

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2013**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Ernest Judson
William F. Lynch, MD
Mitchell Quintner, DMD

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
Susan Shaw, Board of Alderman Liaison
George Gensure, 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 6:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on October 15, 2013 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello. .

Public Session: None

Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller

Anti-blight Activities

As of the week ending November 15, 2013 the Health Department received 143 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 143 complaints, 35 were complaints of blight during the 2012/2013 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. These eight properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance.

Environmental Health Staff Training/Development

Food Inspector Certification: Recently all staff members attended the 2013 Food Inspector Recertification Training in Derby at the Kellogg Environmental Center and at the Tolland Fire Training Center in Tolland. Topics included an update on new legislation surrounding food

service in CT, food borne outbreaks through-out Connecticut and the Nation and information on what's trending in the food services arena. Environmental Health Sanitarians were able to obtain 6 contact hours. In order to keep food inspector certification current, all CT licensed food inspectors must obtain 16 contact hours over three years.

Contaminated Sites: On November 15th staff members attended a statewide seminar on identifying and responding to exposures from contaminated sites in the community. Scientists from the CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) presented an information packed day that touched on the definition of a contaminated site and the statewide rules and regulations surrounding site clean-up and clean-up standards, development funding laws and land re-use and Public Health.

Comments: None

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity is beginning to increase in CT and has been classified geographically as “sporadic”. A total of 37 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with eight being in New Haven County. The Milford Health Department has administered approximately 1200 influenza vaccinations to date at various influenza clinics that have been held both at the Health Department and throughout the community. A clinic at Beth El Shelter will be held on December 4th. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through February 2014 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 5th. Presentations were given by Ashley Hall of the FBI on Human/Child Trafficking; Jeff Nielson from the Milford Police Department and Bill Richards spoke on School Safety and Security; and Attorney Megan Buxton from Berchem, Moses & Devlin law firm informed the nurses on current changes involving 504 accommodation plans. 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.

Senior student nurses from Southern Connecticut State University have begun their work in our schools. 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 three new Milford school nurses 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 on November 18th and December 5th. They continue to be mentored by the Lead Nurse along with experienced school nurses and the Director of Nursing.

Barbara Harrington, the Middle School Health Clerk, submitted her letter of resignation after many years of service. We will be looking to fill her position in the near future.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Reports – Tara Mustakos

Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The first planning meeting was held on November 14th, for the Regional Mass Dispensing exercise to be hosted by the Connecticut River Area Health District (CTRAHD). Representatives from Emergency Management, Region 2 public health and local mass dispensing areas (MDAs) organized to set overarching goals and objectives for the April 2014 event. This exercise will meet health department requirements on the local grants to participate in a regional full scale exercise, maintain attendance on state workgroups as needed and complete training requirements for mass dispensing. Representatives from the Milford Health Department will continue to participate in the planning and developmental stages of this exercise. Supportive funding was requested at the Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) meeting on Friday, November 15th by Dr. McBride as chair for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Public Health & Medical.

The Milford Health Department received notification of the 2014 Governor's Annual Emergency Preparedness and Planning Initiative (EPPI) to be held June 23rd & 24th. Planning for this exercise will begin mid-December and the state health department will take the lead in coordination with Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP).

Public Health Preparedness Activities

The MRC volunteer coordinator with assistance from a high school intern presented a program on family emergency preparedness to the Saint Agnes Ladies Guild members. It was a very interactive presentation with attendees asking questions regarding emergency kits, smoke and carbon monoxide detection as well as home escape plans. Attendees left with a heightened appreciation for the need to prepare for natural disasters and general emergencies.

Psychological First Aid training was offered November 6th to all Region 2 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers.

Milford MRC volunteers participated in the annual "Got drugs?" Program coordinated by the Milford Police Department Crime Prevention Bureau. Out of date and unwanted prescription drugs are dropped off at the Milford Senior Center, located at 9 Jepson Drive, for proper disposal.

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 18 cases of disease reported for the month of October, with chlamydia being the most reported disease.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Health Department was recently notified that we have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$34,067 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. The Design Team is in the process of recruitment & outreach, with the goal of having approximately 25 participants in the program. PLTI will begin in January 2014.

Compulsive Hoarding & Troubled Housing Conference

The Milford Health Department, along with the West Haven Health Department, Greenwich Department of Social Services, and Bridges...A Community Support System, Inc., held a conference entitled “Cutting through the Clutter: Understanding Hoarding & Its Impact on Public Health and Housing” on November 19, 2013 at Fairfield University. The conference was well attended, with approximately 175 individuals attending. The focus of the conference was on collaborative strategies to address hoarding from enforcement, probate, and treatment perspectives. Feedback regarding the conference has been extremely positive thus far.

Comments: None

Old Business:

- *E. Judson asked for an update on James Street properties. D. McBride responded that the City is foreclosing on the property.*
- *E. Judson asked if Channel 3 has aired the program on food safety inspections. D. McBride responded that it has not been rolled out yet.*

Director's Report:

- *D. McBride stated that Quiana Lewis, accesshealthCT assister for City, will no longer be working as our health care assister as she has accepted a full time position. He added that a replacement will be found.*
- *D. McBride stated that First Visit, the VNA home visiting program for new mothers will have its first Advisory Committee meeting this Wednesday and invited all the Board Members to attend the meeting at United Way at 12 noon. For now they are mainly offering the services to the parents of a First Born child, however, the hope is to expand it for each child born. The program is based on the David Olds model.*
- *D. McBride added that the Hoarding Conference held today at Fairfield University was a great success with approx 200 people attending. He commended the Health Department staff. C. Gonillo added that she attended and was able to get a handle on the problem of hoarding and the need for a team approach such as Milford CRIDE program.*

New Business:

- *J. Costello handed out an article from the New York Times dated 11/5/2013 entitled “Tapping Medical Marijuana’s Potential” written by Jane Brody.*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder