

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2010**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Howard Fink, MD, Secretary
William F. Lynch, MD
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Deborah Woods
Diane Kruger-Carroll, Board of Education Liaison
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Beverly Hayes, Administrative Assistant

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

Election of 2010 Officers

The following officers were elected for 2010 and approved unanimously:
Chairperson— Connie Young on a motion by E. Judson, seconded by J. Costello
Vice Chairperson— Ernie Judson on a motion by J. Costello, seconded by W. Lynch
Secretary— Joan Costello on a motion by C. Young seconded by E. Judson

Approval of 2010 Board of Health Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates have been established for the remainder of 2010:

February 16, 2010
March 16, 2010
April 20, 2010
May 18, 2010
June 15, 2010
July 2010 – No Meeting
August 2010 – No Meeting
September 21, 2010
October 19, 2010
November 16, 2010
December 14, 2010

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller

Flu – Seasonal/H1N1

All members of the Environmental Health Division have been working together to implement logistics plans at each of the H1N1 flu vaccination clinics. Environmental staff works to set-up & break down the clinic, create and post signs, in addition to manning various stations at the clinic to provide information and direction to patients. As previously stated, the role of the Environmental Division during any public health emergency is to plan and implement all logistical aspects of the situation as it pertains to Public Health.

HazWaste Central – Regional Water Authority

Laura Miller attended the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center Municipal Planning Committee meeting on November 17, 2009. Statewide the 2009 collection season went very well. The total participation for Milford was 1045 users. This number includes the 479 users that came to the satellite collection held in Milford on October 3. The City will be having another satellite collection in the fall of 2010.

Anti-Blight

The Health Department is working diligently developing policies and procedures to enforce the new anti-blight ordinance. Determining if a property is blighted entails several inspections/site visits to properties in order to establish the grounds in which to issue a notice of violation (NOV) to a property owner. Orders/NOV shall describe the observed violations and a time frame in which compliance must happen. Several inspections/site visits are necessary not only to establish if a blight condition exists or is being created but to also ascertain if the condition is being “maintained” by the owner.

It is the experience of the Milford Health Department that many conditions and situations can be remedied by an informal process that includes communication with the property owner or other responsible person, development of an abatement plan, and monitoring. However, if responsible parties are not responsive or have abandoned their property the Health Department will move forward with legal enforcement.

- The Environmental Health Division conducts visual surveys and monitors situations. As a first step in enforcement, some properties receive correspondence which offers property owners the opportunity to correct situations prior to issuing a Notice of Violation.
- The Environmental Health Division will use the Notice of violation as the second step in enforcement. If there is non-compliance with an NOV compliance date, the Law Department will be promptly notified via a cover letter and copies of all pertinent information requesting that the \$100 fine be initiated.

As of January 19, 2010 this office has received 77 complaints of blight. The Environmental Health Division has reviewed 70. Not all complaints are substantiated, some are repeated complaints and several are in violation of Section 11 of the Milford Code of Ordinances and Orders were sent citing violations under the Housing Code. Many letters were sent notifying property owners of observed potential blight conditions as well as orders citing violations of the Blight Ordinance.

Comments:

- J. Costello stated that she would like to see feedback given to the complainant who has submitted an anti-blight complaint. D. McBride responded that we have provided a report on the website regarding the department response. E. Judson suggested that the Health Department may need to hire another sanitarian in the next budget submission.

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

H1N1 Influenza and H1N1 Influenza Vaccination

Influenza Like Illness Monitor

The Health Department and school nurses continue to monitor for incidence of influenza like illness (ILI) at the Milford public and private schools and some day care establishments. Since the students returned from the holiday vacation, attendance in all schools has been very good. The school absence rate is at a level that is expected at this time of year and the incidence of children being dismissed with influenza like illness is very low.

H1N1 Vaccination Clinics

The Health Department has sponsored 29 H1N1 influenza clinics since our first clinic on October 22, 2009. The vaccination clinics have been held in a variety of venues including the Milford Health Department, the CT Post Mall, the Parson's Government Center and the public and parochial schools. Initially, the clinics were by appointment only and were held at the health department. As the priority groups unfolded and the number of persons eligible for vaccination increased, the health department moved the clinics to the CT Post Mall. The mall provided a large venue, accessible to families, the elderly and disabled patrons. The mall venue also provided the ability for walk-in patrons. The clinics at the mall were successful through the Christmas season with large numbers of shoppers at the mall. As the number of patrons decreased following the holidays, we have relocated the clinics to the health department. Currently, and throughout the month of January, two H1N1 influenza vaccination clinics are offered weekly at the health department.

Over 3,100 doses of vaccine have been administered to individuals; initially the vaccine was administered to priority groups designated by the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) and the CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH). Currently, the H1N1 vaccine can be administered to any individual age 6 months or older who desires the vaccination.

School Located H1N1 Influenza Clinics

In November, students with high risk health conditions were eligible to receive H1N1 influenza vaccine at school located clinics. In December, as the priority groups expanded to include all children, school located clinics were held in our public and parochial schools. The high school students received their vaccination during the school day and after school clinics were held for middle and elementary school children to attend with their parents.

Comments:

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 116 cases of disease reported for the months of November and December, with influenza being the most reported. Since August 30, 2009, there have been 38 laboratory confirmed cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza in Milford. The Community Health Coordinator continues to be involved in enhanced H1N1 surveillance activities, including Influenza-Like Illness surveillance in the community.

Pandemic H1N1 Influenza ("Swine Flu") Planning & Response

The Milford Health Department has conducted 21 pandemic H1N1 influenza clinics since October 2009, as well as 8 additional clinics targeted towards school-aged children in Milford over the past month.

To date, the Milford Health Department has vaccinated over 3,000 individuals. We have vaccinated over 100 pregnant women, accounting for around 20% of our estimated pregnant population. Additionally, approximately 45% of those vaccinated are individuals with underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

The Milford Health Department will continue to hold H1N1 Vaccination Clinics for the months of January and February. Information regarding clinic dates, times, and locations can be found on the Health Department website and/or by calling the Health Department at 203-783-3285, Option 1.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 12 referrals for the months of November and December, for a total of 42 referrals received this contract year. Based on evaluation data compiled at the State level, the program has demonstrated several positive outcomes with participants reporting decreases in number of physician and emergency room visits due to asthma, less days absent from school or work due to asthma, and increases in symptom-free days within 3 months of the Putting on AIRS home visit as compared to baseline data collected prior to the home visit.

3rd Annual Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute

As a result of State budget constraints, the status of the CT Commission on Children is uncertain at this time. The Commission on Children is responsible for development of the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) curriculum and also provides oversight for funding received through the Parent Trust Fund for PLTI on the local level. Given the current situation, the 3rd Annual Milford PLTI will be postponed until funding is more certain. The Milford Health Department hopes that we will be able to conduct either a modified version of the program in the spring or begin again fresh next fall. In the meantime, program staff will continue to research other funding sources to sustain the program moving forward.

Comments:

Emergency Preparedness Report – Amy Shields & Tara Mustakos

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - Amy Shields

The New Haven Health Department continues to plan for the regional CRI exercise. The “Leap of Faith” full-scale exercise is scheduled for the end of June, and a tabletop exercise is scheduled for early May. To date, two faith-based organizations in New Haven have confirmed participation in the exercise. Next steps include reaching out to the faith organizations, and determining the facilities capability to stand as a closed Point of Dispensing.

Two regional trainings will be conducted this week. The first will be held at the University of New Haven on Wednesday January 20th on the Real Opt program which examines throughput data for Points of Dispensing. The second training will be hosted by the American Red Cross on Friday January 22nd. This training will focus on shelter operations, and be a follow-up to the previous shelter training held in December. Attendees will include planners for the full-scale sheltering exercise scheduled for July 31st, in addition to Emergency Management Directors (EMDs) and their shelter counterparts.

A CRI progress report was submitted to the state under CRI contract requirements. This is the first of four progress reports to be submitted to the state for the 2009-2010 grant year. The report provided an update on regional activities such as training sessions, exercises, meetings, communication updates, and future plans.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report - Tara Mustakos

Local Emergency Preparedness

The Milford Health Department MRC/CERT volunteers met for the bi-annual meeting January 12th. Bruce Varga, community volunteer coordinator for the Milford Health Department, organized the meeting to provide H1N1 activity updates and an overview of the *Code RED* emergency notification system for the city. Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief Louis LaVecchia came to the meeting to swear in the CERT members and an appreciation dinner was provided to the volunteers for all their time and participation.

Annual updating of Milford Health Department Emergency Operations Plan is soon to be underway. Updates are required as part of grant contract deliverables and for general maintenance of records. Items for review include: plans/annexes, contact information lists, training records and fit testing (use of particulate respirators).

Comments:

New Business

Director’s Report:

- D. McBride stated that the division heads would attending the February Board of Health meeting to make a comprehensive presentation analyzing the data collected from the H1N1 clinics.

- D. McBride stated that Beth Boyd has been hired as a part time Immunization Coordinator to work on one our grants. She will be introduced at the next Board of Health meeting.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder