

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2016**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Joan Cagginello, MS, RN
Ernest Judson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
Thomas Jagodzinski, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary

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 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on November 15, 2016 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Cagginello.

Acceptance of the 2017 Board of Health Meeting Dates

Acceptance of the 2017 Board of Health meeting dates 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 December 9, 2016 the Health Department received 202 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 202 complaints, 36 were complaints of blight for the 2016/2017 fiscal year thus far. 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 eighteen blighted properties undergoing enforcement action.

Environmental Health Staff Training/Development

Food Inspector Certification: Recently all staff members attended the 2016 Connecticut Food Inspector Recertification Training seminar. During the seminar the CT Department of Public Health (DPH), Food Protection Program (FPP) provided updates 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.

Comments:

- *None.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

For the week ending December 3rd, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity continues to slowly increase in CT and has been classified geographically as “local”. A total of 108 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 37 being in New Haven County. A total of 49 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. Two influenza-associated deaths in individuals greater than 65 years of age have been reported to date. The predominant circulating virus is Type A.

According to the CDC, flu activity increased slightly but remains low overall in the continental United States.

The Milford Health Department continues its seasonal influenza campaign with monthly immunization clinics held at the Health Department. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through March 2017. 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. The school nurses are providing influenza prevention and hand washing education in all of the schools.

School Health Services

All three new Milford school nurses attended the two-day, new school nurse orientation program offered by the CT State Department of Education on December 6th and 7th. All of the nurses indicated that this program was very beneficial to their knowledge of school nursing practice. They continue to be mentored by the Lead Nurse along with experienced school nurses and the Director of Nursing.

Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) are now installed at all of the schools. A training session for school staff interested in becoming “certified” will be scheduled in the future by MPS.

Comments:

- *None.*

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

The State of CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response completed the second quarter conference call with Milford Health Department (MHD). One of the remaining action items for 2016-2017 year includes conducting a Training and Exercise Planning Workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to identify gaps in preparedness training. This includes not only Incident Command online training and Point of Dispensing (POD) exercises but CPR training/refreshers, response to white powder or other environmental public health threats, etc. Milford will review past real event response and emergency operations plans to work on identify what training has been done in the past and where further education is needed.

MHD staff met with the Family Assistance Centers (FAC) workgroup this month. Draft plans are under the final developmental stages. The plan itself will serve as a template for local health departments in the event of a mass casualty/fatality event to guide the set up of the FAC. Local planners are working with mental health professionals, emergency responders and Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection staff. The plan is being modeled after existing state plans as well as the National Transportation & Safety Board (NTSB) guidance.

The Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) released a first draft of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) survey to MHD. Review of the survey is ongoing with the goal to obtain as much Milford specific data as possible. MHD staff plan to survey current MRC & CERT volunteers in addition to Milford Beach Associations and condo associations located at the shoreline.

Comments:

- *None.*

Community Health – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Disease Surveillance

There were 11 cases of disease reported for the months of November, with Chlamydia as being the most frequently reported.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

Putting on AIRS asthma program started a new contract on September 1, 2016. The new contract changes have allowed the program to modify eligibility, while extending the number of home visits as directed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The program now offers up to three (3) home visits and a 6 month follow up after a participant has been enrolled. In total we received 49 referrals since the beginning of the contract year. For the month of November we received 18 referrals. This month we have been able to complete 4 initial home visits, one 2nd home visit and two 3rd home visits. As you know, follow-ups are conducted to discuss whether individuals and/or families have implemented the recommended control measures, to determine outcomes as a result of the home visit, and to discuss any challenges/barriers/etc. this will be continued. The program is still balancing and managing the numerous referrals that we receive daily.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

We are still pushing for recruitment for participants to join us for the next training in January. A press release was sent out, along with many face to face conversations/meetings, and social media outlets to push for participants. We are looking to recruit and retain 25 participants for the program. We have had great success from this program with 107 graduates. The previous funding year succeeded with 15 very diverse and cohesive graduates who are now members of local boards and organizations. PLTI which 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.

PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board)

The Milford Health Department is still preparing itself to submit an application to become accredited. Our next step is looking at quality improvement for the department. We are currently drafting and reviewing our first project in the environmental division. We will continue to work in the health department as a team to become accredited while keeping a look out for other funding opportunities.

NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) Challenge Award

The Milford Health Department was awarded 2015-2016 NACCHO's Medical Reserve Corps Challenge Award for one year this past spring. The department plans to work with Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPPCC) to conduct a survey of MRC volunteers to assess their hurricane knowledge, risk perceptions, training experience, communication skills and resources to conduct face to face conversations. The results will then be utilized to develop recommendations for a training and recruitment program for Milford MRC to serve as neighborhood ambassadors. Currently we are working on the draft of the survey and will be in preparation to disseminate the survey soon.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph reported that there are currently 14 PLTI participants who are completing interviews. Recruitment continues, with a goal of 25 participants.*
- *Discussion ensued about the Putting on Airs asthma program with regard to the large increase in referrals this year and having the funding to sustain the growth in referrals.*

Old Business:

- *None.*

Director's Report: Deepa Joseph, MPH

- *D. Joseph recently attended a Town Hall forum regarding the proposed legislation on local health department consolidation. J. Caginello attended as well. The legislation is proposing consolidation into eight health districts based on geographical county borders. Each district would have a lead health director appointed by the State Commissioner, a governing board, and an executive Board of Health. Towns and municipalities would contribute a proposed 1.5% of their municipal operating budgets, including Education.*

Additional fees would apply for services that are not part of the 10 essential services of public health (for example: anti-blight enforcement, school nursing, etc.). There are several concerns as to the potential impact on many towns and municipalities, including greater costs and potentially access to fewer services. D. Joseph will be meeting with our local legislators to discuss the potential impact on Milford. Board members expressed an intention to attend the next Commissioner's town hall forum and to write a letter in response.

- *Budget meeting with Mayor was today, with no significant changes over the current budget.*

New Business: *None.*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga
Recorder