

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2015**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Joan Cagginello, MS, RN
Ernest Judson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present:

Deepa Joseph, MPH, Director of Health
Marianne Klinga, Recording Secretary

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

Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 2015 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Cagginello.

Public Session: *None*

Environmental Division Report – Laura M. Miller, REHS/RS

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending November 13, 2015 the Health Department received 161 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 161 complaints, 24 were complaints of blight during the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Properties that fail to comply with the orders defined in the issued Notice of Violation are 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. Currently there are eleven blighted properties.

Environmental Health Staff Training/Development

Food Inspector Certification: Recently all staff members attended the 2015 Connecticut Food Inspector Recertification Training seminar. During the seminar the CT Department of Public Health (DPH), Food Protection Program (FPP) provided updated on the legislative process to CT adopting the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code. The FDA Food Code is

currently the national standard for food protection nationwide and is reviewed and updated every four years by all players in the food protection/food service industry.

CRIDE(Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly)

The monthly CRIDE was convened on November 2, 2015. Members reported on and discussed the status of several troubled properties that MHD has been involved with. When a case of troubled housing is reported to the Milford Health Department (MHD), the Chief of the Environmental Health Division typically triages the call and deploys an Environmental Health Sanitarian and the Milford Health Department Case Manager to the site. At this month's meeting representatives from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the Catholic Charities joined us to discuss a historically troubled property that received post storm sandy funds to make repairs and to clean the property.

Comments: None.

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity has been gradually increasing in Connecticut since the end of August but activity has declined during the last several weeks. Classification of activity geographically has remained at “sporadic” for the past few weeks. As of November 7, 2015, a total of 47 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 12 being in New Haven County. The predominant circulating influenza virus is Type A. A total of 24 hospitalized patients with laboratory confirmed influenza have been reported, with 17 associated with Type A (subtype unspecified), 1 was Type A (H3N2), 1 was Type A (2009H1N1), and 5 with Type B. There have been no flu-associated deaths reported to date this season.

The Milford Health Department has administered close to 1000 influenza vaccinations to date at various influenza clinics that have been held both at the Health Department and throughout the community. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through March 2015 at the monthly immunization clinics held at the Health Department. Both the regular flu vaccine and the high dose vaccine for individuals over sixty-five years of age will be offered. The school nurses and Health Department continue to monitor the influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools; to date there is no significant ILI activity observed among our school age students.

School Health Services

The school nurses have completed the Annual Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Survey. This is an annual survey that assesses the compliance of school age children with recommended and mandated childhood immunizations. Compliance with mandated immunizations among school age children in Milford continues to be excellent.

The Milford School Nurses had their Professional Development Day on November 3rd at the Savin Rock Conference Center in West Haven. They were joined by the West Haven School Nurses, Amity School Nurses and Putnum School Nurses. Presentations included:

- Understanding Section 504 – presented by Donna Kosiorowski, RN

- Minimal Facts “Less is More” training by the Milford Rape Crisis Center
- Alternative Therapies for the School Nurse/Health benefits of Yoga – presented by Jill Grego, RN

It was a very informative day for all.

The school nurses are in the process of completing their 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.

Comments:

- *C. Gonillo inquired how the influenza activity and vaccinations compare to last year. D. Joseph responded that the laboratory confirmed cases reported are earlier this year. Influenza vaccinations are similar to last year overall, but down at the Senior Center. This could be attributed to greater availability at retail outlets.*
- *C. Young inquired what Section 504 is. D. Joseph explained that Section 504 provides accommodation for students with special needs.*

Emergency Preparedness Report - Tara Mustakos Wassmer, REHS/RS, CHES

Regional Initiatives

The Milford Health Department is the fiduciary agent for the supplemental Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) funding and the Region 2 preparedness grant. The Director of Health is leading a workgroup to identify how our region will be fulfilling the grant deliverables and expending the budget.

Available grants for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program are changing for this year's funding applications. Challenge awards up to \$15,000, will be granted to those units, or group of units who develop an application. No longer will capacity building grants be available. There are currently 997 MRC units in the United States.

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. Work is currently in progress to fit Milford's plans to the new assessment tool.

In an effort to engage new and existing volunteers the Milford Health Department Volunteer Coordinator is planning a training series for all Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. The first session is scheduled for later this month and will host the Milford Fire Department. The presentation will cover an overview of fire department activities, trainings, overall mission and highlight scenarios in which the Milford volunteer corps may be called upon. The Milford Health Department Director and staff are scheduled for the December training session.

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. The Health Department has received calls about dead birds. Residents are directed to report this information to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) who have set up an online submission form and posted FAQ information.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph noted that the Health Department is considering submitting an MRC Challenge Award application with a focus on studying residents' likelihood to evacuate during an extreme weather event. The MRC Volunteer Coordinator met with a group at Yale who performed a similar study, to discuss potentially doing a study specific to Milford.*
- *D. Joseph added that the Governors Emergency Preparedness and Planning Initiative (EPPI) exercise was held last month. Representatives from the Health Department, Milford Public Schools, Police Department, and Fire Department were present for the tabletop exercise on school safety.*

Community Health

D. Joseph reported that the Putting on Airs Asthma program referral form was put in Yale New Haven Hospital's EPIC system and providers can now access the form via this system.

D. Joseph reported that enrollment for the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) is underway. There are currently 14 applicants. An online registration process was introduced this year through the Health Department's website.

Comments:

- *C. Gonillo noted the front page article in the Milford-Orange Bulletin on the PLTI program and asked if it generated interest in the program. D. Joseph responded that it did result in new interest and applications.*

Old Business:

- *C. Young inquired about the budget meeting with the Mayor. D. Joseph responded that the meeting will be on December 14th.*
- *E. Judson inquired about the Board of Education liaison. D. Joseph responded that the Board of Ed advised they would be making an appointment after elections.*

Director's Report: Deepa Joseph, MPH

- *One of the full time public health nurse positions has been filled and the new nurse will start on November 30th.*

- *The Health Department will have a dental hygienist position opening. The job description is currently being updated and will go to the union for approval.*
- *D. Joseph attended the Department of Public Health Commissioners semiannual meeting for local directors of health. One of the presentations she attended was on Accreditation. Before applying for accreditation, there are a number of prerequisites to be completed such as a community health needs assessment, a health improvement plan, and a strategic plan. Some funding has been set aside to start on these prerequisite items.*

Comments:

- *C. Young inquired about the dental survey and need for dental referrals. D. Joseph responded that the survey results did not indicate a demand for a referral system.*

New Business: *None.*

Adjournment:

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by C. Gonillo and was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga
Recorder