

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2017**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Joan Cagginello, MS, RN
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Ernest Judson
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
Thomas Jagodzinski, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None.

Health Department Staff Present:

Deepa Joseph, MPH, Director of Health
Marianne Klinga, Recording Secretary

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

Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on January 17, 2017 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

Public Session: *None*

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

Food Protection Program

During the first week of January 2017, Food Service Establishment license renewal letters were sent out to 389 food service establishments for the 2017 licensing year. Currently, 250 establishments have renewed. Final notices are due to go out to the 139 outstanding renewals next week.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending February 17, 2017 the Health Department received 239 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 239 complaints, 41 were complaints of blight for the 2016/2017 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:

- *None.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity continues to increase in CT and throughout the region. Flu activity is classified geographically as “widespread”. The predominant circulating influenza virus is Type A. As of 2/11/17, a total of 2,560 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 586 being in New Haven County. Of the 2,560 influenza reports, 1,996 were Type A (subtype unspecified), 420 were Type A (H3N2), 20 were Type A (H1N1), and 124 were influenza B virus. Influenza has been reported in all eight counties. A total of 953 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. Twelve influenza-associated deaths in individuals greater than 65 years of age, and one between 50 – 64 years of age, have been reported to date.

As of 2/4/17, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports flu activity continues to increase and is widespread in most of the United States. CDC also reports 20 flu-associated pediatric deaths for the 2016 -2017 season. CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older. If you have not gotten vaccinated yet this season, it is recommended that you get vaccinated at this time.

The Milford Health Department continues its seasonal influenza campaign with monthly immunization clinics held at the Health Department. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through March 2017. 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. This past month, increased absenteeism and ILI activity was noted at two of the schools but has since resolved. The school nurses continue to provide influenza prevention and hand washing education in all of the schools.

School Health Services

Kindergarten Registration is in the process of being scheduled by the Milford Public Schools. It will be held in April 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.

On February 17, 2017, the School Nurses and staff members from the Department of Human Services joined together for a Professional Development Day. The day began with a tour of the Center for Discovery in New Haven - an outpatient eating disorder clinic. An educational

presentation on eating disorders and treatment was presented by the staff at the clinic. The group then travelled back to Milford and received additional learning opportunities from Officer Garon Delmonte who spoke of current trends in social media and substance abuse; Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW, gave a presentation on GLSEN – Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network; and Dr. Barbara Walsh from the STEP Research Clinic at YNHHS who spoke on the early warning signs of mental illness and how they can be prevented or lessened. It was a very informative day for all.

Comments:

- *None.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) Volunteer Coordinator in coordination with the Milford Fire Department hosted the first training for MRC & CERT volunteers, “Ordinary people trained to save lives in shootings, attacks program.” The training program is for the everyday person who might find themselves in a position where they might offer emergency assistance as private citizens. The optimum training for this type of situation would include basic first aid training and advice for extreme emergency situations from MFD paramedics. This is currently being investigated for a collaborative training experience presented by both Milford Fire and Police Departments. This type of training could be offered on an annual basis to all who attended their initial session as a form of an update. It could also be offered to all of the MRC Volunteers throughout Region 2 once the program is established.

The Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) completed the survey for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). MHD staff plan to survey current MRC & CERT volunteers in addition to Milford Beach Associations and condo associations located at the shoreline.

MHD is participating on a regional workgroup to develop a functional exercise in late March 2017 to spend the remaining Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)/infectious disease response regional grant. This exercise is a continuation on the tabletop exercise held in 2016 and will highlight some of the strengths and areas for improvement identified. Two mass dispensing areas (MDAs) from Region 2 will be asked to stand up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in their town/city. Milford will be conducting a full scale exercise in tandem with this exercise to test the new closed point of dispensing (POD) at Parson’s Government Center for city employees.

MHD continues to participate with the Family Assistance Centers (FAC) workgroup. Draft plans are under the final developmental stages and the annexes are under review. Annexes will include required forms, training sheets, required documentation, etc. This plan will not only have to be accepted by the larger regional group but will also have to be reviewed for legal requirements. Once guidance is finalized MHD will work with city partners to identify location(s) which may be used as a FAC in the event of an incident.

Comments:

- *None.*

Community Health – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Disease Surveillance

There were 76 cases of disease reported for the months of January, with Influenza as being the most frequently reported.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

Putting on AIRS asthma program started a new contract on September 1, 2016. The new contract changes have allowed the program to modify eligibility, while extending the number of home visits as directed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The program now offers up to three (3) home visits and a 6 month follow up after a participant has been enrolled. As you know, follow-ups are conducted to discuss whether individuals and/or families have implemented the recommended control measures, to determine outcomes as a result of the home visit, and to discuss any challenges/barriers/etc. In total we received 95 referrals since the beginning of the contract year. For the month of January we received 28 referrals. Along with the modification of the program, a new database has also been introduced. This new database has created a challenge in keeping track of home visits which has been shared with DPH.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

PLTI will begin its eighth training institute on January 14, 2017. PLTI has successfully recruited over 20 diverse participants for this year and we are looking forward to the great relationship building this group will form. We have had great success from this program with 107 graduates. PLTI which enables parents to become leading advocates for children in their community through participation in four phases of training—a one-day retreat, a 10-week course on parent leadership, a 10-week course on civic engagement, and a community project to practice what participants have learned within a community context. Participants are now sharing and receiving feedback on their project ideas.

PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board)

The Milford Health Department is still preparing itself to submit an application to become accredited. Our next step is looking at quality improvement for the department. We have continued to work on drafting and reviewing our first project in the environmental division. We will continue to work in the health department as a team to become accredited while keeping a look out for other funding opportunities.

NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) Challenge Award

The Milford Health Department was awarded 2015-2016 NACCHO's Medical Reserve Corps Challenge Award for one year this past spring. The department plans to work with Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) to conduct a survey of MRC volunteers to assess their hurricane knowledge, risk perceptions, training experience, communication skills and resources to conduct face to face conversations. The results will then be utilized to develop

recommendations for a training and recruitment program for Milford MRC to serve as neighborhood ambassadors. Currently a draft has been completed and is being tested amongst MHD staff and Yale in preparation to disseminate the survey soon.

Comments:

- *None.*

Old Business:

- *C. Young reported that she and J. Costello, along with D. Joseph, attended a town hall forum last month on the Commissioner of Public Health's local health consolidation proposal. The proposal has changed and is now proposing nine health districts and a per capita (i.e. based on population) rate of funding that would be negotiated by each district's Health Director with each municipality. Health Districts would collect extra revenue from towns for additional services such as housing code enforcement, anti-blight, emergency shelter services, etc.*
- *D. Joseph reported that Rep. Pam Staneski has responded by introducing legislation to prohibit the Department of Public Health (DPH) from requiring local health departments to consolidate. Six other similar bills have been raised by other legislators in the state. The state Public Health Committee will be holding a subject matter expert hearing to discuss how to proceed with these proposed bills. The Commissioner of Public Health requested and was granted a public hearing for the DPH proposed legislation to consolidate health departments. No date has been given for these hearings yet.*
- *The Board discussed how they can respond as a Board to these proposed legislations. C. Young motioned to have Board of Health members submit testimony letters to the Public Health Committee in support of Rep. Staneski's legislation, as well as to have the Board submit testimony from the Board as a whole. The motion was seconded by E. Judson and was unanimously approved.*
- *C. Young motioned to have Board of Health members submit testimony letters to the Public Health Committee in opposition to DPH's proposed legislation to require local health consolidation, as well as to have the Board submit testimony from the Board as a whole. The motion was seconded by E. Judson and was unanimously approved.*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *D. Joseph provided copies of a handout distributed at the Board of Finance budget hearing last week with statistics and information about each division of the Health Department. Board members found the handout very informative and D. Joseph complimented the team effort by her staff in completing it.*
- *D. Joseph reported on staffing changes at the Health Department. The Department has a Registered Sanitarian, an Administrative Assistant, and a Public Health Nurse position vacant at this time.*

New Business:

- *C. Gonillo advised the Board of a recent ordinance passed in the City of Meriden prohibiting smoking and the use of all tobacco products in City of Meriden parks and recreation areas. Discussion ensued about Milford's Smoke and Tobacco Free policy in effect for all City of Milford recreation facilities.*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga

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Recorder