

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2015**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson  
Joan Cagginello, MS, RN  
Ernest Judson  
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS  
Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Others Present: None*

*Health Department Staff Present:*

Deepa Joseph, MPH, Director of Health  
Tara Mustakos Wassmer, REHS/RS, CHES, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
Marianne Klinga, Recording Secretary

C.Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – September 15, 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on September 15, 2015 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

**Public Session:** *None*

**Environmental Division Report**

D. Joseph reported that there were two new troubled housing cases. One was referred through Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH). This case has been a model case specific to coordination of social support services and enforcement action between YNHH, the Health Department, and other social support agencies.

*Comments: None*

**Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN**

*Flu Season and Influenza Vaccination*

Influenza activity in Connecticut has been increasing since August. Activity is currently classified geographically as sporadic. The predominant circulating virus is Type A. A total of 17 positive influenza reports have been reported for the current season in the state. Influenza

was reported in four counties: New Haven (8 reports), Hartford (4), Fairfield (3), and Middlesex (2). A total of 9 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported in the state. No influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date.

The Milford Health Department began our seasonal influenza vaccination program this month, with a number of immunization clinics scheduled throughout the month. Two influenza clinics were held at the Milford Senior Citizen Center on Oct 5th and 19th; nearly 350 immunizations were provided for seniors at the clinics.

CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older.

Flu vaccine will be offered at all Health Department Monthly Immunization Clinics through March 2016.

#### 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 as necessary.

The two new nurses hired last month are doing very well. They both will attend the two-day, new school nurse orientation program offered by the CT State Department of Education in December. They continue to be mentored by the Lead Nurse, who is able to spend time with them during the week at their schools.

Initial interviews were conducted last week for the remaining two open school nurse positions. Panel members conducting the interviewing included two area nursing supervisors, Cathy Williams, Principal of East Shore Middle School, and Tania Barnes, Director of Human Resources. The final candidates will have their second interview in the near future at the Milford Health Department.

#### Southern Connecticut State University Nursing Students

The Health Department continues to provide a learning experience in school nursing for senior nursing students from Southern Connecticut State University. Eight students from SCSU will begin their rotation in Milford on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The students will work with the school nurses in assessment of students, providing daily care, performing mandated screenings and learning the role of the school nurse in the education environment.

#### *Comments:*

- *D. Joseph added that flu clinics were held for City and Board of Ed employees at the Employee Wellness fair as well. She noted that flu vaccinations to date are down from last year, attributed to the increase of availability at retail pharmacies and big box stores.*
- *C. Young inquired if there were any reported influenza cases in Milford. D. Joseph responded that Milford received 4 reports of laboratory-confirmed seasonal influenza for the month of September.*

- *D. Joseph noted that two vacancies remain for school nurses, therefore there has been an increase in the use of substitute nurses this year. D. Joseph and J. Campbell continue to work with the Human Resources Department to fill the remaining vacancies. E. Judson inquired about the substitute nurse pool. D. Joseph explained that two of the retired nurses have returned as substitute nurses, and three additional substitute nurses have been hired in order to ensure adequate coverage in the schools.*

### ***Emergency Preparedness Reports – Tara Mustakos-Wassmer, REHS/RS, CHES***

#### **Regional Initiatives**

*The Milford Health Department participated in the Region 2 Long Term Care Mutual Aid plan tabletop exercise. The plan, managed by the CT Department of Public Health and an outside vendor, is meant to simplify asset sharing, bed availability information and staff sharing among long term care facilities throughout the state. The plan is to benefit facility needs in an emergency, for example in the event of a power outage, need for evacuation, movement of medical equipment, etc. Three long term care/nursing facilities reside in Milford.*

#### **Local Preparedness Initiatives**

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funneled through the state requires completion of an online data submission review of emergency plans. The *Medical Counter Measure Operational Readiness Review (MCM ORR)* is similar to a report card for emergency plans. The MCM ORR is a new tool developed on the federal level which now evaluates plan effectiveness based on the CDC's 15 Public Health Preparedness Capabilities:

1. Community Preparedness
2. Community Recovery
3. Emergency Operations Coordination
4. Emergency Public Information and Warning
5. Fatality Management
6. Information Sharing
7. Mass Care
8. Medical Countermeasure Dispensing
9. Medical Materiel Management and Distribution
10. Medical Surge
11. Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
12. Public Health Laboratory Testing
13. Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation
14. Responder Safety and Health
15. Volunteer Management

The CDC, State and Local health authorities continue to monitor the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and for Highly-Pathogenic Avian (HPIA) Influenza A in bird populations. The state Department of Agriculture is the lead agency monitoring for HPIA Influenza. As it stands now, H5N2 is not considered a public health threat but more of threat to the economy as millions of birds have been euthanized to date. Local health department's role in HPIA is risk communication.

Last week the Milford Health Department participated in the Employee Wellness Fair. Two tables supplied a plethora of health information, programs available and emergency preparedness information. The sample home preparedness kit was on display for all to see!

*Comments: None*

**Old Business:** *None*

**Director's Report:** *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *The part time Community Health Coordinator position has been filled. The new hire has a Bachelors degree in Public Health and a Masters degree in Public Administration. She will be starting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.*
- *The 2016-2017 budget packet was received last week. D. Joseph will meet with the Mayor in a few weeks regarding next year's budget.*
- *The Governors Emergency Preparedness and Planning Initiative (EPPI) exercise will be held October 21<sup>st</sup>. The focus is on school safety. D. Joseph will be participating, along with the Director of Nursing and the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.*

**New Business:**

*Tara Mustakos Wassmer, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, gave a presentation on the various aspects of Emergency Preparedness planning. The board found the presentation very informative.*

*Comments:*

- *D. Joseph noted that prior to Hurricane Joaquin, the Health Department staff had meetings to review protocols and ensure that everything was staged and ready to go in the event an emergency shelter needed to be set up.*
- *J. Cagginello inquired if the CERT teams were still active. D. Joseph confirmed they were, with two CERT teams recently trained including a group of retired firefighters.*

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga  
Recorder