only received 114. For the month of May we received 23 referrals. For the year we have completed 53 initial home visits, 38 second and 25 third home visits. We have completed four (4) 6 month follow up calls. Success has stemmed from the new database with the ability to search when a follow up is due for a referral and increase ability in keeping track of home visits. Working with DPH with inputting and extracting accurate data for our program has been an on-going process.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

PLTI has successfully finished its eighth training institute. PLTI has effectively maintained and graduated 18 diverse participants for this year. The relationship building and cohesion of this

group has come together with its own distinctiveness. This cohort even held their own celebration at one of the participant's home after graduation. The participants all have expressed how the program has impacted them personally. We have had great success from this program with now a total of 125 graduates! PLTI which 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.

NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) Challenge Award

The Department is nearing the end of its 2015-2016 NACCHO's Medical Reserve Corps Challenge Award. We have worked with Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) to conduct a survey of MRC volunteers and Milford Residents to assess their hurricane knowledge, risk perceptions, training experience, communication skills and resources to conduct face to face conversations. The survey was disseminated to the public in March and closed with 84 respondents but only 43 completed. YPCCC will be analyzing and sharing the results in the coming weeks. We hope to share and utilize the results to develop recommendations for a training and recruitment program for Milford MRC to serve as neighborhood ambassadors.

Comments:

- *None.*

Old Business:

- *None*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *D. Joseph reported that Department staff is extremely busy with various activities and in light of the current vacancies. With the arrival of the spring/summer season comes many temporary events on weekends and evenings where the Sanitarians will be conducting food service inspections. School nurses have concluded the school year and are ramping up for summer programs. Additionally, administrative staff is working to close out the current fiscal year, especially with regards to grant activities.*
- *C. Young shared that she sent a letter to the Mayor regarding the vacant Sanitarian position on behalf of the Board. E. Judson asked if there is any update on the hiring of a Sanitarian for the vacant position. D. Joseph responded that the Mayor's spending freeze is still in place and that she will be discussing the matter with the Mayor again this week.*
- *E. Judson asked how the department is managing with inspections. D. Joseph responded that the Department is managing, however it is becoming more difficult in light of several temporary events occurring where the current Sanitarians have to inspect on weekends, thereby making them unavailable to do routine inspections on weekends. Additionally, as temporary events become larger (i.e. increased number of food vendors, etc.), the events require additional staff to ensure the safety of food being served to the public at these events.*

New Business:

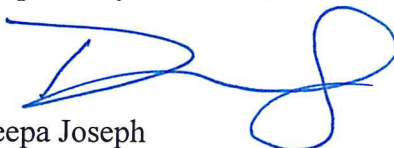
- *None.*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deepa Joseph
Recorder