

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN, Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Ernest Judson
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Constance Young, EdD, RN
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present:

Deepa Joseph, MPH, Director of Health
Carol Soulier, Recording Secretary

J. Cagginello called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on December 10, 2019 were approved unanimously as amended on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by H. Mulrenan.

Election of Officers for 2020

The following officers were elected for 2020 and approved unanimously:
Joan Cagginello, Chairperson on a motion by C. Young, seconded by J. Costello.
Holly Mulrenan, Vice Chairperson on a motion by J. Cagginello, seconded by E. Judson.
Christine Gonillo, Secretary on a motion by J. Costello, seconded by E. Judson.

Public Session: *None*

Environmental Health Report – Laura M. Miller, REHS/RS

Radon: January is National Radon Action Month. The Milford Health Department is encouraging all residents to test their home as testing is the only effective way to determine if high levels of radon exist. To that end, MHD has partnered with the CT Department of Public Health in providing free test kits to Milford residents coupled with education and support with interpreting test results and possible mitigation strategies.

Anti-bligh activities: As of the week ending January 17, 2020, the Health Department received 206 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 206 complaints, 53 were complaints of blight for the 2019/2020 fiscal year thus far. 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. Properties that fail to comply with the orders defined in the issued Notice of Violation are 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. Currently there are twenty properties undergoing enforcement action.

Food Protection Program: Food Service Establishment license renewal letters were sent out to 376 food service establishments for the 2020 licensing year. That number includes all schools, concession stands and itinerant vendors.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph stated that the Connecticut Department of Public Health has provided twenty-five radon test kits for distribution to Milford homeowners. The DPH is requiring local health departments to then follow up on testing results and to educate homeowners on mitigation strategies as necessary. J. Costello asked how one knows that his or her home has radon. D. Joseph responded the presence of radon can only be detected through testing. MHD has publicized the program on its website and on posters at the MHD and in the Parsons Complex.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign: The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity continues to be classified geographically as “widespread”. The predominant circulating viruses at this time are influenza B and influenza A (type unspecified). Increased numbers of circulating B viruses have been observed in recent weeks in Connecticut. As of 1/11/20, a total of 3,281 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season. A total of 643 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. A total of 13 flu-associated deaths in Connecticut have been reported to date. Of the deaths, 9 occurred in individuals greater than 65 years of age, and 4 in persons 25 – 49 years of age.

As of 1/4/20, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports influenza activity is high in the United States and flu activity is expected to continue for weeks. National data indicates influenza B/Victoria viruses have been reported more frequently than other influenza viruses this season followed by influenza A (H1N1). They report it is too early to know whether the season has peaked or if flu activity will increase.

Flu vaccination continues to be recommended for individuals six months and older. The CDC reminds us that flu vaccination has been shown in several studies to reduce the severity of illness in people who get the flu shot but still get sick.

The Milford Health Department continues its seasonal influenza campaign with monthly immunization clinics held at the Health Department. Over 800 flu shots have been administered

to date. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through April 2020. Both the regular flu vaccine and the high dose vaccine for individuals over sixty-five years of age will be offered.

The school nurses and Health Department continue to monitor the influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools; to date there is no significant ILI activity observed among our school age students. The school nurses are providing influenza prevention and hand washing education in all of the schools.

Hepatitis A Vaccination Campaign: The Milford Health Department has concluded its Connecticut Department of Public Health sponsored Hepatitis A Vaccination Campaign. In 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had reported an increase of Hepatitis A in at-risk populations (IV drug users and homeless people – both sheltered and unsheltered) nationally and encouraged all states, including those currently unaffected, to implement vaccination clinics.

In response, Connecticut DPH made the Hepatitis A vaccine available free of charge to those identified at-risk groups along with those in close contact with them. The Hepatitis A vaccine is a two step vaccination regimen. However, per the CDC, one dose of single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine has been shown to control outbreaks of hepatitis A and provides up to 95% of protection in healthy individuals.

The MHD held several clinics – both at our department and at the Beth-El Center in Milford - and administered 159 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine to at-risk individuals from September 2018 through December 2019. Of the 159 doses, 63 of those were the second vaccination of Hepatitis A to an individual. Efforts such as the MHD's were implemented across Connecticut by other health departments and providers. While several other states across the country continue to monitor local outbreaks, to date there has not been an outbreak of Hepatitis A in Connecticut.

School Health Services: The school nurses recently completed the Annual Health Condition Data Survey for each of their schools. This survey reflects how many students in each school are affected with a specific health condition. This data gives us a comprehensive overview of the health needs of the students in Milford.

Sacred Heart University Nursing Students: The Health Department will provide a learning experience in school and community nursing for senior nursing students from Sacred Heart University for the spring semester. The students will work with the school nurses in assessment of students, providing daily care, performing mandated screenings, and learning the role of the school nurse in the education environment.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph reported that Milford schools are seeing some increase in absenteeism, as would be expected during this time of year. School nurses are continuing to monitor Influenza-like Illness and reporting to the Health Department weekly.*
- *C. Young asked if the department has received any information on the coronavirus. D. Joseph said that information is just starting to be distributed.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) representatives are currently working on Milford Public Schools Reunification Committee. On January 13th, the first local preparedness and planning meeting was held about school family reunification. City partners from the Police, Health, and Milford Fire Marshal's Office, Board of Education Central Office staff, school leaders, IT, and communications staff met to discuss the current plan for Milford Public Schools. The goal is to have a plan for every school to have a safe designation location to evacuate, to shelter in place, and to reunify students safely to their parents and guardians in the event of an emergency of any scale.

MHD representatives are on the planning team and have participated in the initial meetings for the next scheduled public health emergency preparedness drill. This drill is a continuation of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)/Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) planning and table top exercises held in February 2016 and May 2019. The drill will be held over multiple days involving local health departments, state health, state Office of Emergency Medical Services, Epidemiology, and emergency service medical providers. The drill will begin as functional and escalate to a full scale exercise.

MHD continues to participate in monthly Local Health Department meetings/conference calls and the MRC leadership meetings. Meetings and preparedness planning efforts are required by grant deliverable to be done as a region. The purpose is to coordinate preparedness drills and events, plan uniformly to develop regional response plans, and network with health and medical providers in the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2.

Comments:

- *None.*

Community Health Division Report - Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Communicable Disease Surveillance: There were 49 cases of disease reported in December which included 9 cases of influenza.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program: The program offers up to three (3) home visits and a 6 month follow up after a participant has been enrolled. September 1, 2019 started a new programmatic year and thus far we have received 65 referrals for POA. The program is still ongoing with a staff meeting happening in January and our contract execution date anticipated in early 2020. Our SIM (State Innovation Model) project using the POA service model is now in its closing stages. The project received its last referral on 11/8/2019 which totals to 102 referrals from Fair Haven Community Health Center. Although the contract ends January 31, 2020, we will continue to see their referrals until they complete the program and conduct 6 month follow up calls. Currently Fair Haven Community Health Center does not have the capability to continue this project outside of grant funding.

Parent Leadership Training: This year we plan to implement a different parent leadership training model known as Parents SEE (Parents Supporting Educational Excellence). Parents SEE is similar to PLTI and is 13 weeks of leadership training for all parents, grandparents, and caring adults. Each week participants build on their skills and experience by acquiring new information and tools, working together in a way that encourages understanding of diverse viewpoints, and practicing the skills needed to partner effectively to bring about change. Previous PLTI alumni may also apply to join the program. We believe this curriculum will fit the growing needs of our community and assist us in sustaining a leadership program for our parents (see attached flyer).

Accreditation: Our technical assistance (TA) project: Strong Systems, Stronger Communities (SSSC) with NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) consists of us creating a Quality Improvement (QI) project that will improve vaccination rates with the Milford Senior Center (MSC). Conducting these clinics will allow us to adapt our immunization clinics to meet community needs along with becoming customer focused. Recommendations, a storyboard of this process, and next steps will be shared in the future. The regional Community Health Needs Assessment and the Regional Community Health Improvement Plan has been disseminated to community partners. Milford Health Department is working on completing its own CHA and CHIP specifically for the Milford Community.

Grants Management: The Department makes an effort to obtain funding through other sources such as grants. Grant management continues to be a huge part of the Community Health Division with many programmatic and financial reports due. We have submitted our monthly expenditure and quarterly programmatic reports to the Office of Health Strategies (OHS). Milford Health Department in partnership with Qualidigm has just been awarded a small opioid grant (about \$13,000) which will start around April 2020. This grant will include the following: an opioid-focused Community Needs Assessment; collaboration with community-based organizations including law enforcement and first responders; and assisting Qualidigm staff with developing or expanding a local opioid/substance use coalition or task force. Qualidigm is a national collaborative healthcare consulting company providing innovative and scientifically-based solutions to transform care and improve care delivery and patient outcomes.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph reported that the MHD is currently recruiting participants for its new Parents SEE program. Those interested can register on-line; the maximum number of participants is twenty-five.*
- *D. Joseph indicated that new opioid grant work with Qualadigm will also include collaboration with local partners, including members of the Milford Prevention Council.*
- *C. Young inquired about the MHD's progress relative to accreditation. D. Joseph responded that progress is slow in light of staffing and time constraints.*

Old Business: *None*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *D. Joseph reported that HUMAN, Milford's multidisciplinary homeless task force, is serving as a model to be followed by other municipalities. J. Cagginello asked if there*

are any plans to have another community conversation regarding homelessness. D. Joseph said yes. HUMAN has an Education Committee that is focused on educating community members on how they can best help the community's homeless. The Education Committee is looking into revitalizing the "Have a Heart, Give Smart" campaign led by the Health Department a few years ago. D. Joseph also reported that HUMAN's Data Committee is putting together a survey to be completed by Milford's homeless to collect information on this population (e.g. gaps in services, causes, etc.)

- *A discussion ensued regarding the City's splash pad at Eisenhower Park and the possibility of recycling the splash pad's waste water for other purposes. D. Joseph explained that use of the water for other purposes would likely be regulated by Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP).*

New Business: *None*

Adjournment:

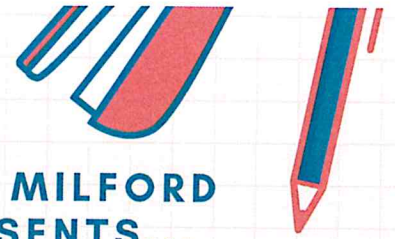
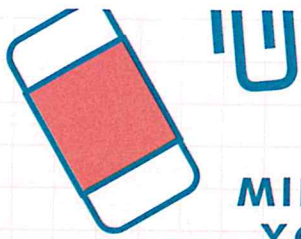
E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by J. Costello and was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Soulier
Recorder



**MILFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND MILFORD
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES PRESENTS...**

PARENTS SEE!
(PARENTS SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE)
Be a part of Milford's 1st cohort!

This 13 week program provides parents, grandparents and caring adults with the skills, tools and understanding necessary to become leaders, change agents and active participants in education. Classes are FREE! Dinner and child care is provided

DATES:

MONDAYS | FEBRUARY 3 - APRIL 27, 2020

TIMES:

DINNER 5:30PM - 6:00PM

CLASS 6:00PM-9:00PM

LOCATION:

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
34 WEST MAIN ST.
MILFORD, CT**

**Previous Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) parents are welcome to attend.
Contact Lesley Darling, Parents SEE Coordinator at 203-783-3383**

