

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2007**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Joseph Reingold, Secretary
Howard Fink
Mitchell Quintner
Robert Toronto
Deborah Woods
Joan Politi, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Joan Cagginello, RN, MS, Nurse Administrator
Laura Pagliaro, RS, Chief, Environmental Health
Diana Yassanye, MS, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Jim Tinley, New Haven Register

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by E. Judson seconded by R. Toronto.

Environmental Health Report – presented by Laura Pagliaro, RS

80 Wampus Lane – Environmental Cleanup

As previously reported this site is undergoing an environmental cleanup conducted by HRP Associates, an environmental remediation company, and supervised by the EPA.

In mid-September HRP Associates cleared vegetation within the contaminated area and constructed erosion controls and haul roads in order to access the drainage swale. Currently all the fencing is up, the first round of excavation is taking place and should be completed by the end of the week.

Melanie Morash, the EPA on-scene Coordinator reported that recent personal air monitoring data for the HRP cleanup workers at the Wampus Milford Site show that the concentrations of detected compounds remain well below action levels. In addition, perimeter air monitoring for associated dust and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) continues, showing no readings above the action levels.

The Security Company hired by HRP to secure the site along with the Milford Police Department has reported no incidents.

Beaches

The 2007 beach monitoring season which stretches from Memorial Day to Labor Day has come to an end. This year we collected samples at least once a week from 14 different sample locations along the Milford coastline. Because the CT Department of Public Health receives funding from the EPA Federal Beach Act grant, they provide sample transportation to Hartford and sample analysis free of charge.

The beaches remained open and safe the entire season except on one occasion where a pre-emptive closure of the beaches was necessary due to heavy rains.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Each Saturday a different community has its own Hometown Day at HazWaste Central. On Saturday October 6th volunteers from Milford helped run the Center. HazWaste Central volunteers collected information from participants as they drove onto the site and helped the day run smoothly. Our volunteers collected household hazardous waste from approximately 150 households.

Comments:

- D. McBride added that contact has been made with Gene Laporta, Principal of Platt High School, to make the environmental cleanup of 80 Wampus Lane a learning experience for those students interested.

Nursing Division Report – Presented by Joan Cagginello

Flu Season and Influenza Vaccine

The Milford Health Department has developed our schedule of Flu Clinics for this season. We will administer flu vaccine at three Senior Citizen Center flu clinics, on November 2nd, 5th and 7th. Clinics for the general public will be held on Election Day, November 6th (“Vote & Vaccinate Clinic”) at Harborside Middle School, November 8th at Platt Regional Vocational Technical School and on December 4th at Parson’s Government Center. There are also clinics planned for the City of Milford and Board of Education employees as well as the staff of Boy’s & Girl’s Village. The Health Department has partnered with the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central CT to provide the Family Flu Clinic on Saturday, November 3rd at the Milford Public Library. Staffing for the clinics will be provided by the school nurses and substitute school nurses.

High School Health Fair

The third annual *Career’s to Health Fair* will be held at Jonathan Law High School on Tuesday, October 30th. The fair will offer health information to students such as nutrition, smoking and oral cancer, smoking cessation programs, exercise and activity and sexually transmitted diseases. Presenters will also offer information on careers in health related fields, including certified nursing aide programs, medical assistant programs, radiology, dental hygiene, nursing, EMS and

others. The health fair development team is a collaborative effort between the Milford Hospital, Milford Public Schools and the Milford Health Department.

Milford Youth Services Network (MYSN)-A Community Forum

The MYSN will present a Community Forum, the third in a series of forums for parents and youth, on Eating Disorders. The forum will be held at Milford Hospital on Thursday, October 25th. The featured speaker is Barbara Walsh, PhD, Clinical Coordinator of the PRIME Clinic at Yale University School of Medicine. There will also be a panel of varied health experts to answer audience questions. The panelists include representatives from Milford Youth and Family Services, Yale University School of Nursing and Jan Casey, RN, BSN, the school nurse at West Shore Middle School.

School Health Services

The school nurses will complete the CT Department of Health Immunization Survey this month. Milford strictly adheres to the State of CT guidelines that require age appropriate immunization for all children prior to entry to school. In order to facilitate the child's entry to school, the Health Department offers immunizations to all children age six weeks to eighteen years at our monthly immunization clinics. For children arriving in Milford and requiring an immunization for entry to school, an "on-call" nurse can administer needed immunizations within one day of request in order to ensure a smooth and timely entry to school.

Comments:

- C. Young stated that the CT Post has the wrong dates for Flu Clinics listed on its website. J. Cagginello responded that we would be sending them the correct dates.

Community Health Division Report—Presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

Disease Surveillance

There were 28 cases of disease reported for the month of September cumulatively with chlamydia being the most reported disease for each month.

