

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2014

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Ernest Judson
Mitchell Quintner, DMD

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

William F. Lynch, MD
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS
Laura Fucci, Board of Education Liaison
Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman 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 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – May 20, 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on May 20, 2014 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello. C. Young abstained.

Public Session: None

Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller, RS

Housing Code Enforcement/CRIDE

On June 4, 2014 the MHD took the lead and in conjunction with the Milford Animal Control Office executed an administrative search warrant to gain access to the interior of a severely troubled home. Based on the odors emanating from the dwelling and the condition of the exterior of the yard surrounding the home, the property was creating a threat to the surrounding properties and considered a public health nuisance. This was an occupied dwelling and the occupant would not grant MHD inspectors access to the interior of the dwelling in order to assess the situation. Assisting on scene was officers from the Police and Fire Departments along with the Emergency Mental Health Unit from Bridges.

Upon inspection of the interior of the dwelling, inspectors found an uninhabitable house filled with garbage, filth, flies and other insects; squalor conditions. Severe objectionable fetid odors permeated the inside and outside the dwelling. The toilet facilities were filthy and blocked by refuse. The bathroom and kitchen had no running water. There were no functioning kitchen or bathroom fixtures inside the house. In the kitchen there was decayed and moldy food items stored inside a filthy refrigerator.

MHD inspectors observed what appeared to be human and animal waste and feces on the floors and walls of every room in the house. On the second floor there was garbage, cardboard boxes, plastic bags and empty food containers cluttering all the rooms. This mass of refuse prevented full entry into these rooms. In one of the front bedrooms there was a makeshift electric cooking device in use among a pile of combustible materials such as paper garbage and cloth items.

The Milford Assistant Animal Control Officer trapped and removed 3 dogs, 26 cats and a large bird and transported them to the veterinarian for health evaluations.

Based on the inspection, the Director of Health declared the building unfit for occupancy and the occupant was transported off the premises.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending June 13, 2014 the Health Department received 72 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2013/2014 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 516 complaints. 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. We are seeing a rise in the number of complaints about vacant homes that are not being maintained, i.e. peeling paint, vegetation not cut back, fallen trees not removed. MHD is working hard to track down the responsible parties and get them to clean up the property. Unfortunately, the enforcement process takes time and getting the banks, mortgage and management companies to take care of the issues is proving to be arduous.

Currently, nine properties failed to comply with the orders defined in the Notice of Violation. Liens have been placed on the corresponding land records and these properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance. MHD referred the addresses to the City Attorney's office requesting that they initiate foreclosure in order to eliminate the blight.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2013/2014	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
516	72	4	9

Beach Monitoring

May 28, 2014 kicked off the start of the beach-monitoring season. Every week between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Sanitarians collect water samples and conduct sanitary surveys at 16 different locations along the Milford coastline. Water samples are sent to the Connecticut State Lab for analyzing. When collecting sea water samples, Sanitarian's also inspect the tide line to identify potential hazards such as medical waste and/or syringes. If there is something suspicious, the Police Department is promptly notified.

Comments: None

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

School Health Services

The school nurses are completing their school year, with the official final day of school for Milford Public Schools on Tuesday, June 17, 2014. Because of the delayed opening in August 2013, East Shore middle school will be in session through Friday, July 20, 2014. The nurses had a very productive year. They completed all state mandated screenings and reviewed and monitored all required physical exams and immunizations in addition to their many other responsibilities. Many nurses attended educational opportunities throughout the year that provided them with up to date knowledge and skills which will help them in their personal and professional growth. Some of these programs include:

- National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference
- Annual Critical Issues in School Nursing Conference
- DCF Mandated Reporter Training
- Abdominal Pain Assessment
- Human Trafficking – FBI
- Optimizing asthma control through education
- Concussions
- Bed bugs and head lice
- Overview of common mental illnesses
- Endometriosis

Extended School Year Programs & Camp Happiness

Camp Happiness will be held at The Academy this summer from July 7th – August 7th. The 12 month public health nurse will provide school health services for the program. In addition, the Milford Public Schools will be holding several summer school programs at Jonathan Law High School this summer. There will be a public health nurse working at Jonathan Law from June 30th – July 31st. Harborside and Orange Avenue have extended school year programs as well from July 1st – August 4th. In addition, Pumpkin Delight and Mathewson will have summer programs for students from July 7th – August 1st. Public health nurses will be working at each of the schools to provide school health services.

Nursing Staff

First round interviews were conducted for the full time public health nurse on June 9, 2014. The top three candidates have been identified and will be interviewed at the health department on June 25, 2014

Comments: None

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

Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The City of Milford will be participating in the 2014 Governor's Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) on June 23rd. Participation is required for local emergency management and city government officials. The focus is response to a hurricane. Objectives for this exercise include: setting up Unified Command, addressing needs of sheltering vulnerable populations and identifying means of communication to this group. Health Department staff will be participating as part of Emergency Support Function (ESF 8) for the City of Milford.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) classifications are defined as follows for local, regional and state structure nationally:

- ESF 1 Transportation**
- ESF 2 Communication**
- ESF 3 Public Works & Engineering**
- ESF 4 Firefighting**
- ESF 5 Emergency Management**
- ESF 6 Mass Care, Housing & Human Service**
- ESF 7 Resource Support**
- ESF 8 Public Health & Medical Services**
- ESF 9 USAR**
- ESF 10 Hazardous Materials Response**
- ESF 11 Agriculture & Natural Resources (Animal Protection)**
- ESF 12 Energy**
- ESF 13 Public Safety & Security**
- ESF 14 Long Term Recovery & Mitigation**
- ESF 15 External Affairs (Media)**
- ESF 16 Not Assigned
- ESF 17 Not Assigned

ESF 18 Not Assigned

ESF 19 Special Needs Management

The Milford Emergency Management committee next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July.

Preparedness Activities

The Milford Health Department will be hosting a high school intern for the summer. The student will work mostly with the Volunteer Coordinator on ongoing preparedness initiatives.

Comments: None

Community Health – Deepa Joseph, MPH

Disease Surveillance

There were 50 cases of disease reported for the month of May, with seasonal influenza being the most reported disease.

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. Fourteen (14) individuals graduated from the program on Monday, June 9, 2014 at City Hall. Several honored guests spoke at the local graduation ceremony including Dr. McBride, Mayor Blake, Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Feser, along with our State Representatives—Representative Davis, Representative Maroney, Representative Rose.

The funding announcement for the 2014-2015 grant cycle has been released by the State Education Resource Center (SERC). The Milford Health Department submitted a letter of intent to submit an application. The deadline for the application is in July 2014.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 87 referrals for this contract year. The Milford Health Department is the lead health department in Asthma Region 6. In this role, the department chairs the Region 6 Greater New Haven Area Asthma Coalition. This coalition has been invited to take part in the development of strategies to address Greater New Haven Community Health Improvement plan (CHIP), specific to Focus Area #4—Asthma. This effort is being led by Yale New Haven Hospital and the Partnership for a Healthier New Haven in an effort to address the needs of residents in Yale New Haven Hospital's catchment area. The Coalition will meet on June 24th to discuss the initiative and provide feedback regarding the strategic plan.

Grants Management & Administration

Several grants obtained by the Milford Health Department are coming to the close of contract periods. The Health Department is working on submitting renewal and/or new applications for grants in the areas Healthy Homes, Lead, Asthma, Parent Leadership Training, and Emergency Preparedness.

Comments: *None*

Old Business:

- *C. Young asked if there was any news regarding the outdoor smoking in ball fields. D. responded he had nothing yet.*
- *C. Gonillo asked how the First Visit Program is doing? D. McBride stated that J. Campbell and he have a meeting with staff from VNA to work on recruiting on how to get word out about the program and perhaps an event in the fall for new mothers.*
- *C. Young asked about the grant funding. D. McBride responded that they have stayed close to the same as last year. There was concern over the Per Cap regarding the Borough of Woodmont Population exempted from the total population count for Milford with regards to the funding even though they currently receive services.*

Director's Report:

- *D. McBride stated that the Milford Health Department took the lead in securing an administrative search warrant from the Sr. Asst. State's Attorney, Housing Prosecutor, on a home regarding hoarding in Milford. The department and Milford Animal Control worked together to gain access to the home working with Police and Fire as well as the Emergency Mental Health Unit from Bridges. The home was vacated, secured and declared unfit for occupancy after Animal Control removed 3 dogs, 26 cats and a large bird. After evaluation at a local hospital, the occupant was referred to Milford Human Services Department.*
- *D. McBride handed out a sample letter along with a survey addressed to parents for the needs assessment of dental services. These will be used to develop a dental program based on the needs found as the result of the survey. This letter will go out with the normal dental information in the fall. M. Quintner added that the Milford Dental Association is on board and that there are 57 dentists in Milford alone.*

New Business:

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder