

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2016**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

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

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison
Ray Vitali, 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 21, 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on June 21, 2016 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

Approval of Meeting Time

There was discussion as to changing the meeting time for all future Board of Health meetings from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The meeting time was changed to 6:30 p.m. on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello and was approved unanimously.

Public Session: *None*

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

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending September 16, 2016 the Health Department received 122 general complaints from Milford residents for the 2016/2017 fiscal year. Of those 122 complaints, 25 were complaints of blight.

Temporary Food Service Events

Since the start of the 2016/2017 fiscal year, the Environmental Health Division has issued 181 temporary event permits and conducted inspections at 41 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 31, 2016 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 with no beach closures this year. 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. Although so far this season the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has not identified any WNV infected mosquitoes in Milford, there was one human case of WNV reported in a Milford resident.

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.

Comments:

- *Discussion ensued about temporary food service events including the increase in size of events such as the Summer Kickoff and Food Truck festivals, the increase in food trucks at temporary events, the staffing requirements for these weekend events, and the challenges in maintaining deadlines to ensure sufficient time to review applications and food safety requirements prior to the events.*
- *D. Joseph responded to inquiries about Zika and West Nile Virus (WNV). The first human case of WNV in Connecticut this year was detected in a Milford resident in August, resulting in several media inquiries and interviews. D. Joseph also recently attended a Zika Response state tabletop exercise, as detailed in the Emergency Preparedness Report following.*
- *Discussion also ensued about beach monitoring and closures at Silver Sands beach this summer.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

School Health Services

The public health nurses returned to work on August 23, 2016. Two public health nurses recently submitted their resignations due to retirements or career changes. The Health Department has filled these positions along with an additional vacant nurse position. Kerrie Troy is assigned to East and West Shore Middle schools. Kerrie comes with many years of experience as a nurse at Milford Hospital. Samantha Cordone has been assigned to Harborside and Orange Avenue School. Samantha also has several years of nursing experience in her background and comes highly recommended. Elizabeth Melvin is assigned to St. Mary's School. Elizabeth has prior experience

in school nursing having worked as a substitute school nurse in East Haven. We are very excited to have all three ladies as members of our full time team!

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.

An open Health Clerk position was also filled over the summer. Denise Ferency has been hired as the Middle School Health Clerk. She replaces Judy Berard who is now working full time for the MPS.

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 28th – 2 – 4 pm ~ Boys and Girls Village
- October 17th – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm ~ Milford Senior Center
- October 18th – 2:30 – 4:30 pm ~ Board of Ed Employees ~ BOE conference room
- October 20th – 11:30 am – 4:30 pm ~ Health Fair ~ Parson's Gymnasium
- October 24th – 2:30 – 4:30 pm ~ City Employees ~ Learning Center conference room
- October 26th – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm ~ Milford Senior Center
- October 26th – 3 – 6:30 pm ~ General Public Clinic - MHD
- October 27th – 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm ~ Board of Ed Employees ~ BOE conference room

The trivalent U.S. influenza vaccine composition for the 2016-2017 season will contain:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus
- an A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (Victoria lineage)

Quadrivalent vaccines will include an additional virus strain:

- a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (Yamagata lineage) virus

For 2016-2017, The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends the following:

Routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications.

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:

- *T. Jagodzinski asked whether data regarding how many School Nurse visits are for drug-related incidents can be obtained. D. Joseph responded that she would look to see if the existing database can pull that specific data out.*
- *Additional discussion ensued about opioid overdoses in Connecticut, the use of the drug Narcan to treat overdoses, who carries Narcan, and different states' approaches. The Board was interested in information regarding States that have passed regulations allowing for Narcan in school health offices.*

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

Regional Initiatives

The State of CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response conducted the first quarterly call down drill for the 2016-2017 year.

Statewide planning partners participated in a Zika Vector Control Response table top exercise this summer. Participants worked through a scenario in the event Connecticut has a positive Zika case. Exercise participants included representatives from 10 shoreline towns, CT DPH, CT Department of Agriculture (DoA) and CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). In light of this exercise Milford created a draft Zika Action Plan in annex to the Environmental Emergency Response Plan.

A draft plan for Family Assistance Centers (FAC) will be brought before Region 2 Emergency Management leadership for review and approval. Region 1 (Fairfield County) developed the initial draft and now Regions 2 (New Haven County) & 5 (Litchfield County) are working to adopt the plan with revisions as needed in an effort to keep uniformity with this plan statewide. MHD representatives met with Region 2 & 5 staff to review and finalize a draft. Local planners are working with mental health professionals, emergency responders and Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection staff. A FAC would be set up in the event of a mass fatality or casualty incident.

Local Preparedness Initiatives

Milford is working to finalize the survey with the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC). MHD staff emailed and conference called with Yale to hash out what data Milford would be looking for that will be most beneficial. The purpose of the survey is to assess their (volunteers) hurricane knowledge, risk perceptions, training experience, communication skills and resources to conduct face-to-face conversations. The results of the survey will be utilized to develop recommendations regarding training and recruitment program for Milford MRC to serve as "Neighborhood Ambassadors" focused on communicating storm preparedness before, during and after events with neighbors and vulnerable populations residing in the flood prone areas of Milford. Milford is one of 167 units nationwide to receive the 2016 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Challenge Award. The Challenge Award grant was fully funded in the amount of \$15,000.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph noted that a tri-state (NY, NJ & CT) Mass Fatality Exercise will take place October 25th – 27th. MHD will be participating on October 27th, where the focus will be on the Family Assistance Center (FAC) operations. The role of an FAC is to provide assistance to the families of victims in a potential mass fatality or casualty incident.*

Community Health – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Disease Surveillance

There were 114 cases of disease reported for the months of June through August. June numbers (44) reflect Salmonellosis being the most reported disease. Both July (24) and August (46) numbers reflect Chlamydia being the most reported disease.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 41 referrals this summer, for a total of 148 referrals received this program year with 76 home visits completed. As you know, a follow-up is conducted to discuss whether individuals and/or families have implemented the recommended control measures, to determine outcomes as a result of the home visit, and to discuss any challenges/barriers/etc. The Program Coordinator completed 22 Three month follow-up calls and 9 six month follow up calls. In June MHD attended the Connecticut Hospital Association meeting and the Department of Public Health state meeting at Connecticut Valley Hospital regarding new protocols in July. Our coordinator also provided a Yale Pediatric Emergency Department staff training in August.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

We have recently applied for funding for PLTI again through the State Education Resource Center (SERC). We anticipate announcements for PLTI funding will be made September 30, 2016. We have had great success from this program with 107 graduates. The previous funding year succeeded with 15 very diverse and cohesive graduates who are now members of local boards and organizations. 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.

PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board)

The Milford Health Department is still preparing itself to submit an application to become accredited. In August, the health department submitted a proposal for funding to assist with accreditation readiness. The 2016-2017 Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI) awards are intended to stimulate quality improvement and promote local health department's readiness to seek voluntary national accreditation through PHAB. We anticipate announcements for this opportunity to be made in October. The department is looking forward to using this additional funding to develop a strategic plan. The plan will provide the opportunity to re-identify priorities, re-invigorate energy and focus resources to better move the department forward in unison with the community.

Comments:

- *Discussion ensued about a salmonellis outbreak that the MHD was involved in investigating, and the resources and steps involved in investigating and establishing a*

corrective plan. The Board was interested in obtaining information regarding the number of staff hours needed to conduct such an investigation.

Old Business: *None.*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *D. Joseph assumed oversight of Human Services, Youth & Family Services, and Employment & Training on July 1st. Each agency has maintained its own identity while striving to obtain efficiencies and increased collaboration among agencies. The Board discussed the challenges around balancing each of the new roles and whether there is a need for additional staffing resources.*

New Business: *None.*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga
Recorder