

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2010**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Secretary
Howard Fink, MD
William F. Lynch, MD
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Deborah Woods
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison
Diane Kruger-Carroll, 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 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Dates for 2011

The meeting dates for 2011 were approved unanimously on a motion by J. Costello and seconded by E. Judson.

The dates are as follows:

January 18, 2011
February 15, 2011
March 15, 2011
April 19, 2011
May 17, 2011
June 21, 2011
July 2011 – no meeting
August 2011 – no meeting
September 20, 2011
October 18, 2011
November 15, 2011
December 13, 2011

Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2010

The minutes of the meetings held on November 16, 2010 were approved unanimously, on a motion by J. Costello and seconded by W. Lynch.

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending December 12, 2010 the Health Department received 197 total complaints of blight since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009. Currently, thirteen properties are under investigation while eleven have been issued correction orders from the Anti-blight Enforcement Officer. Over time each complaint is in various stages of the process, some properties do not meet the criteria set up in the anti-blight ordinance and are being investigated under the Housing or General Public Health codes. Others are in compliance and show no cause for enforcement action, while others are still in progress or under investigation.

Eleven properties have failed to comply with the orders defined in the Notice of Violation and have been 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. Of the eleven properties originally referred to the City Attorney for fines, six have complied with the regulations and the orders are abated. There are five properties active accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance.

Total # of blight complaints	Repeat complaints	Under Investigation <u>OPEN</u> Record	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	Record Complete d/closed	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
197	45	13	11	74	29	5

Bed Bug Forum

On December 7, 2010 several of us from the Environmental Health Division attended a bed bug forum at the CT Agriculture Experiment Station (CAES) in New Haven. The purpose of the forum is to share ideas and introduce the newest information highlighting emerging public health issues associated with bed bugs in communities throughout Connecticut and the United States. Dr. Gale E. Ridge, an entomologist with the CAES and a member of the Connecticut Coalition against Bed Bugs attended a national congressional bed bug forum in Washington DC and provided attendees with a synopsis of discussions from four panels, scientific, industry, residential victim and government panels. In addition, Judy Dicine, CT State Prosecuting Attorney, presented to the group on enforcement considerations when dealing with bed bugs and rented dwellings. The forum was very educational and the information presented makes a significant addition to our environmental public health tool box.

Comments: None

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

Seasonal Influenza and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that the state of Connecticut is experiencing local cases of influenza at this time. All regions of the country continue to experience influenza like activity below baseline for this time of year. The Milford Health Department continues weekly surveillance for influenza like activity in the Milford schools and although an increase in absenteeism has been noted, no significant influenza like activity has been demonstrated in any of our schools.

In recognition of National Influenza Immunization Week (December 5 – 11, 2010), the health department held evening clinics at the health department Monday through Thursday, offering flu vaccinations to persons 9 years of age and older. Although the clinics were well publicized and convenient for access the turnout was very low.

The health department will continue to offer influenza vaccinations through February at our monthly immunization clinics held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Medication Regulations for Schools

The Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-212a has been changed in regard to administration of medication in the school setting. Regulations to reflect the statute and provide the guidance for policy development have been recently completed. The Connecticut State Department of Education held workshops this month that provided clarification of the statute and regulations.

The three new sections include administration of medications by coaches and licensed athletic trainers during intramural and interscholastic events, administration of medications by a paraprofessional and administration of medications in school readiness programs and before- and after-school programs.

The health department will develop an amended medication policy in collaboration with the Milford Board of Education for the students in Milford.

The Cocoon Program

The Cocoon Program, which offers Tdap immunization to family members and caregivers of infants will begin this month at the December 14th Immunization Clinic. Plans to expand the program will take place in January 2011 as we will offer the Tdap immunization to day care providers who care for infants as well as provide outreach to pediatric offices for parents of infants who may have been born at hospitals other than Milford Hospital. The growth of the program is to ultimately surround the infant with persons who are protected against pertussis, until the child is old enough to be fully immunized, therefore decreasing the transmission of disease to the infant.

Comments:

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 12 cases of disease reported for the month of November, with Chlamydia being the most reported disease. The Health Department received its first report of a laboratory-confirmed case of seasonal influenza for the 2010-2011 influenza season.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 14 referrals for the month of November, resulting in a total of 45 referrals for this contract year. The CT Department of Public Health recently published statewide data evaluating the Putting on AIRS program. The results of the analysis demonstrate that participants in the program experience improved quality-of-life 6 months following the initial visit. Quality of life indicators included number of unscheduled acute care visits, days absent from school/work due to asthma, number of time rescue inhaler used, and number of symptom-free days.

Milford 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 3rd Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI). 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 United Way of Milford approved the Venture Funds grant proposal submitted last month. The grant provides support in the amount of \$10,000 for PLTI. Fifteen (15) individuals will be participating in the program this year. PLTI will kick-off with a one-day retreat on Saturday, January 8, 2011.

Generator Project

Through funding received from the CT Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS), the Milford Fire Department has purchased & installed an emergency generator. This emergency generator has been configured to support the Fire Department, as well as the Health Department building in the event of an emergency. The project was completed last week and the generator has been installed, connected, and tested to ensure proper functioning.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Report

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - Amy Shields

Regional Emergency Preparedness

The planning meetings for the Regional Alternative Dispensing Exercise (RAD Ex) continue to be held throughout the region. Currently, mass dispensing areas are working with their target

organizations and compiling plans to test during the table top exercise slated for February 8th. The full scale exercise date is April 19, 2011, and target groups include universities, municipal employees, community organizations, long term care facilities, and other organizations serving vulnerable populations.

The CT Climate Change Adaptation Subcommittee was charged to outline the impacts of climate change on public health, natural resources, infrastructure, and agriculture. A draft report was completed in the Spring of 2010. Workgroups specific to the topics listed above are now outlining climate change adaptation strategies. The public health workgroup is currently making the final revisions to the adaptation list in order to receive public comments on the draft. The final report will then be submitted to the CT Governors Steering Committee on Climate Change. This report should compliment preparedness plans already in place on the local, regional, and state levels.

Region 2 will seek funding through the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) to coordinate a Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP). This plan will organize mutual aid agreements among the approximately 51 Long Term Care Facilities in Region 2. The plan establishes a course of action and an agreed commitment among participating agencies to assist each other as needed in the time of a disaster. The agreement will build capacity to place and support care of evacuated patients, provide supplies and equipment as necessary, assist with transportation of supplies, staff, and evacuated patients, and provide staffing support.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report - Tara Mustakos

Local Emergency Preparedness

The Milford Health Department is currently in the planning stages for participation in a regional preparedness exercise in April 2011. The overall goal of the exercise is to test alternative dispensing methods for the individual mass dispensing areas (MDA) in our region.

Milford will plan to test the drive through model plan developed to aid the DMV handicapped placard population in Milford, a group of about 5700 people. As a result of the 2006 dispensing exercise, Milford identified a need to make dispensing medications to physically impaired individuals easier. The solution to this issue was to develop a drive-through model plan so as to allow people to stay in their vehicles. This plan also includes preregistered groups in Milford including condo associations, beach associates and a long term health care facility. The plan is currently in draft form and will be altered as needed as planning continues.

Planning for this exercise will be through April including bi-weekly regional and local planning meetings. A regional Table Top Exercise is planned for February 2011.

Comments: None

Old Business:

- Olive Tree Hookah Lounge – C. Young gave her synopsis of Hookah Lounge from Notice of Violation to date. She explained to the Board that the Hookah Lounge is going before the

Planning & Zoning Board for a Special Exception. Dr. McBride responded to the Statement of Use provided by the Hookah Lounge for this application. R. Vitali asked for copies of the file.

New Business:

Director's Report:

- Duck Ponds – Dr. McBride stated that he accompanied the Animal Control Officer, Rick George, on a tour of the duck ponds. He also made contact with Milan Bull of the Audobon Society, who is in support of the reduction in the population of geese at the ponds.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder