

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN, Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Ernest Judson
Constance Young, EdD, RN
Warren Pawlowski, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present:

Justin Rosen, Assistant Mayor

Health Department Staff Present:

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

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

Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on January 15, 2019 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

Election of Officers for 2019

The following officers were elected for 2019 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. Costello, seconded by E. Judson.
Christine Gonillo, Secretary on a motion by J. Costello, seconded by E. Judson.

Public Session:

D. Joseph introduced Justin Rosen, Assistant Mayor. The Board welcomed him, and he encouraged the Board to reach out to him at the Mayor's Office at any time.

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

CRIDE (Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly): During the monthly CRIDE meeting that was convened on February 4, 2019, a Battalion Chief from the Milford Fire Department presented to the group on issues the Department is facing when

responding to certain EMS calls. The Battalion Chief reported that some older adults utilize the 911 system for assistance with planned daily living activities like getting ready for bed or using the toilet. Some of these non-emergency requests are from the same individuals multiple times a day or multiple times in a week. In response, the group discussed several local geriatric injury prevention programs and home visit programs available to the community as well as the possibility of developing a resource list to illustrate geriatric support services available to older adults. The Fire Department will continue to attend C-RIDE meetings so as to streamline the referral process and connection to services.

MHD reported on continued work with several open cases of troubled housing consisting of hoarding and unsanitary living conditions. These are very difficult housing problems requiring a comprehensive process of gaining trust, encouraging the resident's participation in the remediation process and long-term contact and monitoring. In several instances the unsanitary conditions of the dwelling necessitated condemnation, displacing the occupants until clean-out is achieved.

Anti-blight activities: As of the week ending February 15, 2019, the Health Department received 247 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 247 complaints, 53 were complaints of blight for the 2018/2019 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. 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 sixteen blighted properties undergoing enforcement action.

Comments:

- *Discussion ensued regarding recent news stories about food service establishment violations identified by various health departments in Connecticut. D. Joseph explained that reporters complete Freedom of Information Requests and review inspection reports.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign: For the week ending 2/6/19, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity has continued to increase during the last several weeks and remains widespread throughout the state. Influenza A viruses are predominating with very few flu B viruses being reported. As of 2/6/19, a total of 3,869 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 1,110 being in New Haven County. Of the 3,869 influenza reports, 3,237 were influenza A (subtype unspecified), 467 were influenza A (2009 H1N1), 69 were influenza A (H3N2), and 96 were influenza B viruses. A total of 1,425 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide since August 26th. There have been 25 influenza-associated deaths state wide (21 associated with flu A (subtype unspecified); 2 with influenza A (2009 H1N1); 1 with influenza A (H3N2) and 1 with flu B). Of the total deaths reported, 15 occurred individuals greater than 65 years of age, 9 were 50-64 years of age, and 1 was 25-49 years of age.

The Milford Health Department continues its seasonal influenza campaign with the monthly immunization clinics held at the Health Department. To date, 828 flu shots have been administered by our public health nurses. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through April 2019. 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. No appreciative ILI activity has been reported in the health offices. The school nurses continue to provide influenza prevention and hand washing education in all of the schools.

Measles: On January 28, 2019, The CT DPH issued a Measles Advisory to CT Health Care Providers after a case of measles had been identified in New Haven County. On February 4th, a second case was confirmed by CT DPH. The Milford Health Department was notified of Milford residents exposed to these source cases and notified each exposed individual to review immunity status, current health status and instructions should they feel unwell.

In reviewing the current Milford school health records of 6,371 students, only 0.4% of the student population is not immunized against Measles due to religious or medical exemptions.

School Health Services : The MHD recently extended employment offers to fill our two public health nurse vacancies. Both candidates accepted and we are excited to have them join our team. Diane Maglione, RN will be starting on February 25th and Kerilyn Apuzzo, RN will begin on March 4th.

Kindergarten Registration is in the process of being scheduled by the Milford Public Schools. It will be held at the end of this month and during the first week of March at each of the eight elementary schools. Each school will have two to three registration days. The school nurses will meet with the parents of all of the students registering for kindergarten to review medical information, discuss health concerns and obtain necessary health releases to speak to primary care providers regarding the health needs of the children during the school day.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph commented that flu season continues with widespread illness in the community and that flu vaccines will be available at the Department's monthly vaccination clinic through April.*
- *A discussion ensued regarding the two New Haven county measles cases last month. D. Joseph pointed out that, although those with the measles were not Milford residents, the Department was responsible to contact and follow up with those residents who may have been exposed.*
- *D. Joseph commented that school health services is fully staffed with the recent hiring of two public health nurses.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) representatives participated in the monthly meeting of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Public Health and Medical, on January 16th. Tomorrow is

the February meeting. A Healthcare Coalition (HCC) fiduciary is needed for Region 2 in the next grant year and will be a main topic for discussion. Region 2 Directors of Health have met several times to discuss the details of how Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funds will be handled going forward.

The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) hosted three additional statewide webinars to address the consolidation of Mass Dispensing Areas (MDAs). Across the state, CT DPH is looking for local health departments and districts to group together to create less MDAs and possibly fewer Points of Dispensing (POD). Region 2 Directors of Health have coordinated meetings in conjunction with the fiduciary discussion to decide how our emergency planning region will consolidate. Currently Region 2 (New Haven County area) has 9 MDAs.

The MHD Volunteer Coordinator started a new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer class on January 21st. The class curriculum is one night a week over an eight week time frame. Training sessions include CPR/AED training, fire safety and utility control safety, disaster medical operations, disaster psychology, etc. Once volunteers complete the training he/she will receive a certificate of completion and take a loyalty oath administered by the City's Emergency Manager. The CERT program is a nationally recognized curriculum through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

MHD representatives were invited to participate with Milford Hospital staff at an active shooter training seminar. Members of the Milford Police Department and Yale Security hosted the training as an informational session for staff to increase general personal preparedness and awareness. In the event of an active shooter situation the uniform message from trained personnel is "run, hide, fight."

Comments:

- *A discussion ensued regarding the need for a new Healthcare Coalition fiduciary for Region 2 for next grant year. The present fiduciary, Yale New Haven Health, will no longer serve in that role for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funds.*
- *A discussion ensued regarding Connecticut's restructuring of its Mass Dispensing Areas. The State continues conversations about reducing its 41 Mass Dispensing Areas down to as few as 5 MDAs—potentially 1 per Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region in CT. Once the Health Directors in our region come to consensus, Milford will then determine how it will restructure its mass dispensing plans in light of these changes.*
- *D. Joseph reported that members of the MHD staff were invited to attend active shooter training at Milford Hospital. D. Joseph has invited Milford Hospital leadership to attend an upcoming Board of Health meeting to update the Board on the Hospital's future.*

Community Health Division Report - Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Communicable Disease Surveillance: There were 79 cases of disease reported for the month of January, with Influenza as being the most frequently reported. This month there has been 62 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, 2018 started a new programmatic year and thus far we have received 65 referrals. We have also begun creating a system to review referrals from Fair Haven to use for PSI grant.

Public Health Accreditation: As the Milford Health Department is preparing itself to become accredited, work is being completed for the 2019 Community Health Assessment. Health Equity Solutions (HES) will facilitate the community conversations (formerly called focus groups) on March 27, 2019 (see attached flyer). The purpose of this conversation is for the upcoming Community Health Needs Assessment. Our work to finalize our strategic plan is nearly complete and we hope to have a final document for review.

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 worked with Fair Haven Community Health Center (FHCHC) to develop a contract to meet the deliverables for the Prevention Services Initiative (PSI) grant. The finalization of the contract will be announced in February and the official start date will begin then. We will continue to participate in technical assistance phone calls to stay on track with this process, along with creating monthly partnership meeting calls.

Community Events: Next month (March) we will partner with Milford Hospital to host the Community Conversation about Healthcare on March 27th. We are also organizing with Milford Hospital to host a Walk n Talk series in the community. National Public Health week will be in April and we are partnering once again with Healthier Greater New Haven Partnership to host a healthy food drive at a nearby grocery store in Milford. We are also applying for funding to increase awareness and education on opioids in the community, through seminars with additional trainings on Narcan. Look out for additional information.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph stated that the upcoming Community Conversation will be lead by a facilitator. Data will be collected and shared. C. Young asked who will be invited. D. Joseph said that a focus group of citizens will be invited and that any interested Board members are welcome to attend.*

Old Business: *None*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *D. Joseph reported that Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MHD Community Health Coordinator, obtained a grant through NACCHO to complete a Quality Improvement Project of the Department's choice. The initial project idea is one that would increase participation in the Department's flu clinic program.*
- *The Board of Finance budget hearing for the Health Department is scheduled for February 25, 2019. Staff members have completed an informational handout to summarize the many different services provided by the Department. D. Joseph will share both this handout and the Department's Strategic Plan at the hearing.*

- *E. Judson asked for information on whether the Department request was approved in the Mayor's proposed budget. In its Proposed Budget for 2020-2021, the Health Department requested the reinstatement of the Deputy Director position. That request is not included in the Mayor's Proposed Budget. E. Judson asked if the Director could share with the Board of Finance data that shows a correlation between this reduction in staff and the reduction in grant awards. In sharing the strategic plan with the Board of Finance, D. Joseph will point out those areas in which the Department lacks the resources necessary to respond to all community demands, including the area of staffing.*

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Soulier".

Carol Soulier
Recorder

Your
**Voice
Matters**

We Want to Hear From You!

Tell us about community health needs and concerns.

What:

Community Conversation
about healthcare

When:

Wednesday,
March 27, 2019

Where:

Milford Hospital,
Auditorium B, 300 Seaside
Ave, Milford

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A Light Dinner Will Be Served

Join the
conversation



Jennifer Clarke-Lofters,
Community Health
Coordinator, [jclarke-
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