

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2015**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Ernest Judson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present:

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

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on June 16, 2015 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello. C. Young abstained.

Public Session: *None*

Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller, REHS/RS

Temporary Food Service Events

Since the start of the 2015/2016 fiscal year, the Environmental Health Division has issued 150 temporary event permits and conducted inspections at 22 public community events and counting. Fall is proving to be a very busy time of the year for food service at weekend events. Not only do Environmental Health Sanitarians conduct risk based inspections at all food service booths, additional time is spent processing applications, fielding questions and training volunteer food handlers.

Beach Monitoring

May 25, 2015 kicked off the start of the beach monitoring season. Every week between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Sanitarians collected water samples and conducted sanitary surveys at 17 different locations along the Milford coastline. There was one beach closure this year in early July due to high bacteria levels after a very heavy rain event, over a half inch of rain

fell in a very short period of time. Water samples collected at one location exceeded the acceptable concentration of bacteria and the beach was closed to swimming until the water was re-sampled. Typically whenever we receive a single water sample result with a concentration of bacteria greater than what is normally considered acceptable for swimming, a resample is required, and based on the sanitary survey of the surrounding watershed and areas that may impact the bathing area, the beach may be closed for swimming until satisfactory test results are received. All water samples are sent to the Connecticut State Lab for analyzing.

Mosquito Surveillance and Monitoring

September is the peak month for West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in Connecticut and we continue to urge everyone to take precautions against mosquito bites and to maintain their properties so that they prevent mosquitoes from breeding. So far this season, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has identified WNV infected mosquitoes in Bridgeport, Cheshire, Chester, Darien, East Haven, Glastonbury, Greenwich, Groton, Guilford, Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, Stonington, Stratford, Waterford, West Haven, Westport, Wethersfield and Wilton. The CAES reports that of these 20 towns, 15 are located along Long Island Sound in Fairfield (8), New Haven (4) and New London (3) counties. They also most importantly note that “the numbers of WNV infected mosquitoes responsible for transmission of the virus to people that have been trapped recently exceed the historical weekly averages.”

All Habitat Services, the mosquito control contractor for the Milford Health Department (MHD), continues to implement preventive measures against mosquito breeding in Milford. Throughout the year All Habitat Services applies a biological larvicide strategically throughout Milford in order to control mosquito larvae. Areas that are monitored and treated include all catch basins, 90 known mosquito breeding sites and any other area that is prone to ponding water.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending September 11, 2015 the Health Department received 113 general complaints from Milford residents for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Of those 113 complaints, 18 were complaints of blight.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph commented that the summer and fall months are always a busy time for MHD staff with temporary events. Many MHD staff worked at the Oyster Festival. MHD Sanitarians were present Oyster Fest Eve as well as all day at the Oyster Festival, conducting food inspections and providing information. MHD staff also had a tent on the Green with prevention and emergency preparedness information.*
- *A discussion about beach monitoring and closures followed. D. Joseph explained that if a sample test is high, MHD will retest before ordering closure. Some municipalities have implemented a preemptive closure policy based on rainfall data.*
- *J. Costello inquired if there was a notification process among local health departments about closures. D. Joseph responded that yes, the local health departments in contiguous towns notify each other in the event of closure.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

School Health Services

The public health nurses returned to work on August 20, 2015. It has been a busy start to the school year as many students began their year in new schools due to the elementary level reconfiguration which involved going back to a K – 5th grade arrangement. Preschool classrooms are now in four of the elementary schools: Kennedy, Live Oaks, Orange Avenue and Orchard Hills.

In addition to the student changes at the elementary level, four public health nurses recently submitted their resignations due to retirements or career changes. The Health Department has hired two new full time nurses: Mary Fowler and Yan Wang. Mary is assigned to Pumpkin Delight School. Mary has worked for the Milford Health Department as a substitute school nurse this past year and has done a great job. Yan Wang is assigned to Meadowside School. Yan has worked for ACES as a substitute school nurse and comes highly recommended. We are very excited to have Mary and Yan as members of our full time team! The hiring process continues for two additional nurses. The job posting closes on September 18th and we hope to bring the new hires on board in the next few weeks.

Kathy Scarinzi RN BSN NCSN has been reappointed the Lead Nurse among the public health nurses in our department. Kathy brings over 20 years of school nursing experience and is well respected by both her peers and school personnel. She will be assisting in the orientation process of the new nurses and will serve as a mentor to them throughout the year.

The Medication Administration Regulations have been amended by the CT Department of Education to include the administration of epinephrine by a qualified school employee (when the school nurse is unavailable) to students who experience allergic reactions and who do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or guardian or a written doctor's order for such administration.

Any qualified school employee volunteering to be trained to administer epinephrine under the new regulations must complete an annual training program developed by the CT State Department of Education and the CT Department of Public Health. This will include annual instruction in CPR and annual instruction in First Aid.

Milford's Medication Administration Policy is currently being revised to reflect these new changes.

Flu Season and Influenza Vaccine

This season's influenza vaccine has begun to arrive at the Health Department and the schedule for vaccination clinics in the community has been finalized:

- September 30th – 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm ~ General Public Clinic ~ Milford Health Department
- October 5th – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm ~ Milford Senior Center
- Oct 15th – 11:30 am – 4:30 pm ~ Health Fair ~ Parson's Gymnasium
- October 19th – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm ~ Milford Senior Center

- Oct 20th –2:30 pm – 4:30 pm ~ Board of Ed Employees ~ BOE conference room
- Oct 22nd –2:30 pm – 4:30 pm ~City Employees ~ BOE conference room
- Oct 29th - 2:30 - 4:30 pm ~ Board of Ed Employees ~ BOE conference room

The influenza vaccine composition for the 2015-2016 season will contain:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus
- an A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (Yamagata lineage) virus

This represents changes in the influenza A (H3N2) virus and the influenza B virus as compared with the 2014-2015 season.