Putting on AIRS

The Putting on AIRS asthma home assessment program has received 33 referrals to date. As the result of increased marketing and improved relationships with physicians in the region, the program has received more referrals from areas that previously reported no referrals, including four referrals in Milford this past quarter.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Health Department, in collaboration with Kids Count and the Discovery Initiative in Milford, is applying for funding from the State of Connecticut Children's Trust Fund to implement the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) in Milford. PLTI 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. Parents who are interested in the program will participate in a competitive application process. If awarded funding through the Children's Trust Fund, the first class will begin in January 2008. Planning for the program, including marketing and recruitment, is in

progress through funding from Milford Discovery Initiative, which is funded by the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund.

School Based Health Center

The Milford Health Department continues to discuss the development of a school based health center in Milford with officials and community leaders in Milford. The timing of this project seems ideal in that the Connecticut Department of Public Health will be issuing a Request for Proposals for funding for the purchase of equipment, renovations, improvements and expansion of facilities, including acquisition of land or buildings, for the purpose of expanding school based health services/clinics this week. This grant application will be due in mid-December.

Comments:

- C. Young asked with regards to the Asthma Putting On Airs program if the 33 referrals to date is since inception or just with this year? D. McBride responded that 33 referrals have been received since inception of November 2005, with 55% of them received since January 2007.
- D. McBride stated that he attended the annual meeting for Kids Count this week and one of the items they discussed was the Parent Leadership Training Institute grant. Elaine Zimmerman, the Director and Founder of the PLTI Grant were in attendance at the meeting. He added that he started the program when he was the Director of Health in Stamford and it was a great success there.
- D. McBride added that the Walking Schoolbus at Calf Pen Meadow School is still running and that D. Joseph had a meeting with the committee this morning.

Emergency Preparedness Report – Presented by Diana Yassanye

Cities Readiness Initiative

The additional space for preparedness staff has been put on hold until after November. The office equipment purchased for this space is being stored in an off-site storage unit paid for with the grant until it is required.

Local Preparedness Grant

Draft contract language has been sent by DPH. This year, there will be much more emphasis on regional participation of local health departments and districts in preparedness planning.

The local preparedness coordinator position has gone back out to bid. The announcement closes on October 18th.

Regional Preparedness Grant

The Milford Health Department has been conditionally awarded the regional preparedness grant once again.

DPH asked for some additional details and clarifications before the grant is awarded. Those items requested were submitted on October 5th and we are waiting for final word on the grant.

Pandemic Flu planning

In addition to the local preparedness grant, a portion of the local funding will be required to be used for pandemic influenza planning both locally and regionally. This is a continuation of expectations from last year and will support our local planning efforts.

The flu tri-folds are going to be distributed at seasonal flu vaccination clinics hosted by the health department throughout the fall.

Volunteer Programs: Milford Coalition for Community Preparedness & Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Milford Health has applied for a \$10,000 grant to support the MRC and is currently awaiting a response from the granting agency, National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO).

Coalition volunteers have been actively promoting the Milford CERT and MRC at events in Milford including The Red Wagon Fair, The Milford Coalition of Condos monthly meeting and Westfield mall's annual public safety day.

The preparedness coordinator will be attending a New England conference of the Medical Reserve Corps in Portland, Maine in two weeks, funded by the Federal MRC program. This conference should provide fresh ideas for volunteer recruitment, retention and training.

Comments:

- D. Yassanye stated that she offered the Pan Flu template to area towns and three towns and the VA Hospital have asked to use it.

Director's Report – Presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

- D. McBride stated that the environmental staff not only responds to environmental cleanups, but has been handling most recently some recalls involving contaminated meat and also frozen pot pies, for which the staff identifies the possible carriers of such products and places a visit to those establishments to make them aware of the recalls.
- D. McBride added that he is working on Climate Change and the affects on public health. He added that he recently was invited and attended a workshop entitled "The Public Health Response to Climate Change: Drinking Water and Public Health" sponsored and paid for by the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia, regarding the challenges for public health. He is also working on a NACCHO workgroup regarding Climate Change and they just received the green light to conduct a joint survey between the Environmental Defense and NACCHO, to survey national health departments to find out if they recognize the issues surrounding Climate Change and if they have the resources to address those issues.
- D. McBride stated that the regional preparedness staff has made lots of progress with the six hospitals in the region and will be conducting a drill at the end of November with area hospitals and public health. It is the first drill of its kind in the state and he credited D. Yassanye & R. Fontana with putting it together. He also added that Milford Hospital has been hosting the joint Hospital Public Health Planning meeting for the region.
- D. McBride also stated that with regard to the Cities Readiness Initiative grant they have secured the services of Phil Maloney for security and POD developments.

- D. McBride added that he would like to introduce Geographical Information Systems into emergency preparedness program.
- D. McBride also stated that he is on a panel, Healthfirst Task Force that will be held in November with an emphasis on access to healthcare, uninsured and underinsured children.

New Business

- J. Politi stated that this is the last Board of Health meeting she would be attending as she is not running for re-election. She explained that the Board of Alderman would be appointing a new liaison after elections. She added that America's Promise went down to Washington, D.C. for a conference on youth dropout rates and brought back valuable information.
- H. Fink explained that he will not be at the next three meetings.

Adjournment

J. Reingold motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by H. Fink and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS, Recorder