

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2008**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
William F. Lynch, MD
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Deborah Woods

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Howard Fink, MD, Secretary
Joan M. Costello, RN
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman Liaison

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Laura Miller, Chief, Environmental Health
Beverly Hayes, Administrative Assistant

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2008

The minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by E. Judson seconded by W. Lynch.

Approval of 2009 Board of Health Meeting Dates

The 2009 Board of Health Meeting Dates were approved on a motion by E. Judson seconded by W. Lynch.

Environmental Health Report – presented by Laura Miller, Chief, Environmental Health

Public Swimming Pools

On Friday December 12, 2008 Pam Scully from the CT Department of Public Health visited the Milford Health Department to provide information on new Public Pool safety regulations going into effect on December 19, 2008. The Act was signed into law in December of 2007 and requires all pools, spas and hot tubs to install/replace main drain covers with an approved apparatus in order to avoid suction entrapment. The requirements are mandatory. Year-round pools, spas and hot tubs are required to be in compliance by December 19, 2008. All others must comply prior to opening this spring. During routine inspections last season all pool operators were given information alerting them to the new regulations and responsibilities. There are twenty-five (25) public pools that are inspected by the Milford Health Department; nine of which

are year round in-door swimming pools. We are currently in the process of conducting inspections to ensure compliance.

HazWaste Central – Regional Water Authority

Laura Miller attended the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center Municipal Planning Committee meeting on November 18, 2008. Statewide the 2008 collection season went very well. The total participation for Milford was 771 users. This number includes the 230 users that came to the satellite collection held in Milford. We will be having another satellite collection in the fall of 2009. It was also discussed that the Regional Authority purchased a water utility that serves Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby and Seymour. Because the RWA now serves these communities, they are eligible to join HazWaste Central. If these towns decide to join HazWaste Central, it should not have a negative impact on the cost of the program because fees are based on a per-user fee system.

Comments:

- E. Judson asked if the public pool legislation affects private pools and are any of the pool grandfathered. L. Miller responded that public pools are not grandfathered under this legislation. D. Woods explained that the cost is extremely high for existing private pool owners, however all new pools will fall under the new legislation.
- D. McBride and L. Miller lead discussion regarding food borne outbreak management.

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

School Nurses –School Nurse of the Year 2009

One of our Milford School Nurses has been selected as the School Nurse of the Year for Connecticut. Kathy Scarinzi, RN, BSN, NCSN, the primary school nurse at Foran High School, has been selected by the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut (ASNC) to receive this prestigious award. Kathy was nominated by one of her peer nurses, Carla McNamara, and her nomination was highly supported by Dr. McBride and Joan Cagginello, RN. Kathy has worked for the Milford Health Department since 1993, serving as the school nurse and Pumpkin Delight for many years and currently as the nurse at Foran. Kathy is an advocate for all students and is a leader among her peer nurses. She is the president of the Milford School Nurses union, the co-founder and facilitator of the Foran High School Gay Straight Alliance and is the Recording Secretary of ASNC. Kathy will receive her award from ASNC on January 21, 2009 at a reception held in her honor in West Hartford.

Influenza Vaccine & Influenza Surveillance

The Milford Health Department offered influenza vaccine at our December immunization clinic, the VNA well child clinics and also to the residents and staff of the Beth El shelter. We have had a marked decrease in calls about flu vaccine and have had very few residents seeking flu shots this month. Our formal influenza clinics were completed last month.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to report that documented cases of flu are sporadic in CT. Milford has had one positive case. Some school nurses are reporting an increase in student absenteeism this week.

School Nurses – Computer Program (Healthmaster) Training

Four school nurses have been selected to receive “train the trainer” instruction for the Healthmaster system from Healthmaster and our MIS department. Linda Bispuda, Jan Casey, Pam Mulla and Sue Kliger were selected as trainers because of their proficiency with the program and their ability to work well with the nursing staff. The workgroup is currently working to streamline the Healthmaster program for our use and will be training their peers after the first of the year.

Comments:

Community Health Division Report - Presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

Disease Surveillance

There were 25 cases of disease reported for the month of November with chlamydia being the most reported disease. The Health Department received our first laboratory-confirmed case of influenza. This case has been the only case reported in Milford to date for the 2008-2009 influenza season.

2nd Annual Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Health Department, in collaboration with Kids Count and the Discovery Initiative in Milford, has recruited 25 participants, the maximum capacity, for Milford’s 2nd Annual 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 classes will kick-off with the one-day retreat on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at the First United Church of Christ, Congregational. Program staff is in the process of finalizing logistics for the retreat and for the class. All Board members are invited to attend the morning introduction session of the retreat.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program has received a total of 46 referrals for this contract year, with 8 of those referrals received in November. Due to the significant increase in referrals, the Community Health Coordinator is in the process of looking for additional grant funds to support the program. Based on the trend of referrals thus far, the program may be in need of additional funds to support the program towards the end of the contract year in August 2009.

National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO): Accreditation Project

Funds were requested from NACCHO to support the Milford Health Department’s efforts to assess the degree to which it has the capacity to perform the functions of NACCHO’s Operational Definition of a Local Health Department. NACCHO approved this request and has provided the Milford Health Department with a grant in the amount of \$15,000. In order to fulfill the requirements of the contract, the Community Health Coordinator submitted a report on our Quality Improvement progress at the end of November. The next phase of this project will involve the development of a community health assessment tool to assess areas of concern/need as identified by those who participated in the one-day training held in October 2008.

Comments:

- C. Young asked D. McBride if an area of concern/need has been identified for the Accreditation Project. D. McBride responded that after attending and presenting at an AARP conference this month, he realized that we need to find a way to be more proactive instead of reactive in regards to single family homes with single occupants accompanied by hoarding issues. E. Judson asked if Milford is unique to this problem. D. McBride responded that Milford is not unique; it is the lack of community that contributes to the problem.

Emergency Preparedness Report – Presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report

Regional Preparedness Grant

Region 2 will be utilizing the pilot 3 Days, 3 Ways public education campaign to promote preparedness to all of the involved towns. Strategies developed locally will serve as guidance for the regional model. Patrick Pickering will be developing regional materials.

After the Full Scale Exercise (described below), a third in the series of hospital catchment area exercises will enter the planning phase: This exercise will encompass Yale-New Haven Hospital and Hospital of St. Raphael and the towns in the center of our region. These will include *at least* New Haven, West Haven, Orange, Woodbridge, Hamden, Bethany, North Haven, North Branford, East Haven, Branford, and Guilford. Planning is slated to begin in September 2009.

Cities Readiness Initiative

Planning is underway for the full-scale, regional exercise May 19, 2009. The exercise will focus on dispensing antibiotics to public health “critical staff” which will include first responders such as police, fire and POD volunteers. Bill Richards and Phil Maloney will be leading the planning for this exercise. Every health department & district with a mass dispensing plan will be expected to develop and test a plan for medicating their critical staff.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report

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

The Milford Health Department hosted a meeting on Wednesday, December 10th; to announce the launching of a new emergency preparedness program called “3 Days, 3 Ways, Are you ready.” This program is originated from King County, Washington State. Timothy Doyle from the King County Office of Emergency Management presented the program successes and strategies in King County and additional areas of Washington State.

The focus of the program is preparedness for individual residents: “have a plan, make a kit and get involved.” Bruce Varga and Chelsea Donini have been added to the Milford Health Department team to promote the program. Bruce is retired from the Milford Fire Department and Chelsea is a student at Foran High School who will lead up the youth involvement with the program. In tandem with the initiation of “3 Days, 3 Ways” future meetings for all existing MRC

and CERT volunteers will be focused on increasing involvement of volunteers into the health department infrastructure.

Comments:

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New Business:

- M. Quintner asked if anything had been done regarding the property on Gulf Street which was discussed at last month's meeting. D. McBride explained that the property is not occupied and there is very little under the public health regulations that he could apply to that property. These types of situation fall under blight and we do not have a blighted property ordinance.
- M. Quintner inquired as to the pizza oven situation with regards to outdoor fires. L. Miller responded that the oven was constructed within the zoning regulations. D. McBride explained that a case would have to be made establishing a health risk, which requires extensive investigation and documentation. E. Judson had thought pursuing the nuisance aspect was being pursued.

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

- D. McBride stated that he received a quote for a generator for the Health Department. The generator quote was for \$29,000 and was submitted in the budget for 2009-2010. The Mayor suggested other options for the generator i.e. researching if we could connect to the Fire Department generator; request funds through the state under "shovel ready" projects or through bonding. D. McBride added that Region 1 in Bridgeport has a regional structure for emergencies, which Region 2 should also have.

Adjournment:

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by M. Quintner and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder