

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2013**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Secretary
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo
William F. Lynch, MD
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
George Gensure, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
Susan Shaw, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant
Tara Mustakos, RS, CHES, Sanitarian and Local Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Stephen Maheux, MPH, Regional Public Health Preparedness Coordinator

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. She then turned the meeting over E. Judson for the Election of Officers.

Election of 2013 Officers

The following officers were elected for 2013 and approved unanimously:
Chairperson – Constance Young on a motion by E. Judson, seconded by J. Costello.
Vice Chairperson – Joan Costello on a motion by E. Judson, seconded by C. Young.
Secretary – Christine Gonillo on a motion by J. Costello seconded by E. Judson.

The meeting was turned back over to C. Young, elected Chairperson.

Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on December 11, 2012 were approved unanimously, on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello. C. Young abstained from voting..

Public Session: None

Regional and Local Emergency Preparedness Presentation

Tara Mustakos, Local Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Stephen Maheux, Regional Public Health Preparedness Coordinator gave a presentation on the Local and Regional Emergency Response to Hurricane Sandy, which hit the State of Connecticut in the fall of 2012.

A Long Term Recovery Task Force has been created to examine several issues regarding how to help residents still in need and to make sure the city is ready to help. D. McBride added that Tara and all the staff and volunteers did a fantastic job. The staff didn't question they just jumped in and helped and the school system was great.

Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller

Cold Weather Sheltering During extremely cold temperatures, when the temperature coupled with the wind chill fall below 32 degrees, the Beth-el Center opens a no-freeze shelter. Since its inception in 2008, the shelter accommodates people who have no other options for over-night housing in extreme cold weather. The no-freeze shelter can house up to eight individuals overnight, and is open from 9 p.m. – 7 a.m. This shelter is available during extreme cold temperatures and is for overnight only; Individuals must leave during the day. The Beth-el Center opens the no freeze shelter on the nights when the temperature and/or wind chill dips below 32 degrees. This will continue on during the winter months under those weather conditions.

Anti-blight activities As of the week ending January 11, 2013, the Health Department received 46 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2012/2013 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 378 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.

Currently, eight properties 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. These seven properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2012/2013	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
378	46	10	4	8

Comments: None

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) notes that Connecticut is one of 47 states reporting widespread flu activity for the week ending 1/5/13. Connecticut has had 1,680 cases of diagnosed flu thus far. Milford accounts for 33 of those cases. There have been 453 cases in

New Haven County. Influenza vaccinations will continue to be offered at the Health Department at the monthly immunization clinic through February 2013. Both regular flu vaccine and high dose vaccine for individuals over 65 years of age will be offered.

The school nurses continue to monitor influenza-like illness in the school setting and send weekly reports to the health department for review. As expected, sporadic increases in ILI have been reported at some of the schools.

School Health Services

On 1/9/13, some of our school nurses were able to participate in a teleconference sponsored by the CT chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics titled “Supporting Children in the Aftermath of a Crisis” presented by Dr. David Schonfeld. Several years back, Dr. Schonfeld helped revise and update the Milford School Crisis Management Manual while working at Yale New Haven Hospital. He is now the director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Important information was learned such on how to support children after a disaster and potential symptoms of adjustment reactions.

One of our nurses, Lisa Skawinski, is currently assisting the *Milford Juvenile Fire-Setting Intervention Program* in treating a child who was recently referred to that program. Back in September of 2012, Lisa and I attended a two day training seminar sponsored by The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control titled “Juvenile Firesetter Interventionist Specialist 1”. As community service providers, Lisa and I can assist the *Milford Juvenile Fire-Setting Intervention Program* in providing prevention education/intervention for these children and their families and make referrals to other agencies if needed.

Comments:

- *D. McBride stated that the Health Department will continue offering the Flu Vaccine at the next monthly clinic on February 12, 2013*

Emergency Preparedness Reports

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report – Steve Maheux

Training and Exercises

The statewide Mass Dispensing Drill has run into some issues regarding participation in other Regions. We are currently awaiting updates from CT DPH regarding this exercise, tentatively scheduled for September, 2013.

The regional training and exercise workgroup is scheduled to meet to discuss upcoming workshop and/or training ideas for Region 2. These decisions will not be finalized until there is more information regarding the statewide exercises planned for 2013.

Public Health Preparedness Contracts

Mass Dispensing Areas in Region 2 are still working on updating their mass dispensing plans for a February deadline. The CDC is planning a visit for March to review the new Regionalized TAR.

CT DPH is currently reviewing the Region 2 Project Public Health Ready application before it is revised and sent to the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO). NACCHO will review the application and make a decision on Region 2's national recognition.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Activity Report - Tara Mustakos

Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The Milford Health Department has been awarded the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) noncompetitive grant for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Capacity Building. The Health Department is still waiting to hear back on the NACCHO grant proposal to develop a *Shelter Task Force* within our MRC.

Public Health Preparedness Activities

Public Health Preparedness deliverables for the fiscal year are due throughout the spring this grant cycle. Local staff will participate in a workshop with a Department of Public Health representative to complete a throughput exercise. This will simulate opening a Point of Dispensing (POD) and dispensing medications to the community. Health Department staff must also participate in two additional call down drills to test communication systems as a deliverable.

The Technical Assessment Review (TAR) structure is changing this year for the local health departments as per Centers for Disease Control recommendation. The new template allows for local health department plans to be an annex to the larger Region 2 plan. The local preparedness coordinator is working to reorganize the Milford Health Department Emergency Operations plan to fit the new template.

Milford Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was recognized as one of the MRC units which updated events/information and participated in MRC activities in some capacity every month. The national organization requested MRC activity be increased and units keep this information up to date. Due to the Storm Sandy and Milford MRC community involvement our MRC was successful in achieving the goal.

Comments: None

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 63 cases of disease reported for the month of December, with influenza being the most reported disease. There have been a total of 48 laboratory confirmed cases of seasonal influenza reported to date. Such increased influenza activity mirrors what is being seen throughout the state of Connecticut, as well as nationally. Flu activity continues to be widespread. The Health Department still has flu vaccine available to residents at our monthly clinics held the second Tuesday of every month.

Influenza Like Illness Surveillance

Following the H1N1 pandemic of 2009-10, the Health Department has continued to monitor our school population for evidence of influenza like illness (ILI) which is described to be fever over 100° plus cough, sore throat or both in the absence of another known cause of disease. ILI data this year corresponds with statewide and national trends reflecting widespread cases of influenza. The Health Department will continue to monitor ILI throughout the school year.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 17 referrals in December resulting in 63 total referrals for this contract year.

As reported previously, in an effort to streamline costs related to the home visit, the Program Coordinator arranged to provide basic asthma education in a group setting. This method allows for the education that takes place at the home visit to be more specific to just medication education thereby streamlining visit time. The first group class was held in New Haven in December with 12 participants. The class was extremely successful with participants demonstrating increased knowledge regarding asthma management. Participants were encouraged to bring their asthma medications with them to the class and the nurse was able to review proper technique for medication administration. The next class will be held in February.

Health Centered Bulletin Boards

The Milford Health Department continues to develop health-centered bulletin boards, which are put up and displayed in each school by the school nurses. The focus of the bulletin board for this season is Winter Health with messages including the importance of staying warm by bundling up, remaining physically active, and eating properly.

Comments: None

Old Business:

Director's Report:

- *D. McBride stated that he is Chair of the Board of the COHI (Connecticut Oral Health Initiative). He added that dental health is at the forefront of the health agenda in the next year with the focus on preventive aspect a top priority.*

New Business:

- *C. Young stated that she will be reviewing the applications submitted for the Nurse Administrator position and hopefully will have three to four candidates for the panel to interview.*

Adjournment:

H. Mulrenan motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J. Costello and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder