

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2013**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

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

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
George Gensure, Board of Education Liaison
Susan Shaw, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present:

Neal McNamara, New Haven Register
Dr. Jane Russo, 40 James Street, Milford
William Piacitelli, 30 James Street, Milford
Bernadette Piacitelli, 30 James Street, Milford
Sophia Gilmer-McKiernan, 20 James Street, Milford

Health Department Staff Present

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

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on January 15, 2013 were approved unanimously, on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

Public Session:

William & Bernadette Piacitelli, 30 James Street, spoke regarding their anti-blight complaint submitted on 32-34 James Street. The property is located next to theirs. They explained that the property was damaged by several storms and has not been repaired. There are holes in the roof, animals going in and out of home as it remains unoccupied. Jane Russo, 40 James Street, explained she lives on the other side of this property and also expressed concern as to the conditions at this property. D. McBride assured the property owners that the Health Dept. would check on the status of this complaint and re-inspect the property and update the complainants of the status.

Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller

Food Service Establishment license renewal During the first week of January 2013, Food Service Establishment license renewal letters were sent out to 388 food service establishments for the 2013 licensing year. Currently, 255 establishments have renewed. Final notices are due to go out to the 133 outstanding renewals next week.

Anti-blight activities As of the week ending February 18, 2013, the Health Department received 54 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 388 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>
388	54	10	4	8

Comments: None

Nursing Division Report – Deepa Joseph

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

Influenza activity is decreasing to moderate levels in Connecticut but remains classified geographically as “widespread” based on an initial evaluation of influenza surveillance data. This season is also characterized with an earlier onset of flu activity than most recent influenza seasons, which normally peak in February or March. Connecticut has had 4,399 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza to date.

The Health Department held an additional seasonal influenza vaccination clinic on January 24, 2013 due to the increase in flu activity. Both regular flu vaccine and high dose vaccine for individuals over 65 years of age was offered. In addition, due to the State expanding the children's vaccine program, flu shots were offered free of charge to children under the age of 18. Flu shots were administered to 34 individuals at the clinic.

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

- Four of our school nurses will be attending the annual Critical Issues in School Health Conference in March. The conference will cover several topics including anaphylaxis and management in schools, food policies and childhood obesity, asthma, legal issues in adolescent healthcare, autism, special education, and clinical practice. Dr. McBride also plans to attend this conference with the Nurse Administrator once the position is filled.
- As part of professional goals for the year, one of the school nurses has chosen to develop a bulletin board regarding Oral Health. The bulletin board will be completed and posted in schools this month. The message of the bulletin board will be based on the American Dental Association's focus for this month entitled "Get a Gold Medal Smile."

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Reports

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report – Steve Maheux

Training and Exercises

The statewide Mass Dispensing Drill is still scheduled for September, 2013. We are going to assess interest at the next ESF-8 meeting (2/19) to determine the region's expected level of participation. Some MDAs have scheduled pre-exercise drills with DPH focused on receiving supplies.

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 September.

Public Health Preparedness Contracts

Mass Dispensing Areas in Region 2 have been submitting updated Regional plans for review. The CDC is planning a visit for March to review the new Regionalized TAR.

CT DPH has returned comments on the Region 2 Project Public Health Ready application. It is being revised before it is 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. This grant will supplement local preparedness activities as well as allow for the volunteer coordinator to attend the annual national preparedness summit.

Public Health Preparedness Activities

Public Health Preparedness deliverables for the fiscal year are due throughout the spring this grant cycle. Milford has already completed several deliverables including After Action reports from Hurricane Sandy, a Mass Dispensing simulation exercise and local call downs drills to staff, nurses and MRC/CERT volunteers. Health Department staff must participate in one additional call down drill to test communication systems as a deliverable.

The Milford Health Department submitted a revised Mass Dispensing Plan to support the Region 2 Mass Dispensing Plan. Milford's plan will be reviewed for comprehensiveness through a regional Technical Assessment Review (TAR) this grant cycle. The new template allows for all local health department plans in our region to be an annex to the larger plan. This revision allowed for updating and revision of the plan as required by the local preparedness grant.

Further development of the Milford All Hazards Emergency Response plan is ongoing. This plan is the catchment for all local emergency response. It is under revision to submit data as needed to the region for the Project Public Health Ready application.

Comments: None

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 131 cases of disease reported for the month of January, with influenza being the most reported disease. There have been a total of 162 laboratory confirmed cases of seasonal influenza reported to date. As we have seen throughout the state of Connecticut and nationally, Milford has seemingly had its peak of influenza in January with the number of cases reported significantly decreasing this month. The Health Department will continue to monitor ILI and reported influenza cases for the next few months.

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. Much like our confirmed influenza laboratory reports, ILI data this year corresponds with statewide and national trends reflecting peak ILI activity in January. The Health Department will continue to monitor ILI throughout the school year.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 15 referrals in January resulting in 78 total referrals for this contract year.

As reported previously, in an effort to streamline costs related to the home visit, the Program Coordinator continues to work closely with the HUSKY program. Participants in the program who are insured through HUSKY are eligible to receive asthma supplies free of charge. The Program Coordinator works with HUSKY on ensuring appropriate paperwork is completed and participants obtain necessary supplies.

Comments: None

Old Business:

- *D. McBride stated that he is conducting interviews this week for the Nurse Administrator position. He added that J. O'Connell commended the panel in selecting the applicants for interviews.*

Director's Report:

- *D. McBride stated that he is Chair of the Board of 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. He continued that he would be testifying in Hartford regarding oral health. M. Quintner added that the Husky program is covering oral care as part of their program*
- *D. McBride added that the Regional Preparedness contract has been extended two months for this last year of the grant. He stated that he is not sure what will happen with funding with regards to that contract. However, the Long Term Care Group is working on evacuation plans for Long Term Care Facilities and also tie in with other regions in state regarding compatible mutual aid evacuation plans and also looking to use Community Health Centers for closed POD's for mass dispensing.*
- *H. Mulrenan asked is there were any issues for the Health Department with regards to this past winter storm. D. McBride responded that they were ready to open a warming shelter if needed but the call to open was not requested.*

New Business:

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder