

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2015**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson  
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary  
Ernest Judson  
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Thomas Jagodzinski, Board of Education Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN  
Ellen Beatty, 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 – November 17, 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on November 17, 2015 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

**Acceptance of the 2016 Board of Health Meeting Dates**

Acceptance of the 2016 Board of Health meeting dates were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

**Public Session:** *None*

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

*Anti-blight activities*

As of the week ending December 11, 2015 the Health Department received 175 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 175 complaints, 26 were complaints of blight for the 2015/2016 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

On November 18, 2015 Tina McCarthy, from the CT Department of Public Lead Poisoning Prevention Program came to Milford to provide some refresher training to the MHD Environmental Health Sanitarians. Ms. McCarthy reviewed the CT Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Regulations and brought with her the LPA-1 lead paint analyzer to demonstrate its use. This machine is used during lead home inspections and can measure the amount of lead on painted surfaces. Whenever a child resides in a dwelling built before 1978 and has an elevated level of lead in their blood, CT Regulations require the local health department to conduct a lead inspection of the home. All MHD Sanitarians are Certified Lead Inspectors and are also required to be certified in the use of the XRF machine. This was a great opportunity to re-familiarize ourselves with its functionality and practice using the machine.

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

The monthly CRIDE meeting was convened on December 7, 2015. Members of the Environmental Division of the MHD reported on the status of several troubled properties that they are involved with. Representatives from several city agencies and departments, including the Senior Center and the Milford Family Resource Center, provided input and suggestions for addressing the needs of the residents of these properties.

#### Comments:

- *J. Costello inquired what happens to abate lead in homes in cases of elevated lead levels. D. Joseph responded that the owner is required to submit an abatement plan and the Health Department makes recommendations to limit exposure until abated.*
- *D. Joseph further noted that the Health Department has a grant from the State of CT Department of Public Health (DPH) for Lead Poisoning Prevention. DPH has asked grantees to target funding towards prevention activities. The Health Department is designing a postcard mailing for owners of pre-1978 homes in Milford to explain the risk of lead paint in pre-1978 homes and recommending the use of a certified RRP (Renovate, Repair, Painting) inspector if work needs to be done on the home. As there are almost 13,000 pre-1978 homes in Milford and the grant does not provide enough funding for postage to all the homes at once, the mailing will be done in segments.*

#### **Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN**

##### Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity is increasing in CT and has been classified geographically as “local”. A total of 93 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 18 being in New Haven County. The predominant influenza viruses identified this season are Type A. A total of 43 hospitalized

patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. One influenza-associated death in an individual greater than 65 years of age has been reported.

The Milford Health Department continues its seasonal influenza campaign. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through March 2016 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. The school nurses are providing influenza prevention programs in all of the schools.

#### School Health Services

The Milford Health Department recently hired a new public health/school nurse. Debra Levin, RN joins our team as a float nurse assisting in all three middle schools. Debra has been a nurse for many years. For the past several years, she has worked as a “Family Health Clinic Nurse” at Yale New Haven Hospital. Debra has a wealth of nursing experience and we are excited to have her on board.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

Debbie Britz, one of the school dental hygienists, will be retiring on January 5, 2016. Debbie has worked for the department since 1999 and has been a valued member of the dental hygiene team. This vacancy will be posted in the near future.

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.

*Comments: None.*

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

##### Regional Initiatives

The Milford Health Department is participating in a regional workgroup to develop a Family Assistance Center (FAC) template plan. Standing up a FAC is the local health department role in response to a mass casualty, large scale incident. Health officials are working with existing templates/guidance from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), US Military and the National Red Cross.

##### Local Preparedness Initiatives

Work is currently in progress to fit Milford's plans to the new CDC assessment tool, the *Medical Counter Measure Operational Readiness Review (MCM ORR)*. Reviews are conducted annually and this year will be the first review using the MCM ORR tool developed on the federal level.

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. Milford will be working with Yale University to draft a challenge award proposal. The first meeting is scheduled for the end of December. There are currently 997 MRC units in the United States.

The Milford Health Department Volunteer Coordinator held a training session for all Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members the end of November. The first session in a series of department presentations hosted the Milford Fire Department. The presentation covered an overview of fire department activities, trainings and overall mission from the Training Captain's perspective. A total of 16 volunteers attended the session. The Milford Health Department staff will present at the next 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. As of December 10<sup>th</sup>, Guinea is the last country listed with widespread transmission of EVD.

The state Department of Agriculture is the lead agency monitoring for HPIA Influenza. H5N2 is not currently considered a public health threat but more of a threat to the economy as millions of birds have been euthanized to date. The local health department's role in HPIA is risk communication. Residents are directed to report dead bird information to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) who have set up an online submission form and posted FAQ information.

#### *Comments:*

- *E. Judson inquired if other health departments are involved in the regional workgroup to develop the Family Assistance Center (FAC) plan. D. Joseph responded that there are other health departments represented from our region. E. Judson inquired the type of facility to be used and duration of use. D. Joseph responded that it would be incident specific, it could be a day or two or several weeks at another site depending on the incident. C. Young inquired if it was only for disasters. D. Joseph responded that it could be scaled for a small or large event as needed. It would be a centralized location where people come to get assistance and information.*
- *D. Joseph reported that the Health Department will be participating in a full scale exercise on Mass Dispensing in April 2016.*

#### **Community Health**

D. Joseph reported that enrollment for the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) continues. PLTI enables parents and other adults to become leaders and advocates for children through a retreat, 18 week course, and community project. There are currently 17 applicants, with a goal

for full enrollment of 24 this year. Recruitment was done in the school system, at daycare centers, and in presentations at a YMCA staff meeting and in other forums. PLTI alumni have also advertised the program through their own Facebook pages. Registration can now be done online on the Health Department's website.

D. Joseph learned yesterday that there was a state budget cut to the Parent Trust Fund and all PLTI grantees will be getting a percentage cut on this year's grant. The percentage is unknown at this time. There is a question on whether funding will be available next year. Discussions are underway on how to fund the budget cut this year.

*Comments:*

- *Board members discussed the merits of the program and inquired how funding is used and how long the program has been operating. D. Joseph responded that funding is used for course facilitators, childcare, meals, and for materials. This is the seventh year of the PLTI program.*

**Old Business:** *None.*

**Director's Report:** *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

With regards to the accreditation process, the new Community Health Coordinator is working on a timeline to identify the items that need to get accomplished before applying and how long it will be until the application process can start. Stratford Health Department had their site visit from the accreditation board today, which D. Joseph sat in on.

The first budget meeting with the Mayor occurred yesterday. The Health Department did not request any additional funding over the current budget.

*Comments:*

- *J. Costello inquired how many health departments in Connecticut are accredited. D. Joseph responded that 1 is accredited and approximately 5 are in process. She further noted that although it is a costly and time consuming process, it appears that in the near future grant funding will be tied to accreditation.*

**New Business:**

- *The Board welcomed Tom Jagodzinski as new Board of Education liaison to the Board of Health.*
- *The Board discussed a suggestion that was made for a possible merger between the Health Department and Human Services Department and the information that would be needed in order to evaluate the suggestion.*

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga  
Recorder