

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2013**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson  
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary  
Ernest Judson  
William F. Lynch, MD  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Susan Shaw, Board of Alderman Liaison  
George Gensure, Board of Education Liaison

*Others Present:*

*Health Department Staff Present*

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

J. Costello called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. and turned over C. Young at 6:25 pm.

**Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on June 18, 2013 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by W. Lynch.

**Public Session:** None

**Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller**

*Anti-blight activities*

As of the week ending September 13, 2013 the Health Department received 109 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 109 complaints, 29 were complaints of blight during the 2012/2013 fiscal year. Currently, seven properties are under investigation and monitoring while one has been issued correction orders from the Anti-blight Enforcement Officer.

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. These eight properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance.

### Mosquito Surveillance and Monitoring

September is the peak month for West Nile Virus 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. All Habitat, LLC continues to implement preventive measures against breeding areas. We have mosquito dunks (BTI) available for all residents who need them. It is important to educate the community on the importance of monitoring their own properties for anything that could collect water and become an area for mosquitoes to breed. All Habitat Services, the mosquito control consultant for the City of Milford, applies a biological larvicide strategically throughout the City 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. Throughout the summer months interns from the health department attended various fairs and events including the Oyster Festival to hand out samples of insect repellent wipes and information on how to protect oneself from mosquitoes and West Nile Virus and how to prevent mosquitoes from breeding around the home. The health department website is updated with the latest information on West Nile Virus and tips on how to protect yourself and your home from mosquitoes.

### Beach Monitoring

May 30, 2013 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 16 different locations along the Milford coastline. Water samples were sent to the Connecticut State Lab for analyzing. When collecting sea water samples, Sanitarian's also inspected the tide line to identify potential hazards such as medical waste and/or syringes. If there was something suspicious observed, Sanitarians are instructed to contact the Milford Police Department. This year proved to be a great year for water quality. The beaches remained open for swimming the entire season and no needles were reported found.

*Comments: None*

## **Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell**

### School Health Services

The public health nurses returned to work on August 22, 2013. There was one resignation – Christina Lowder RN, BSN. We also had one nurse, Pam Mulla RN, BSN pass away this past winter. As a result of these, along with my new position, the Health Department hired three nurses this summer: Sandi Fomenko (assigned to Foran High School), Kathy Guis (assigned to St. Mary's), and Laura Trinkoff (assigned to Mathewson).

Kathy Scarinzi RN BSN NCSN has been named 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 our new nurses and will serve as mentor to them throughout the year.

### Flu Season and Influenza Vaccine

This season's influenza vaccine has begun to arrive at the Health Department and we are in the process of setting the schedule for vaccination clinics in the community. Flu clinics at the Milford Senior Center will be held on October 7th and October 9th from 11am-1pm. The trivalent influenza vaccine formulated for this year contains A/California (H1N1-like virus),

A/Victoria (H3N2-like virus) and B/Massachusetts (2012-like virus). Overall vaccine supply is anticipated to be similar to last year based on manufactures report to the Flu Vaccine Summit in May 2013. There are no major changes in the recommendations for vaccination. Annual vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months and older. 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 Center clinics and our community clinics.

*Comments: None*

## **Emergency Preparedness Reports**

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

#### Public Health Preparedness Contracts

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) and Regional Planning grant was not funded for the next grant cycle to the Milford Health Department as the fiduciary agent for Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) Region 2. Preparedness planning staff members have been eliminated from the health department staff as a result.

#### Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The Milford Health Department is funded for local preparedness planning for another year as part of a three year Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant. Several grant deliverables are required in order to continue local preparedness funding. Local grant deliverables include quarterly call downs to staff and volunteer lists, a report of volunteer recruitment and retention and any updates to plans/Point of Dispensing (POD) locations.

Although the regional funding structure has been eliminated, additional requirements on the local grants include participation in a regional full scale exercise, maintaining communication with State representatives on workgroups, complete additional training requirements for mass dispensing, host our own drill locally and complete evaluation paperwork through the CDC in the event a real disaster occurs within the grant cycle. Region 2 Health Directors met early this month to identify the gaps in regional planning as there is no staff dedicated to fulfilling these grant requirements. The expectation remains for local preparedness planning to expand regionally for all hazards response, mass dispensing efforts and maintain ability to function independently in the event of a statewide disaster (i.e. hurricane).

#### Public Health Preparedness Activities

The Milford Health Department Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers continue to participate in local events. Plans for Disaster Animal First Aid are in the works to bring this

course to Milford. Invitations will be sent out to other MRC groups in Region 2, the Milford Police Department K-9 division and the Milford Fire Department.

*Comments: None*

### **Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph**

#### Disease Surveillance

There were 65 cases of disease reported for the months of June, July, and August, with chlamydia being the most reported disease.

#### Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 141 total referrals for this contract year. The CT Department of Public Health Asthma Program notified all funded regions that the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has significantly reduced grant funding for the upcoming contract year. As such, Milford Health Department grant funding for this program has decreased by 10%. The Department continues to look for additional funding opportunities and is working with health departments within our region to utilize as many resources as possible to support this program moving forward.

#### Staffing & Coverage

The Milford Health Department had a few vacancies in the area of School Health at the end of last year, including the Director of Nursing position, as well as 2 public health/school nurse positions. Interviews for all positions were held over the summer and candidates were hired accordingly. Joan Campbell, BSN, RN was hired as the Director of Nursing. Joan was previously the Lead Nurse and assigned to the Academy. As a result of her acceptance of the offer, another Public Health/School Nurse vacancy opened up. Three (3) public health/school nurses were hired and have started working at their respective schools.

#### Grants Management

##### Access Health Connecticut Grant

The Milford Health Department is obtained a grant in the amount of \$12,000 through the CT Office of the Healthcare Advocate and Access Health CT to assist Milford residents in understanding their health insurance options and in enrolling in the health insurance program or plan that best meets their needs. Under the Affordable Care Act, residents who otherwise might be unable to afford health coverage may qualify for additional assistance in paying their health premiums or their deductibles and co-payments. The enrollment period kicks off on October 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through March 2014. Quiana Lewis, previously our Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, has been attending trainings as an Assister. Assistants throughout the state are tasked, through this grant, to be responsible for enrolling uninsured and/or underinsured residents in to the CT Health Insurance Exchange system.

##### Parent Trust Fund Grant

The Milford Health Department submitted a grant application to the State Education Resource Center/Parent Information Resource Center to support parent leadership training in Milford. The proposed program model is the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI). The Health Department, in collaboration with Kids Count of Milford and the United Way of Milford, has

implemented PLTI in the past, with four (4) graduating classes for a total of 65 graduates. If awarded this grant, the Health Department seeks to kick-off our fifth class in January 2014.

*Comments: None*

#### **Old Business:**

- *C. Young contacted the City Attorney's office regarding the smoking at the ball fields and was informed that they are still reviewing the statutes.*

#### **Director's Report:**

- *Dr. McBride stated the Sanitarians conducted Health Inspections of the town massage establishments with the Police Department. The inspections were focused public health concerns like cleanliness of facility, cleaning practices and overt medical issues.*
- *Dr. McBride explained that a news reporter from Channel 3 news stopped by requesting to view the restaurant inspection scores. Dr. McBride invited the reporter to accompany L. Miller on an inspection of a restaurant to get a better idea of what those scores mean. Dr. McBride added that an inspection on any given day is a snapshot only. The public should be assured that if a restaurant is open then it is satisfactory. C. Gonillo stated the scores have been posted on Milford Patch.*
- *Dr. McBride informed the Board that he received a Notice of Hearing from the Dept. of Public Health Hearing Office regarding Beth-El Shelter's appeal of a Notice of Violation concerning a public nuisance involving a contractor power washing the building located at 90 New Haven Avenue. He explained the process of the hearing and added that the City Attorney's office would be accompanying him.*

#### **New Business:**

#### **Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS  
Recorder