

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2011**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Secretary
William F. Lynch, MD
Christine M. Gonillo
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Deborah Woods
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Diane Kruger-Carroll, Board of Education Liaison
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present

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

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – June 21, 2011

The minutes of the meetings held on June 21, 2011 were approved unanimously with correction to page 15, paragraph Mosquito Control, line 10 should read 2010 Season, replacing 2009 Season, on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by M. Quintner. .

Environmental Health Report – *Laura Miller, RS*

Tropical Storm Irene

The environmental response to the storm was a massive undertaking for the Health Department Environmental Division. In preparation for the storm, communications went out to all food service establishments with information about food safety during an extended power outage (longer than 4 hours), and after a flood. Several food service establishments lost power and/or received flood/storm damage. The environmental sanitarians worked to get out to or make contact with every food service establishment to assess power outage locations and to make assessments in order to protect public health. The Wallingford Health Department provided MHD with a Sanitarian to assist with opening inspections of food service establishments that were closed after the storm due to power outages or flooding.

Sanitarians, the Housing Inspector and the Case Manager conducted inspections and surveys of areas in Milford that is prone to flooding and power outages. MHD Environmental staff conducted health & safety checks for known vulnerable individuals and contacted Public Housing officials to determine health & safety of those buildings. Health Department staff along with a MHD Nurse conducted health and safety checks at all units at the Viscount Drive public housing facility, 105 units. The building was without back-up generator power, no lighting in hallways, stairwells or common areas. During those safety checks a MHD nurse called EMS to help a resident in medical distress. In addition, Health Department staff worked with the Fire Department to provide food and water to residents in public housing on Viscount Drive due to lack of power.

Environmental Health Sanitarians worked with the City's Storm Recovery Coordinator to conduct home to home damage assessments of properties. They provided FEMA registration information and documented property damage. The information was provided to FEMA for follow-up.

Local beaches were closed Monday, August 29th, water samples were collected and sanitary surveys of the beaches was conducted on August 31st and September 9th to assess water quality and safety.

All Habitat, the mosquito control contractor for the City ramped up their surveillance after the storm. Field staff conducted assessments of the flooded areas of the City to assess the amount of standing water and provide treatment if necessary.

Food Protection Program

In the beginning of September, plan review applications started to come in for the proposed food service establishments that are under construction at the new interstate 95 rest stops in Milford. At least five new food service establishments are expected at each rest stop. Each will go through the plan review process and get licensed through MHD.

Temporary Food Service Events

Since the start of the 2011/2012 fiscal year, the Environmental Health Division so far issued permits for and conducted inspections at 44 public community events and issued 142 temporary event permits to vendors where food was prepared on site and sold to the public. 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.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending September 16, 2011, the Health Department received 23 complaints of blight during the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 259 complaints. Currently, twenty-three (23) properties are under investigation and monitoring while seventeen have been issued correction orders from the Anti-blight Enforcement Officer. 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.

Currently, eight 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 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.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2011/2012	Under Investigation <u>OPEN</u> Record	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
259	23	23	17	34	8

Comments:

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

New Immunization Requirements for School Entry

The state of Connecticut has approved numerous new immunization requirements for school students beginning this school year. These new requirements posed a challenge for families who were seeking the immunizations for their children. Interruption in school schedules, power outages and families displaced from their homes related to hurricane Irene further compounded the challenge. In an effort to assist families and pediatricians, we extended a two week “grace period” for students to obtain the immunizations from their physician or at the Health Department clinics. The Health Department held four “back-to-school” immunization clinics that offered school age immunizations. The process was very effective, as all children have received their required immunizations and are attending school as of this date (9-20-11).

Mick Bolduc, MPH from the Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Program attended the nurses staff meeting in August and answered many of their questions about the large scale changes in required immunizations for this school year

School Health Services

The public health nurses returned to work on August 25, 2011 to begin the school year. There was one retirement (Carla McNamara, RN, BSN- retired September 10th) and one resignation (Alisa Erotopoulos, RN, BSN). The Health Department has hired two nurses; Robin Weissauer, RN, BSN a long time substitute nurse with the Health Department and Patricia Rappa, RN, BSN. One of our School Health Office Clerks resigned in August and we are in the process of filling this seasonal/temporary 19-hour position.

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 3rd and October 5th from 11am-1pm. Seniors are advised to call the Senior Center to register for their flu shot. The influenza vaccine is the same as the 2010-11 vaccine which contains A/California (H1N1-like virus), A/Perth (H3N2-like virus) and B/Brisbane (2008-like virus).

All individuals age 6 months or older are advised to get a flu vaccination to protect them from developing the flu. 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

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 71 cases of disease reported for the months of June, July, and August, with Chlamydia being the most reported disease.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

As the regional lead for asthma, the Milford Health Department continues to play a leadership role in Asthma Region 6 through coordination and facilitation of this program and other projects geared towards assisting individuals and families with better asthma management. The program has received 115 referrals this contract year, with 65% of referrals coming from primary care providers. Our relationship with pediatric providers in our region continues to be strengthened, as our Program Coordinator has been able to convey the value of this program to providers by working so closely with them. Ten Pediatric residents working at Yale Primary Care Center have completed their Community Rotation with the program. As part of this program, residents have spent a half-day with the Putting on AIRS program learning about the value of working with public health officials to manage asthma within the community. As a result, the program was featured for the June Grand Rounds presentation at the Hospital of St. Raphael. Yet another accomplishment for the program is that Milford's public health nurse who serves on the asthma team passed the national Asthma Educator certification exam. This certification serves as an asset to the Putting on AIRS program, particularly if asthma education visits are reimbursable in the future.

Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Through collaboration with the United Way of Milford and Kids Count of Milford, the Health Department implemented the 3rd Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) in Milford. A local graduation ceremony was held at City Hall in June 2011 during which eleven (11) Milford parents graduated. The graduates also attended a statewide graduation ceremony at the Capitol building in Hartford at the end of June. Over three years, Milford has graduated 48 PLTI participants. Several PLTI alumni are serving in various positions within the community, including as members of the Milford Board of Education and Boards of Directors for community based organizations in Milford including United Way, Kids Count, and Milford's Promise. The Milford Health Department has submitted a grant application for funding from the State Education Resource Center and the CT Parent Information and Resource Center (SERC/CTPIRC) to support the program for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Award decisions will be announced at the end of September.

Healthy Homes Grant

The Milford Health Department has received funding through the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) to implement a Healthy Homes assessment program for a second year. The Healthy Homes Program takes a comprehensive approach by focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion, rather than addressing a single hazard at a time. The program looks at a variety of environmental health and safety concerns including mold, lead, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, home safety, pesticides, and radon. The Milford Health Department is one of only two health departments in the state that is implementing the program.

Lead in Toys Project

Through grant funding provided by the CT Department of Public Health, the Milford Health Department is working in partnership with a professor from Quinnipiac University on a program to screen toys at local daycare centers for lead. Over the past few years, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled several toys due to high levels of lead in the items. Through this program, toys at local daycare centers will be screened for elevated levels of lead. During the summer, program staff worked on enrolling daycare centers in the program and setting up all logistics for site visits in the fall. To date, three (3) daycare centers have confirmed participation with site visits beginning at the end of September. There are a total of twenty (20) licensed daycare centers in Milford. Program staff will continue to recruit as many centers as possible to participate in this valuable program.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Report

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Report - Tara Mustakos

Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Update

The Milford Health Department (MHD) has applied for the 2011-2012 Capacity Building grant for the Medical Reserve Corps through the National Association of City and County Health

Officials (NACCHO). This grant, in the amount of \$5,000, is for medical supplies, print materials and volunteer training activities.

Tropical Storm Irene Response & Recovery

On Friday, August 26th, the Milford Health Department was tasked with opening & managing the emergency shelter at Jonathan Law High School to prepare for Tropical Storm Irene. The shelter opened on Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 6pm and closed on Monday, August 29, 2011 at 9am. This was the first time the health department had opened and managed a shelter operation for the city. It was considered a success as a result of excellent coordination between local agencies including MHD, Milford Public Schools, Milford Fire Department, and Milford Police Department. Milford Police Department provided security during the entire shelter operation.

MHD staff provided Just in Time Training (JITT) for Medical Reserve Corp, CERT, an American Red Cross volunteer and nursing volunteers on Saturday, August 27th at 3pm and throughout the event with shift changes. Milford Animal Control set up an animal shelter at the same location, which proved a tremendous asset. Animal Control workers utilized Regional emergency response trailers to set up and provide housing for the evacuees. Approximately 40% of individuals who came to shelter brought their pets.

The shelter housed and/or serviced approximately 50 individuals overall. Individuals were diverse in age, ethnicity, background, and needs. The MHD worked in cooperation with the local homeless shelter to make accommodations for chronically homeless individuals who would not be appropriately placed in the evacuation shelter. The shelter housed families, as well as individuals. An area was set up with activities for children (i.e. toys, coloring books, etc.) and proved beneficial for families who came to the shelter.

The American Red Cross provided snacks to the City of Milford shelter on Saturday evening and on Sunday late morning. Communication to the Red Cross was intermittent in preparing for the storm and during the event. A Red Cross volunteer was a tremendous help in coordinating the efforts of his organization and to get clarification on American Red Cross involvement.

Milford Medical Reserve Corps & CERT volunteers did a great job aiding the shelter operation. Overall, the shelter was well staffed for the needs that were presented during the day and evening hours. Additional staff would have been helpful during the overnight shifts. Further discussion with the Milford volunteers regarding more preparation and/or accommodations to work overnight shifts will be addressed at future meetings. The Milford Fire volunteer group, Engine 260, was an excellent connection for future events. The volunteers showed up eager to assist and returned for a second shift during shelter operation.

Topics for concern included residents with special health care needs, in need of hospital care, prescription medications and the need for electricity for medical equipment. MHD attempted to work with the local hospital to address most of these issues prior to the storm. However, there was still confusion concerning these cases as they presented during and after the storm. MHD staff continued to follow up with these residents in cooperation with local social service agencies to provide temporary assistance (i.e. hotel vouchers, a place to plug-in medical devices, etc.) for those who were not assisted at the local hospital.

Emergency Management provided shelf stable food and cases of water to all local municipalities after the storm. On Thursday, September 1st, Milford received 40,000 lbs of boxed meals and cases of water. The Milford Health Department assisted Milford Fire Department with getting these provisions to the four fire stations and out to the community. An Everbridge message went out to Milford residents. Boxed meals and cases of water were slotted to be available for pick up starting Thursday evening until 9 PM and for 4 days after from 10 AM to 7 PM at the four fire houses. Milford Health Department staff and MRC volunteers provided assistance at each of the fire houses throughout the holiday weekend.

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - None

Old Business:

- E. Judson asked if the Hookah law ever passed. Connie stated it had not, however she was requested to speak about Hookah at the Annual Connecticut Public Health Association meeting in October.
- The board approved its Rules and Regulation to be sent to the city clerk.

Director's Report:

- Dr. McBride gave a recap of Hurricane Irene stating the Health Department Staff and volunteers did a great job setting up and maintaining the shelter.
- Dr. McBride added that Bill Richards has been reassigned to FEMA Coordinator for the City. The sanitarians helped FEMA in assessment of properties for damage throughout the City.

New Business:

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder