

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
October 18, 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 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2011

The minutes of the meetings held on September 20, 2011 were approved unanimously on a motion by J. Costello and seconded by E. Judson.

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS

Educational Fairs

On Monday September 26th, the Chief of the Environmental Health Division attended the annual Health Fair at the Senior Center. This is the perfect opportunity to pass out lots of educational materials. The focus this year was environmental health and preparing for hazardous weather. Some of the things distributed included, information on carbon monoxide, and diabetes. In addition, on the heels of the recent tropical storm, lots of information about power outages and food safety was provided along with flashlights that were donated to MHD after tropical storm Irene.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending October 14, 2011, the Health Department received 37 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 273 complaints. Currently, thirty-five (35) 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, seven 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>
273	37	35	17	34	7

Comments: None

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

Flu Season and Influenza Vaccination

Several influenza vaccination clinics have been held during the month of October, including clinics at the Senior Center and clinics for the general public, held at the Milford Health Department. Over 850 vaccinations have been administered to date. There are several additional clinics scheduled this month and “flu shots” will be offered at the monthly immunization clinics held at the Health Department, through February 2012. We have observed a decrease in the number of vaccinations administered this season as well as a decrease in the number of residents calling the Health Department seeking a vaccination. This may be attributed to the plentiful supply of flu vaccine in the community and multiple venues that provide flu clinics for adults and children.

Monthly Immunization Clinics

The Immunization Clinics held at the Health Department this past month have been well attended; perhaps due in part to the increased school immunization requirements. Tdap, meningococcal and varicella immunizations were requested in addition to nearly 50 individuals seeking tuberculin testing as a pre-employment requirement. We continue to provide Tdap to a number of adults through the “Cocoon Program”, aimed to protect adults who are caregivers of infants from transmitting pertussis or “whooping cough” to the infant.

School Health Services

The school nurses are in the process of beginning mandated vision and hearing evaluations for students in their schools. The goal is to complete the screening and make referrals to primary care providers as early in the school year as possible, so that the child can be fully assessed and treated.

Senior student nurses from Southern Connecticut State University will begin their work in our schools this week. Four students have been assigned to work with a school nurse/public health nurses, one day each week for the duration of the semester. The students will gain experience in pediatric care as they learn to provide screenings, provide health education to students and observe the school nurse in her work with students.

The two new nurses hired last month are doing very well and report that they are very happy in their position as school nurses. They will attend the two-day, new school nurse orientation program offered by the CT State Department of Education next month. They continue to be mentored by the Lead Nurse, who is able to spend time with them at their schools and the Nurse Administrator.

Oral Health Services

The Health Department has received a grant from the CT Department of Public Health for the SEALS Program (Sealant Efficiency Assessment for Locals and States) which is currently being conducted by our dental hygienists in the schools. SEALS is software designed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect data about dental sealant programs. Data is collected and entered into the SEALS program and will be used to develop best practices, provide support for funding justifications of oral health programs and to document success of sealant applications. The dental hygienists have had training on documentation in the SEALS program and have been supported by our Community Health Coordinator for technology and data entry questions. We are hopeful that the grant will be extended for an additional year of study.

Comments:

- *C. Gonillo suggested the flu clinic dates be posted on Milford Patch website, which has a large audience.*

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 22 cases of disease reported for the month of September, 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 received 12 referrals in September, which was the first month of the new contract year. The Program Coordinator, Betty Murphy, is also currently working to obtain her Asthma Educator certification over the next few months. As the lead health department in Asthma Region 6, the Milford Health Departments participates on the state Asthma Advisory Council (AAC). The AAC is currently focusing on developing a consensus statement that vocalizes the need to

facilitate access to, and align payment for, services and medications consistent with the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) Expert Panel Guidelines. Should the consensus statement lead to legislation in Connecticut, having program staff that is certified will assist with obtaining reimbursement for services through Putting on AIRS.

Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Milford Health Department was notified that we did not receive the grant from SERC/CT PIRC to implement PLTI this year. The Community Health Coordinator, in collaboration with Kids Count of Milford and the United Way of Milford, is in the process of researching alternative funding sources so that the program can be offered this year. If funding can be secured, PLTI will kick-off in January 2011.

Physical Activity 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.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Reports

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report – Steve Maheux

Upcoming Workshops

Region 2 is starting the planning process for a workshop that focuses on hazardous materials and biological threats. There is a need in the region for training in these areas and the plan is to work from a workshop up to a full scale exercise. The workshop will focus on public health roles and responsibilities in the event of a hazardous material spill or a biological threat. The workshop plans to include experts from the National Guard and/or the FBI.

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) Workshop

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a competency-based training and recognition program that assesses preparedness planning and response efforts. The program builds preparedness capacity and capability through a continuous quality improvement model. The assessment consists of the evaluation of all-hazards preparedness plans, exercising the plans, and development of a strong workforce through training. Under contract deliverables, each of the five [5] regions in Connecticut will complete a PPHR application by 2013.

Public Health Preparedness Contracts

All technical assistance reviews (TARs) to evaluate local mass dispensing plans are being reviewed by the CT Department of Public Health. A total of nine [9] reviews will be conducted in Region 2.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report - Tara Mustakos

Volunteer Update

The Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers are currently assisting our nursing staff at regularly scheduled flu clinics. The Milford Health Department is offering flu shots at the health department to the general public and to city employees at the board of education conference rooms.

Volunteer coordination continues to be a hot topic in the weeks after Tropical Storm Irene. Regional volunteer leaders have met to discuss volunteer retention and training needs in light of the storm activities.

Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The Milford Health Department is funded for the next three years on a contract for local public health preparedness. The focus of the grant will be working towards Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) accreditation. Project Public Health Ready is a national level program. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP, formerly DEMHS) Region 2 will work towards the goals of PPHR as a whole.

After action reports from Tropical Storm Irene are currently under review of the Director of Health and will be submitted to the CT Department of Public Health within the next week.

Comments: None

Old Business:

- D. McBride stated that the members of the region met with State DPH. They proposed several questions and concerns to them. DPH stated that cities are responsible to set up their own shelters and they do not develop policies or mandate relationships between temporary shelters and hospitals, it is up to the community in which the shelter is located. D. McBride stated during Hurricane Irene there were a few medical issues that would have benefitted from a relationship or understanding between the hospital and the shelters. After discussion, the Board insisted that Dr. McBride, the Board members and Hospital meet to discuss a solution, possibly a Memo of Understanding for temporary sheltering circumstances.

Director's Report:

- D. McBride stated that Stephen Maheux, MPH has been hired to replace Amy Shields. He comes from Syracuse University with a good background for the position. He added that Stephen will be at next meeting for the Board members to meet.

New Business:

- C. Young state that she was making a presentation on Friday, October 21, 2011, and she read a statement of introduction to the Milford Health Department. She added that her presentation would be on Health Policy and Hookah Lounges.

Adjournment:

M. Quintner motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by E. Judson and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder