

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
December 18, 2007**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, Chairperson  
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson  
Joseph Reingold, Secretary  
Howard Fink  
Robert Toronto  
Deborah Woods  
Mitchell Quintner  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison  
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman 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:*

*Ryan Catalano, Student at Southern*

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

The minutes of the November 20, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by H. Fink seconded by J. Reingold.

The Board of Health 2008 Meeting Dates were unanimously approved on a motion by E. Judson seconded by B. Toronto.

**Environmental Health Report – presented by Laura Pagliaro, RS**

*HazWaste Central*

Hazwaste Central collected household hazardous waste from 551 Milford users during the 2006/2007-collection season. Lori Vitagliano, HazWaste Coordinator, asked if we would be interested in hosting a satellite collection in Milford during the 2008/2009 operating season. After talking with Bruce Kolwicz, Director of Public Works, we agreed on Saturday, October 4, 2008 for the satellite. The collection will take place at the Milford Transfer Station. On that day, instead of going to New Haven to dispose of household hazardous waste, residents will have the option to bring their waste to the Transfer Station in Milford for proper disposal.

### Environmental Health Training

This year instead of traveling to Hartford for Lead Inspector re-certification training, we were all able to complete the lead inspector refresher course on-line. The on-line course consists of 10-modules with a 10-question test at the end of each module. All staff passed the course and holds current certifications.

### 80 Wampus Lane

The environmental clean up conducted by HRP Associates is 99-percent complete. The company removed approximately 1000 tons of contaminated soil. HRP workers filled the area to grade with clean soil and installed silt fencing and hay bales to prevent erosion. In early spring, HRP Associates will return to the site to plant the vegetation.

### Comments:

- D. Woods inquired who would staff the HazWaste in Milford. L. Pagliaro responded that Clean Harbors would arrange staffing along with Milford Volunteers..
- C. Young inquired as to the online Lead training content. L. Pagliaro responded the it was more detailed however some of the glitches needed to be worked out, but you could go at your own pace within the 10 working days timeframe.
- E. Judson asked if there was any proposed use for the property at 80 Wampus Lane. L. Pagliaro responded that she was unaware. B. Toronto asked where the contaminated soil was taken. L. Pagliaro responded the contaminated soil was taken to a EPA approved site in Ohio.

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

### Seasonal Influenza Status and Influenza Vaccination Clinics

Influenza activity in Connecticut is listed as sporadic according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The remainder of the country is also seeing low incidence of influenza at this time, including eleven states with no reported influenza activity. Only the state of Texas is reporting local activity (please see the attachments). As of December 1, 2007 there have been 25 laboratory confirmed cases in Connecticut, with one-fifth of the cases in New Haven County.

The Milford Health Department held it's final influenza clinic on December 4, 2007 at Parson's Government Center during the evening hours. Influenza vaccine was also administered at the December Immunization clinic. The Health Department will continue to offer vaccine at the January Immunization clinic and that will complete our influenza vaccine campaign for this flu season.

### Pandemic Influenza Planning

The Milford Health Department was requested to provide a presentation on Pandemic Influenza Planning and Preparation for Schools at a conference sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) at the Mohegan Sun Conference Center on December 8, 2007. The conference was well attended by a diverse audience of school administrators, school nurses, teachers and school support personnel. The topic was well received and the audience had several questions, comments and compliments for the Health Department. Most notably they were very interested

in the planning materials developed by the Milford Health Department for school districts in our region.

#### School Nursing Staff

We currently have an open position for a school nurse. The interviewing process is progressing and we hope to have a qualified nurse in the position soon. It has been very challenging for the nursing department to creatively provide nursing coverage at the schools during this time. Our substitute nursing pool is limited and there are some positions that cannot be filled by a substitute nurse. Our nursing staff has greatly assisted in providing flexibility in covering schools as needed during this time.

### **Community Health Division Report—Presented by Deepa Joseph**

#### Disease Surveillance

There were 21 cases of disease reported for the month of November with chlamydia being the most reported disease for the month.

#### Putting on AIRS

The Milford Health Department has finally received the executed two-year contract for the Putting on AIRS program. Our part-time Program Coordinator, Betty Murphy, has started meeting with local pediatric providers in the region to educate them about the program and encourage appropriate referrals. She has also conducted presentations at the Regional School Readiness Council and has discussed the program with several early childhood education providers. We are confident that our pediatric referrals into this program will increase as a result of Betty's work.

#### Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Health Department, in collaboration with Kids Count and the Discovery Initiative in Milford, is preparing 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 reached the maximum capacity of the class of 25 participants and have a waiting list of approximately 5 parents who are interested as well. Orientation interviews were held with all participants to discuss program requirements and logistics. The classes will kick-off with the one-day retreat on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the First United Church of Christ, Congregational. Board members are invited to join us in the morning to welcome our first class.

The Health Department was also notified that our grant application to the State of Connecticut Children's Trust Fund to assist with PLTI has been approved. Milford is one of the only communities whose proposal was fully funded at the maximum amount of \$17,600.

#### *Comments:*

- C. Young asked if B. Murphy was a nurse. D. Joseph responded that she is not, however she has a positive relationship with the physicians in the area.

- M. Quintner asked if there is a set curriculum for the program. D. Joseph responded that the curriculum for PLTI was developed by the State of CT Commission on Children. The instructors for the class will be facilitators from the CT Commission on Children who have taught the 20-week course in other communities in Connecticut. C. Young added that D. Joseph should be proud of her work on this grant. D. Woods commended her grant writing skills.

## **Emergency Preparedness Report – Presented by Diana Yassanye**

### *Regional Preparedness Grant*

The listing for the Regional Project Manager position will be closing at the end of this week. This position will have responsibilities technical writing such as grant deliverables and the management of some regional workgroups.

### *Local Preparedness Grant*

Tara Mustakos has just started as Local Preparedness Coordinator. She will begin attending these meetings in January.

### *Pandemic Flu planning*

As a continuation of our local efforts to educate and inform the public about pandemics, a letter to all parents of students in Milford Public Schools will be going out in early January. This is the same letter that went out last January letting parents know it is safest to keep kids home when they are sick and to prepare an emergency kit at home.

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

The Milford-Westfield Mall CERT graduated this past weekend. We are verifying that this is the first team of its kind not only in Connecticut, but in the nation. Combining citizens and mall employees from the three regional Westfield malls brings an entirely new resource to our emergency planning and this is definitely a good model for other jurisdictions

### *Comments:*

- D. McBride credited Rick Fontana, Regional Coordinator for pulling the CERT program together as well as Laretta Toomey who also helped with the training. E. Judson asked how many of the graduating group were mall employees? D. Yassanye responded approx. 4 – 5 were employees. D. Woods inquired as to continued training. D. Yassanye responded that they will continue with training through the Medical Reserve Corps, MRC, which is a federally recognized program under the umbrella of the Milford Coalition, which offers continued training. D. McBride added that other city agencies such as fire and police could also offer a CERT training program. B. Toronto commended the staff on their work. D. Yassanye said the credit goes to Rick Fontana and Laretta Toomey who both did an amazing job with this group.

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

- D. McBride stated that he attended A National Conference on Legal Remedies for Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning in Baltimore, Maryland, which was hosted by the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. He added that the conference worked on how states, municipalities and public interest groups can combat childhood lead poisoning through legislation, litigation and regulatory enforcement. He added that he is working with Jim Amann and Gayle Slossberg on new legislation on lead.
- C. Young added that Toys for Tots has to check toys against a list. D. McBride responded that the Health Department website is kept up to date on the most current list of toys containing lead with links to sites containing photos. We also fax an updated list to all daycare centers in Milford and conduct spot checks on various retailers that are most likely to have these items to make sure they are aware of recalls and removed from store shelves. D. McBride added that they would like to collect toys containing lead at the Haz Waste satellite collection in Milford, however they are still looking into it.
- D. McBride also stated that the staff is surveying Public Health Departments regarding Climate Change and Public Health for which the results will be analyzed.
- D. McBride stated that several staff attended a tabletop exercise that was hosted by the regional hospitals. It is important that they work together to iron out policies regarding regional responsibilities. It was also noted that Milford Hospital is the only hospital within the region with a Business Continuity Plan for Pandemics.
- D. McBride also added that Tara Mustakos brings with her a wealth of experience. She is already oriented in Public Health Preparedness as she has worked on our past exercises not to mention her experience as a sanitarian.

## **Adjournment**

J. Reingold motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by H. Fink and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS, Recorder