

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2007

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Joseph Reingold, Secretary
Howard Fink
Robert Toronto

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Deborah Woods
Mitchell Quintner
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Laura Pagliaro, RS, Chief, Environmental Health
Deepa Joseph, Community Health Coordinator
Diana Yassanye, MS, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of the October 16, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by J. Reingold seconded by E. Judson.

Environmental Health Report – presented by Laura Pagliaro, RS

80 Wampus Lane – Environmental Cleanup

As previously reported this site is undergoing an environmental cleanup conducted by HRP Associates, an environmental remediation company, and supervised by the EPA.

Soil excavation was completed on October 18, 2007. Approximately 200 tons of soils were removed from the swale and placed in the lined, bermed soil staging area. 83 post-excavation soil samples were collected and submitted for laboratory analysis. Laboratory results for these samples have demonstrated compliance with the clean-up levels established. No further removal of soils in the drainage swale area is planned. Waste materials are being disposed off-site at EPA approved facilities. Hauling is scheduled to begin after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Once the removal action is completed, quarterly on-site inspections for up to one year will be conducted to evaluate the condition of the restored swale and the newly installed vegetation.

On October 30th Gregory Peters, Milford Sanitarian, along with 60 environmental science students from Platt Tech, visited 80 Wampus Lane. The purpose of the visit was to show the students, from afar, what constitutes an environmental clean up. Prior to the on-site visit with the environmental division and the students, Melanie Morash, EPA, Deepa Joseph, and Gregory Peters, Milford Health Department conducted a classroom presentation on the cleanup activities.

Educational Fairs

On Monday October 29th I attended the annual Health Fair at the Senior Center. This is the perfect opportunity to pass out lots of educational materials. Some of the things distributed included, disposable paper thermometers along with directions on how to check foods to ensure proper cooking temperatures, food safety information geared specifically toward Seniors, and much more.

On Tuesday October 30th, I attended the “Careers to Health” fair at Jonathan Law High School. In addition to providing information on careers in Public Health, they were also given the disposable paper thermometers along with information on safe food temperatures.

Comments:

- C. Young inquired as to where the contaminated soil from 80 Wampus Lane is taken. L. Pagliaro responded that the soil is taken to a EPA approved facility. D. McBride added that Gene LaPorta, principal at Platt Tech, provided positive feedback as to the environmental students visit to 80 Wampus Lane.

Nursing Division Report – Presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

Influenza Vaccination Clinics

The majority of the influenza clinics scheduled for the 2007-08 flue season have been held during the months of October and November. Over 2300 doses have been administered as of this date. Approximately 1300 doses of vaccine were administered at the three scheduled clinics at the Milford Senior Center. Our new venture this year, The Family Flu Clinic, held in collaboration with the VNA of South Central CT, was successful in that several family’s attended together, with parents and children receiving the flu vaccine. A total of 159 flu vaccines were administered at the Family Flu Clinic. On Election Day we held a Vote & Vaccinate flu clinic at Harborside Middle School. The clinic was open for all residents from 6:30 am-9 am and again from 4pm-7pm. Voters and other residents applauded the program and over 100 flu vaccines were administered. An alternate polling location that would facilitate traffic flow from the voting area to the vaccination area will be evaluated for next year. The Health Department provided administration of flu vaccine for the staff of Boy’s & Girl’s Village. The number of staff members vaccinated at Boy’s & Girl’s Village increased from last year to over 50 staff members vaccinated this flu season.

Overall the number of influenza immunizations provided is lower this season than in the past few years. Despite receiving an early delivery of flu vaccine, scheduling clinics earlier in the season, marketing and advertising and holding new and innovative clinics, the response of residents to secure a flue shot has been lower than hoped for. The warm weather, low influenza incidence thus far in the season (12 cases in CT per the state flu report) and the abundance of flu vaccine are possible explanations for the decreased participation.

Influenza vaccine will be available at all of our monthly Immunization Clinics in December and January as well as the last remaining flue clinic on December 4, 2007, which will be held at Parson's from 5pm-7pm.

Emergency Preparedness

An Emergency Prepared Flu Clinic was held at Platt Regional Vocations Technical School on November 8. A vaccine administration refresher class for volunteer nurses was held prior to the event. A total of ten nurses and two APRN's worked at the clinic to administer flu vaccine and provide influenza education. The Emergency Preparedness Flu Clinic is an opportunity to test our ability to logistically set up the clinic and deliver vaccinations to a large number of individuals. Our volunteers and Health department staff worked quickly and cohesively. Unfortunately, the number of clinic attendees was low; a total of 78 individuals attended the clinic to receive vaccine. Strategies to increase attendance next year will be discussed with our local preparedness coordinator.

Comments:

- H. Fink stated that he found the flu clinics to be run very efficiently and was proud of the staff involvement. D. Joseph added that they received positive feedback regarding the Vote & Vaccinate Clinic.
- D. McBride added that the emergency preparedness exercises allow staff to practice emergency planning and incident command. C. Young inquired as to the turnout considering the flu vaccine is offered elsewhere. D. Yassanye also added that the logistics of the event, regardless of the turnout provided invaluable experience for the volunteers to use their training and allows for education for the health department staff.

Community Health Division Report—Presented by Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 25 cases of disease reported for the month of October with chlamydia being the most reported disease for the month.

Putting on AIRS

The Putting on AIRS asthma home assessment program has received 34 referrals since the start of the program in November 2005, with 56% of referrals received this contract year. Upon receipt of the executed contract, our new part-time Program Coordinator for the program will be Betty Murphy. Betty Murphy currently works as the immunization coordinator in our region and has an established relationship with the majority of pediatric providers in our region. We are confident that our pediatric referrals into this program will increase as a result of these established relationships with providers in our region.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Health Department, in collaboration with Kids Count and the Discovery Initiative in Milford, is in the process of recruiting participants for Milford's first Parent Leadership Training Institute. 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. We have received 9 applications to date and are confident that we will reach our goal of 25 students for the first class to be held in January. The program has been marketed at various venues throughout Milford including a video clip on the local government access channel, information distributed to every parent in Milford through the public and parochial schools, as well as posting of flyers, information, and applications at several community locations. The Health Department is awaiting a response to our grant application for funding through the Children's Trust Fund and expects to hear from the Children's Trust Fund shortly.

Walking School Bus (WSB) Program

The WSB program has continued at Calf Pen Meadow Elementary School this year. In addition to this program, the school Wellness Committee has decided to start a Walk-and-Talk after-school program. This program involves the principal and/or teacher(s) taking a 30-45 minute walk around the school neighborhood with students in the upper grade levels and discussing various topics of interest to the students. The Health Department will support this program by providing pedometers to participants of the program so that students can monitor their steps on a daily basis. There are 26 students signed up for the program as of our last meeting last week. Health Department staff has also discussed the idea of starting another WSB program at an additional school this spring.

World AIDS Day 2007

The topic of school bulletin boards for the month of December will focus on HIV and AIDS in an effort to commemorate World AIDS Day, which is on December 1, 2007. The theme for the bulletin board will match the theme for World AIDS Day 2007: "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise." Bulletin boards will provide information on what HIV and AIDS is, global, national and local statistics, as well as information on what individuals can do to prevent the disease.

Comments:

Emergency Preparedness Report – Presented by Diana Yassanye

Cities Readiness Initiative

The space across the street has been taken off of the table due to funding consistency. We will accommodate preparedness staff here at the Health Department.

Local Preparedness Grant

A full-time local preparedness coordinator has been selected. Tara Mustakos will join us in early December.

Regional Preparedness Grant

A full-time regional project manager position has been developed. This position will have responsibilities technical writing such as grant deliverables and the management of some regional workgroups. This job will be posted until late December.

Pandemic Flu planning

Nearly 25,000 Pan Flu wallet cards have been distributed in Milford to date through the schools, flu clinics and events around town.

Volunteer Programs: Milford Coalition for Community Preparedness & Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The Milford-Westfield Mall CERT team will be graduating in Mid-December. This is the first team of its kind in Connecticut and the training has been very successful.

Comments:

- D. McBride stated that with regards to the lease for additional space, it has been taken off the table due to the short lease and the timing of the receipt of funds. He added that he would rather not sacrifice services and staff to accommodate the lease space.
- D. McBride added that other health departments had also issued pandemic flu wallet cards based on our format. D. Yassanye stated that she would provide feedback regarding them for next month's meeting.
- E. Judson questioned what malls participated in the CERT & MRC training. D. Yassanye responded that it is a valuable collaborative corporate effort including the Trumbull, Meriden and Milford Westfield Malls. The space in the mall would be a great asset in the event of an emergency.
- C. Young asked if there was anything new to report on Milford Hospital. D. Yassanye stated that there is a Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise on November 29th involving 20 public health representatives within Region 2 and the 6 area hospitals. She added that the participants would be given a scenario for which they would each speak as to their responsibility in such a situation. The participants were limited and there will also be a brain/command center at Quinnipiak Valley Health District, where the majority of public health officials will be. She explained that the communication would be live between the Hospital and the Quinnipiak group.

Director's Report – Presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

- D. McBride stated that in the United Way Publication, the Milford Health Department was mentioned in the Health Section regarding the Walking School Bus, Putting on Airmiles and the Pedometers.
- D. McBride stated that he attended the American Public Health Association conference in Washington, D.C. where he presented for NACCHO Climate Change Committee. He added that the presentation was standing room only and included other presentations from Howard Frumppkin from the CDC and James Hanson from NASA. He added that there are two aspects he addressed in his presentation on Climate Change. Adaptation, which includes how we respond to extreme weather events and changing disease patterns and mitigation which means prevention and includes planning and actions we can take to decrease the carbon footprint.
- D. McBride stated that he is leading the NACCHO workgroup on public health and climate change. The survey is also being co-sponsored with George Mason University and Environmental Defense. The group is surveying health directors around the country to develop an understanding of attitudes about public health and climate change. D. Yassanye is one of the surveyors. The group is looking for 200 completed surveys.

New Business

Adjournment

J. Reingold motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by E. Judson and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS, Recorder