

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2010**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Secretary  
Howard Fink, MD  
William F. Lynch, MD  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Diane Kruger-Carroll, Board of Education Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Deborah Woods  
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 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2010**

The minutes of the meetings held on June 15, 2010 were approved unanimously, on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

**Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS**

*Anti-blight activities*

As of the week ending September 17, 2010 the Health Department has received 180 total complaints of blight since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009. When the ordinance went into effect initially, this office received a surge of complaints. Since then, the number of complaints we receive have leveled off to between 3-4 per week. Currently, each complaint is in various stages of the process, some properties do not meet the criteria set up in the 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. After several inspections, reviews, and discussions with owners, seventeen properties are currently under orders from this department. They are currently within the specified compliance date or working with this department on a prescribed plan of compliance.

Eleven properties have 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.

| Total # of blight complaints | Repeat complaints | Under Investigation OPEN Record | Notice of Violation issued OPEN | Record closed/ Compliance | No cause for enforcement action | Referred to City Attorney |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 180                          | <b>31</b>         | <b>51</b>                       | <b>17</b>                       | <b>129</b>                | <b>53</b>                       | <b>11</b>                 |

When determining if a property is blighted, many variables must be taken into account. The Anti-Blight Enforcement Officer (ABECO) must determine if the property owner is “creating or maintaining, or causing to be created or maintained a blighted property” based on the ten conditions specific to blight in the ordinance.

1. Multiple missing, broken, or boarded up windows or doors; or
2. Inadequate maintenance as evidenced by structurally compromised foundation, collapsing or missing exterior walls, roof, gutters or damaged or missing siding; or
3. The presence of inorganic building materials, appliances, household furnishings, overgrown brush, shrubbery or overgrown grass of at least one foot situated on the premises; or
4. Extensive fire and/or water damage; or
5. Infestation by rodents or other pests; or
6. Excessive garbage or trash on the property; or
7. Inoperative or unregistered motor vehicles or inoperative boats parked or stored on the premises unless garaged on the property; or
8. Lots, such as commercial parking lots, or open storage areas left in a state of disrepair or abandonment; or
9. Vacant buildings or structures left unsecured or unguarded against unauthorized entry; or
10. Any condition causing substantial depreciation of the property values in the neighborhood, or is a fire hazard as determined by the Fire Marshal or his designee, or is attracting illegal activity as determined by the Police Department, or is a public nuisance as defined in Section 11-13.

### Food Protection Program

During the upcoming months, the Environmental Health Division Sanitarians will begin utilizing a different inspection form while doing routine food service establishment inspections. The “focused food” inspection form will aid in the identification of contributing factors associated with food-borne illness risk in commercial kitchens. The long term goal is to utilize data collected through the use of the focused food inspection form to fashion education efforts and prevent food-borne illness outbreaks.

### Temporary Food Service Events

Since the start of the 2010/2011 fiscal year, the Environmental Health Division has issued permits for and conducted inspections at 44 public community events and issued 140 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.

Our food service training program is targeted toward volunteers preparing and serving food at the Oyster Festival and ball field concession stands. The Environmental Health Division held two training sessions for Oyster Festival and Concession Stand volunteers during evening hours. For the 2010 Oyster Festival, we trained 64 volunteers who prepared and served food at the festival. These volunteers were issued I.D. badges for recognition of their completion of this training, and for their use when working at the various food booths.

### Mosquito Control

Although in July 2010, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) identified mosquitoes positive for West Nile Virus in Milford, September is the peak month for West Nile Virus in Connecticut. The Health Department continues to urge all residents to take precautions against mosquito bites and provide information on how to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on individual properties. All Habitat, LLC, Milford mosquito consultant, continues to implement preventive measures against mosquito breeding. The Health Department has mosquito dunks (BTI) available to 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.

### Household Hazardous Waste

On Saturday, October 2, 2010, we will be having a satellite household hazardous waste collection at the Public Works yard on Ford St., in addition to the regular collection site in New Haven. Residents will be able to dispose of all the same types of waste at the satellite collection in Milford. Milford residents will volunteer on-site along with Lori Vitagliano, the HazWaste Central Coordinator, and of course workers from Clean Harbors who will collect and dispose of the collected waste. In addition, the Fire Department has coordinated their propane tank disposal on the same day again this year.

### Comments:

- J. Costello expressed concern over two properties near her home, for which Dr. McBride gave an update and added that he would speak with staff regarding her concerns.

- C. Young asked about the workload on the staff, for which Dr. McBride responded that they are holding up, but remember they have Sonja Devitt, Community Housing Inspector, whose grant was not renewed through Community Development, and Lesley Darling who helps as Case Manager, however, both are part time positions.
- R. Vitali told of his concern for the three duck ponds and the mosquito population which is quite bad. He explained that the walls are crumbling and dredging is needed. Dr. McBride stated that the Health Department will conduct an environmental assessment of those ponds for the next meeting.

## **Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello**

### School Health Services

The public health nurses returned to work on August 26, 2010 to begin the school year. Marsha Schultz retired effective September 13, 2010 after 22 years of service as a school nurse. Marsha also had the distinction of being the first lead nurse among the nursing staff. Her expertise and experience will be missed as she was tremendously helpful in orientation of new nurses and substitute nurses and assisting at our immunization and influenza clinics.

Michael Bolduc from the CT Department of Public Health, Immunization Program visited with the nurses at their first staff meeting. He informed the nurses of the current status of immunizations in CT, the changes that have occurred this year for college entry and licensed day care establishments and the large scale changes in immunization requirements for school age students that are expected for the next school year (SY 2011-12).

The school nurses will have health initiatives for the coming school year in addition to their regular duties of providing state mandated screenings for vision, hearing and postural exams, direct care to students for illness and injury and their participation in the school community on planning and placement teams, student assistance teams, crisis teams and child study teams. Health education activities will continue by providing *Open Airways* for asthmatic children, The *Get in Touch Girls* program, health and hygiene programs among others.

### Immunization Clinics

Routine monthly immunization clinics were held in July and August, as well as a “back-to-school” clinic the day before school opened (September 31<sup>st</sup>). We have found that the number of children attending the summer clinics has decreased substantially. Monitoring, intervention and follow-up of students by the school nurses has positively impacted the number of students in compliance for entry to school. Young children entering pre-school and kindergarten, generally, are engaged with their primary care providers and have been adequately immunized for entry to school. Services such as the monthly immunization clinics, the on-call school nurse service for immunizations and the VNA well child clinics have been valuable community assets to expedite student entry in a timely manner.

Beth Boyd, Immunization Coordinator has not returned to the Health Department this fall. There is a posting for a part-time Immunization Coordinator at this time.

### Flu Season and Influenza Vaccine

This year, seasonal influenza vaccine is available and the supply is expected to be sufficient to meet the demand. The H1N1 pandemic flu vaccine is included in this year’s seasonal flu vaccination. All individuals age 6 months or older are advised to get a flu vaccination to protect them from

developing the flu. Additionally, children 6 months of age though 8 years of age who have not received a flu shot before are advised to receive 2 flu immunizations this year. Children 6 months of age -8 years of age who did not receive an H1N1 immunization last year are advised to receive 2 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine this year. Finally, children who received their first influenza vaccine last year and only received one dose should receive 2 doses this year. All others, age 9 years and older are advised to receive one dose.

The Milford Health Department will continue our influenza vaccine campaign this flu season, providing vaccine to residents via a number of venues. Clinics have been scheduled for the Senior Citizen Center on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11am – 1pm. Seniors are advised to call the Senior Center to register for the flu shots.

A new high dose flu immunization for individuals over age 65 is available this year. Historically, persons over age 65 have had a lower immune response to the seasonal flu vaccine. The new 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 the Senior Center clinics.

*Comments:None.*

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

### Disease Surveillance

There were 52 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 program received a total of 119 referrals for the contract year, which ended on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) grant will continue for at least two additional years. As the regional lead for asthma, the Milford Health Department will continue 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.

### Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Due to budget constraints at the State level, PLTI was not offered last year. Funding has now become available through the State Education Resource Center/CT Parent Information & Resource Center (SERC/CT PIRC). The Milford Health Department applied for a grant from SERC/CT PIRC in the amount of \$35,000 to implement PLTI this year. Award announcements will be made at the end of September. If funds are awarded, the third Milford PLTI will begin in January 2011.

### Physical Activity/Healthy Homes Grant

The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) has continued funding the Milford Health Department to implement a physical activity program through the Preventive Health Block Grant. Through this funding, the Department will continue working with the Boys & Girls Club of Milford on implementing physical activity programs during the Club's after-school program. The program entitled, "Backyard Games," is being offered to all youth from elementary, middle, and high schools in Milford who attend the Boys & Girls Club in Milford. The long-term goal is to establish various physical activity programs that youth see as a positive, healthy, fun habit that any child can participate in. Activities that will be promoted include walking, running, and backyard games that

promote increased physical activity levels per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

DPH has provided additional funding through this grant to implement a Healthy Homes assessment program. 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 programs looks at a variety of environmental health and safety concerns including mold, lead, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, home safety, pesticides, and radon.

*Comments:*

- Dr. McBride stated that the Health Department received additional funding for Year 1 of the Asthma Grant.

## **Emergency Preparedness Report**

### **Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - Amy Shields**

The Milford Health Department received funding to once again serve as the regional lead for public health emergency preparedness. The grant is a 3-year contract through the CT Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Town of Wallingford Mayor and Director of health requested additional money through the regional grant to hire an emergency preparedness coordinator. The Department of Public Health approved the request for additional funding for the Town of Wallingford. A regional exercise is being coordinated to test the dispensing of medications in an emergency event. This full-scale exercise will test dispensing methods alternate to public or open points of dispensing. The first planning meeting is September 28<sup>th</sup> and will continue twice a month on Tuesdays at 10AM.

The Milford Health Department is starting a program to integrate returning veterans into the public health workforce. The department will hire Veterans as interns to work on emergency preparedness projects. The idea is to start the program within Region 2, having veterans work at health departments throughout the region, and build the program statewide. The overarching goal is to place veterans back into a healthy and productive civilian life.

Project Manager, Bruce Varga, coordinated the Milford Health Department table at the Oyster festival on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Interns and emergency preparedness staff disseminated hundreds of brochures and informational materials to the public. Bug repellant and sunscreen were given away, along with water bottles, 1,000 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) first aid kits, and 500 MRC beach balls. Over 100 people provided email addresses to receive monthly e-bulletins on various public health topics.

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

#### *Local Emergency Preparedness*

The Milford Health Department will begin to offer Influenza vaccination for the 2010-2011 flu season. Health department staff and volunteers will plan to test the use of a flu clinic in a mass vaccination setting. Location and date still to be determined.

The Milford Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) is in the running to receive a \$5,000 capacity building grant from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO). Milford has been granted this award each year since 2007. Grant applications are currently under review and notifications will be sent early October.

The Milford Health Department MRC/CERT volunteer activity has been on hold for the summer. A training schedule and regional plan is in development for the MRCs in the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2.

*Comments:*

- E. Judson asked if and when a full scale exercise would take place, for which Dr. McBride responded in the spring. He added that the exercise is looking at different way to dispense like a drive thru pod. C. Young asked if we were lead and Dr. McBride responded yes for the region.
- Dr. McBride stated that the Health Department is the Region II lead, receiving funds of \$ 235,000 a year and advocated for the Town of Wallingford to received funding to help with their regional preparedness.
- Dr McBride added that the Health Department received a plaque, from the City of Middletown recognizing their CERT volunteer team response to the Kleen Energy Power Plant natural gas explosion.

**Old Business:**

- Dr. McBride stated that a decision has not come yet regarding the Hookah Lounge.

**New Business:**

**Director's Report:**

**Adjournment:**

H. Fink motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J. Costello and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS  
Recorder