Quadrivalent influenza vaccines will contain these vaccine viruses and also a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (Victoria lineage) virus which is the same recommendation for quadrivalent formulations in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

For 2015-2016, The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends the following:

Routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications (people who have experienced a severe (life threatening) allergy to a prior dose of a seasonal influenza vaccine or people who have a severe allergy to a component of the vaccine).

It is especially important for young children, people over 65 years of age, pregnant women, and people with health conditions to get the flu shot. It is also important for all health care workers and individuals in close contact with children less than 6 months of age to receive an annual influenza vaccination.

The Health Department will continue to provide the High Dose influenza vaccine for individuals over 65 years of age. Persons over age 65 are known to have a lower immune response to the seasonal flu vaccine. The High Dose vaccine, known as Fluzone High Dose, has four times the antigen as the seasonal flu vaccine. This allows for a better immune response for people over 65 years of age. The Milford Health Department will have Fluzone High Dose available at both the senior clinics and the community clinics.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph advised that as a result of the elementary schools reconfiguration and position vacancies, some changes to the nursing assignments were made. They also looked at special needs and health concerns at individual schools to determine assignments.*
- *C. Young suggested collecting data such as number of students with different health concerns in order to keep the Alderman and elected officials informed of the work that school nurses are doing and their value. D. Joseph confirmed that data is already collected. H. Mulrenan affirmed that educating people on the need for school nurses is important, especially with the more complicated health concerns and procedures being performed in school. D. Joseph stated she has a longer term goal*

for an open house to increase awareness of the roles, responsibilities, and activities of the MHD.

- *D. Joseph stated she has also considered having the MHD building open during the Oyster Festival as a quasi open house to educate residents when they stop in.*
- *E. Judson asked how other municipalities handle blight. D. Joseph responded that there are not many other health departments that enforce blight. Some municipalities do not have an anti-blight ordinance and others fall under the Building or Planning & Zoning Departments.*
- *R. Vitali inquired if any budget changes were coming. D. Joseph responded she doesn't know yet, as the first budget meeting with the mayor is typically scheduled for October.*

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

Regional Initiatives

The Milford Health Department will serve as the fiduciary for the Regional Preparedness grant including a separate smaller grant specific to Ebola Virus (EVD)/infection disease planning. A survey monkey vote was taken among Region 2 Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, planning partners as other agencies were nominated to be the fiduciary. Milford has a history of successfully administering grant reporting, finance reports and ensuring all the regional partners are in line with their individual and regional obligations. Deepa Joseph, Director of Health, will be the primary administrator of this grant.

Region 2 is moving forward with the Long Term Care Mutual Aid plan managed by the CT Department of Public Health and an outside vendor. The plan is to aid in plan development, maintenance and ongoing training for all the long term care facilities in Region 2. As of now, almost all 51 facilities have participated with the plan and provided the necessary information. The plan is to benefit facility needs in an emergency, for example in the event of a power outage, need for evacuation, movement of medical equipment, etc. A tabletop exercise is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th, to test parts of the plan. Three long term care/nursing facilities reside in Milford. Contact has been made with all three facilities to ensure each is on board and willing to participate.

Local Preparedness Initiatives

The CT 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). Milford has received a work plan which outlines specific grant deliverables such as drill participation, meeting participation and reporting requirements. 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.

The graduation ceremony for the new Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) members was held June 22nd. Twenty-four members were sworn in under the Emergency Management Director. The Milford Fire Department is hosting a Hands-Only CPR event in which health department staff and volunteers will participate. The event is targeted at all city employees to learn hands only CPR. The health department emergency preparedness trailer will be used for logistical support for this event.

Comments:

- *J. Costello inquired about the survey monkey vote. D. Joseph explained that survey monkey is an internet data collection tool for taking surveys. D. Joseph further explained that some other members of the Region 2 Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 group had expressed interest in serving in the fiduciary role. A vote was taken among all members using the survey monkey tool and MHD was voted as the fiduciary. MHD has served as the regional lead agency for years and has much experience in this role. R. Vitali inquired if MHD will receive an administrative fee for serving as the fiduciary of the grant. D. Joseph responded they would.*
- *D. Joseph advised that on September 17th, MHD staff and all other City employees will have an opportunity to be trained in hands-only CPR and the use of AED's (automated electronic defibrillators). C. Gonillo inquired if MHD had an AED. D. Joseph confirmed the MHD does, as well as the Parsons Complex and other City facilities.*

Community Health –

Deepa Joseph gave a verbal report in the absence of a Community Health Coordinator. There were 93 cases of disease reported for the months of June, July, and August, with chlamydia being the most reported disease.

The Putting on Airs asthma program completed the contract year on August 30th with over 100 referrals and over 50 home visits.

The MHD was awarded continued funding for the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) and is beginning recruitment for the next class.

D. Joseph interviewed a number of candidates on September 14th for the part time Community Health Coordinator position. A couple of candidates have a good combination of grant and epidemiological experience. She hopes to make an offer of employment this week for a start date in October.

Comments: None.

Old Business: *None*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *The Governors 2015 Emergency Preparedness and Planning Initiative (EPPI) exercise is scheduled for next month, the topic is school safety. MHD will be participating in the exercise.*
- *Some funding was incorporated into a grant this fiscal year in order to work on accreditation. The new Community Health Coordinator will ideally assist with this process. C. Young commented that the Norwalk Health Department had received accreditation and would perhaps be able to help. D. Joseph noted that Stratford is very close to obtaining accreditation as well.*

New Business: *None*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga
Recorder