

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2010**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Deborah Woods  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Secretary  
Howard Fink, MD  
William F. Lynch, MD  
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Diane Kruger-Carroll, Board of Education 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 6:40 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2010**

The minutes of the meetings held on September 21, 2010 were approved unanimously, on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by D. Woods .

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

*Duck Ponds*

On September 30, 2010 a representative from the Environmental Health Division attended a meeting with concerned individuals regarding the Duck Ponds and the land areas surrounding the water bodies. In attendance at the meeting in addition to the Health Department were representatives from the Permitting and Land Use Office, the Inland Wetlands Department and others concerned with the future of the ponds. Maryrose Palumbo, the City's Inland Wetlands enforcement officer reported that she is in the process of obtaining state grant funds that will hopefully fund dredging of the ponds and landscaping around the ponds. Grant notifications will be made on or about October 28, 2010. In addition, the Public Works Department has developed a proposal to install a trapping mechanism into key storm drains to prevent silt, garbage and debris from getting into the water via the storm drains.

### Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending October 15, 2010 the Health Department received 191 total complaints of blight since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009. Currently, there are forty-seven open complaints. 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, thirteen 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 Completed/ closed	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney
191	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>

### Educational Fairs

On Monday September 27<sup>th</sup>, members from 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 older adults. Some of the things distributed included, information on carbon monoxide, diabetes, disposable paper thermometers along with directions on how to check foods to ensure proper cooking temperatures, food safety information geared specifically toward seniors, and first aid kits.

### Comments:

- Dr. McBride stated that a Show Cause Hearing on a property did not take place because of a last minute sale of the property by the owner. This property had been condemned by the Building Department and had received a Notice of Violation from the Health Dept.

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

#### Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Connecticut demonstrates no influenza activity at this time. This is consistent with the majority of the New England states as only New Hampshire is reporting sporadic flu activity.

The Milford Health Department began our annual seasonal influenza vaccination campaign by holding a number of influenza clinics throughout September and October in a variety of

community settings. Clinics for the general public, city and board of education personnel and other community agencies have been held with over 1000 vaccinations administered thus far. The large amount of influenza vaccine available coupled with many venues offering influenza vaccinations has caused a decrease in the number of patrons that the Health Department is seeing in some of our scheduled clinics. Keeping in mind that the influenza vaccination is the single best way to prevent the flu, the Health Department will continue to offer the flu vaccine at clinics at the Senior Citizen Center this week and at public walk-in clinics at the Connecticut Post Mall on October 30<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup> and November 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### School Health Services

Joan Campbell, RN has been named the Lead Nurse among the public health nurses in our department. Joan has been a school nurse with our department since 2007 and demonstrated leadership, advocacy and an ability to work well with others. Joan was one of the nurses who took a lead role during the H1N1 Pandemic Influenza and Vaccination programs last year. We look forward to working with Joan in her new role.

Continuing education for the school nurses continues to be a priority at the Milford Health Department. We continue to offer professional continuing education opportunities for the nurses at their monthly staff meetings. The Milford Fire Department will be speaking to the nurses this month about the Juvenile Firestarters program. Our professional development day in November will focus on communicable disease and we will host Deepa Joseph and Laura Miller to address food borne illness and sexually transmitted diseases. The afternoon program will focus on tuberculosis and we will welcome Dr. Lloyd Friedman from Milford Hospital and Yale Medical School and Danielle Orcut from the CT Department of Public Health.

#### Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Nursing Students

The nursing division will have senior nursing students from SCSU working at the Health Department this year as part of their Community Nursing experience. The students will have the opportunity to experience the work of a multidisciplinary local health department. They will spend one day per week working with the nurses in the schools. They will assist with screenings, provide education projects for students and provide direct care of students under the guidance of the school nurse and their clinical instructor. They will also spend time at the flu clinics to observe.

*Comments: None.*

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

#### Disease Surveillance

There were 13 cases of disease reported for the month of September, with Chlamydia being the most reported disease.

#### Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 12 referrals for the month of September. The contract year began on September 1, 2010. 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. Currently, there are various barriers to patients receiving proper care to control their asthma. The AAC seeks to develop recommendations to support best practices for NAEPP Guideline components including measures of assessment & monitoring, asthma care education for patients & families, control of environmental factors and co-morbid conditions that affect asthma, and pharmacologic therapy.

#### Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Milford Health Department was notified that we did not receive the grant from SERC/CT PIRC in the amount of \$35,000 to implement PLTI this year. We have received several applications from parents who are interested in participating in the program. The Community Health Coordinator 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.

#### Healthy Homes Grant

The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) has provided 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 program looks at a variety of environmental health and safety concerns including mold, lead, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, home safety, pesticides, and radon. As this program is a new initiative at the State level and only two health departments in the state are implementing the program, DPH has requested the Milford Health Department's input and feedback on the initial set-up and development of the program. As such, staff members who have been trained to conduct these assessments will begin implementation. Evaluation results will be utilized to improve upon existing program procedures.

#### *Comments:*

- Dr. McBride stated that the department hopes to continue the Parent Leadership Training Institute even though the PLTI grant was not received by working with other city agencies like United Way to pay for the instructors' as the program has a copyright on it. R. Vitali suggested that the Adult Education be contacted to perhaps take the course on through them and also suggested that Bridges be contacted. Another source of funding he suggested was from the Milford Prevention Council who received the grant for 125,000 for 10 years.

### **Emergency Preparedness Report**

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

#### Regional Emergency Preparedness

The Region 2 Area Hospitals coordinated a full-scale exercise on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Public Health Departments in the Region tested their communications systems during the exercise. This including communications through the Statewide communications system, WebEOC; and a roll

call using the Region 2 Health Directors Radio. The drill outlined the need for increased training and drilling of the radios on a more consistent basis throughout the Region.

The Region 2 exercise planning team has met multiple times regarding the Full-scale Mass Dispensing Exercise. The exercise is anticipated for the Spring of 2011, and will test each Mass Dispensing Areas (MDA) alternative methods of dispensing. Although each MDA will choose their method to test, each is encouraged to consider nursing homes in their target population. The objective of utilizing alternative dispensing methods is to take the burden off the public point of dispensing (POD) in an emergency event.

The Veterans program is underway throughout Region 2. The Milford Health Department hired a returning veteran to work within the emergency preparedness division. The veteran will work with the emergency preparedness team on a variety of projects including security plan development, exercise coordination, and trainings throughout the Region. The CT Department of Public Health approved the funding request from the Wallingford Health Department to hire a local emergency preparedness coordinator.

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

#### Local Emergency Preparedness

The Milford Health Department is offering flu vaccination for the 2010-2011 flu season. Health department staff and volunteers conducted a clinic this past Saturday, three additional satellite flu clinics will also be hosted at Westfield CT Post Mall. General public flu clinics are scheduled until the end of November.

The Milford Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) continues to wait for a decision from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) for a \$5,000 capacity building grant. Milford has been granted this award each year since 2007. Each year, a plan for additional training and volunteer activities is developed with the other MRC groups in our DEMHS Region 2.

The Milford Health Department participated in a regional hospital preparedness exercise on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. A communications drill with the health director's 450 MHz radio was conducted through CMED New Haven. Additionally, Milford Health Department staff received a no-notice communication message in conjunction with the hospital exercise. The purpose of this local call down was to test the new emergency communication system for the City of Milford, Milford ALERTS.

*Comments:*

#### **Old Business:**

- Regarding the Olive Tree Hookah Lounge: The MHD Director's order was modified by the CT Health Commissioner. The CT Health Commissioner's modifications deleted the conditions for washing and sanitizing the water pipes and deleted any requirement for

hand-washing sink. The Connecticut Health Commissioner recognized a communicable disease risk but required only the use of disposable tubing for the pipes to combat this risk. The Milford Health Department will continue to monitor the situation to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

**New Business:**

**Director's Report:**

**Adjournment:**

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by D. Woods and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS  
Recorder