

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Thomas Jagodzinski, Board of Education Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN
Ernest Judson
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present:

Michelle Lutz, University of Hartford student
Curlin Trenchfield, University of Hartford student

Health Department Staff Present:

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

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

Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on February 16, 2016 were approved unanimously on a motion by J. Costello and seconded by C. Gonillo.

Public Session: *None*

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

Food Service Establishment license renewal

In January 2016, Food Service Establishment license renewal letters were sent out to 386 food service establishments for the 2016 licensing year. Food Service Establishment licenses expire on the last day in February every year. Currently, 350 establishments have renewed. There are 23 outstanding. Final notices have been sent out certified. In addition, renewal letters to the 11 concession stands are due to go out so that they will be licensed for the 2016 sports season.

Collaborative on Residential Integrity for the disables & Elderly (CRIDE)

Members of CRIDE met on March 7, 2016 to discuss the status of five current cases of troubled housing. The health department investigates and presents each case to CRIDE to determine whether any of the individuals are known to the various entities at the table and for additional perspective on working with the situation. Many of these difficult housing problems require a comprehensive

process of gaining trust, encouraging the resident's participation in the remediation process, and long-term contact and monitoring. Various members of the CRIDE team often provide the important background information, financial support, critical services and professional guidance that make it possible to resolve these complex cases.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending March 11, 2016 the Health Department received 255 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 255 complaints, 34 were complaints of blight for the 2015/2016 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.

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 has increased in our state during the last few weeks. It is currently classified geographically in CT as "widespread". The predominant influenza viruses identified this season are Type A. A total of 1,503 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 432 being in New Haven County. A total of 432 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. Two influenza associated deaths have been reported, both were individuals greater than 65 years of age.

At the end of Influenza Season Week 9 (March 5, 2016), the Center for Disease Control reports that influenza activity is increasing in the United States. Ongoing influenza activity is expected for the next several weeks. CDC reports that this season's flu vaccine is 60% effective against all circulating viruses. Individuals who have not gotten their flu shot to date are encouraged to do so now.

The Milford Health Department will continue to offer the influenza vaccine through their April immunization clinic at the Health Department. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that providers continue to provide the influenza vaccine into the spring months. Both the regular flu vaccine and the high dose vaccine for individuals over sixty-five years of age will be offered.

Recently in two of the elementary schools, there was a noted increase in absenteeism among students and staff associated with illnesses involving either respiratory, gastrointestinal or influenza like symptoms. The school medical advisor, Dr. Carlson, indicated that he was seeing similar type illnesses in his private practice.

The school nurses and Health Department continue to monitor the influenza like illness (ILI) activity in the schools.

School Health Service

Nursing Staff – Joan Braun, the department's 12 month nurse, has decided to resume her status as a 10 month Public Health Nurse. Yan Wang, RN, has been selected as the new 12 month nurse. Yan is very excited about this new opportunity and is enthusiastic in assuming her new duties associated with the position.

Summer School/Extended School Year (ESY) Programs – The Milford Public Schools will be holding summer school/extended school year programs from June 27 – August 5, 2016. Several school nurses have expressed interest in working at these programs. Selection of nursing coverage is based on seniority. Four nurses will be assigned to work at Foran, JFK, East Shore and Orange Avenue schools. Our 12 month nurse, Yan Wang, will be working at Camp Happiness this summer which will be held at Foran High School.

Milford Public Schools have finalized their Kindergarten registration dates. Kindergarten registration will be held in all K – 5 schools during the month of April. Each school will have 2 – 3 days of registration. Substitute nurses will be assisting in the health offices during the registration days so that the school nurses are available to 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:

- *R. Vitali inquired about the Health Department's role in youth drug use prevention, citing an increase in heroin deaths. D. Joseph explained that the school nurses are trained in assessing a student and take action accordingly if they are in school. The Health Department is also involved in the Milford Prevention Council. Discussion ensued about the opioid overdose treatment spray Narcan, including who is allowed to administer it and the health implications of its use.*
- *R. Vitali stated there will be an open symposium on April 11th at City Hall on the topic of opiates. There will also be a Drug Take Back Day held at the Milford Senior Center in April.*

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

Regional Initiatives

Milford Health Department (MHD) representatives participated in a table top exercise (TTX) February 18th, along with local, regional and state planning partners as part of the statewide exercise plan. The focus of this exercise was response to an infectious disease patient(s). Representatives from Milford Police and Milford Hospital were also in attendance.

Local health planning initiatives continue on with participation in the Statewide Exercise Planning Team. A Milford representative was invited to be on this planning committee and attended the first meeting March 9th. The exercise is scheduled for the week of April 11th to the 14th and will test mass dispensing receiving and operations statewide.

Local Preparedness Initiatives

Milford has completed their review by the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) Office of Public Health Preparedness for the CDC assessment tool, the *Medical Counter Measure Operational Readiness Review (MCM ORR)*. Reviews are conducted annually and this year was the first review using the MCM ORR tool developed on the federal level. All Milford's plans, supporting documentation and additional information as requested have been submitted to DPH. DPH staff have 60 days to submit to Milford an Improvement Plan as a result of the review process.

All MHD staff attended N95 fit testing on March 9th at Milford Hospital. MHD maintains a Respiratory Protection Plan in compliance with OSHA standards for use of N95 respirators. Staff would be required to don (put on) personal protective equipment (i.e. N95) in the event there is contact with an infectious patient or a need to utilize standards precautions including protection against droplets. This training event is an annual requirement for all MHD staff and nurses.

Award notifications will be made next week, March 21st, for the application submitted for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) challenge award. Challenge awards are available for up to \$15,000 this year. There are currently 997 MRC units in the United States.

Volunteer training is concluding for the Incident Command System (ICS) training 100, 200 700 & 800. ICS training is a nationally recognized approach to command, control and coordination of emergency response. Across the USA, first responder agencies train personnel to ICS in an effort for everyone to work in what is referred to as a common operating picture & language.

Milford's volunteer in coordination with Milford Police organized a presentation on an overview of the Milford Police Department. The presentation was done at Simon Lake School, now the police training facility. After the overview volunteers were invited to observe the current Civilian Police Academy group document a mock crime scene.

The CDC, state and local health authorities are continually monitoring the evolving situation with the Zika virus. The mosquito which carries the virus currently is not found in Connecticut. Guidance for planning, preparedness and response is coming from the State and Federal levels.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph noted that Milford will test receiving of medications during the April full scale exercise, followed by a "picking and packing" exercise in November. Members of the Health Department staff will also assist the region with their testing of medication distribution during the April exercise.*
- *D. Joseph responded to questions about Zika virus in Connecticut. At the time of the meeting, there are currently no known cases in Connecticut; any cases that may arise are more likely to be sexually transmitted or travel-related rather than mosquito transmitted. At this time, the Zika virus-bearing mosquito is not found in Connecticut. A related species that is present in Connecticut is being monitored, but has not been shown to transmit the Zika virus to date. A link on the MHD website is being developed for more information on Zika virus.*
- *D. Joseph added that the MHD is preparing for mosquito control season kickoff in April, when All Habitat Services starts monitoring and treating mosquito breeding sites. A press event will be held on April 5th focused on educating the community about stagnant water in containers and taking protective measures on their property.*

Community Health – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Disease Surveillance

There were 67 cases of disease reported for the month of February, with Influenza being the most reported disease.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 14 referrals for the month of February, for a total of 59 referrals received this program year with 34 home visits completed. As part of the program, the Coordinator conducts a 2-week, 3 month, and 6 month follow-up after the home visit. As you know, purpose of the follow-up is 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. The Program Coordinator completed 4 Three month follow-up calls and 5 six month follow up calls for the month of February. Through collaboration efforts the Coordinator has been able to provide a presentation to three Yale Physicians with a description of the program and a video sampling a home visit. Along with this one pediatrician from Yale PCC was also available to attend a home visit. There is also new collaboration with the wrap around program in New Haven that is also rapidly picking up referrals.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

PLTI 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. The class has been moving along and just completed their tenth week together! The group has now been able to share their community project plans with each other. There are wonderful ideas of the development of a father/child after school band, developing free family activities in the community, creation of a manual with strategies for teachers on dealing with children with disabilities, and a yoga program at a couple of community schools, just to list a few.

PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board)

The Milford Health Department is still preparing itself to submit an application to become accredited. The accreditation has a seven step guide and step one is Pre-application which is where MHD currently stands. This step includes self assessment compared to PHAB standards and measures, identifying weakness and strengths and addressing weaknesses then finally completing an online orientation. The department has just received the materials from PHAB and is working to access the database created by the Department of Public Health (DPH) to begin to move forward in this process.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph added that the MHD has begun a lead poisoning prevention educational postcard campaign with grant funding from the Department of Public Health. Postcards have been mailed to all pre-1978 residences in Area 1, which is primarily the Devon area. Postcards will be sent to Areas 2, 3, and 4 as funds become available. A Lead Poisoning Prevention page has been added to the MHD website as well.*

Old Business:

- *J. Costello inquired as to the status of the suspected foodborne disease outbreak investigation that was ongoing last month. D. Joseph stated that the cause of illness was inconclusive. All food workers were tested and cleared, the food product tested came back inconclusive. Questions were asked about the time commitment by health department staff to investigate. D. Joseph responded that it involved five Environmental Health staff plus the Director for three days, plus time spent since on follow up and documentation. There is an extensive process of testing, inspection, and documentation involved. Immediate control measures were implemented, and areas of deficiency were corrected.*

Director's Report: Deepa Joseph, MPH

The Board of Alderman Budget Hearing has been scheduled for April 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Comments:

- *C. Young inquired about a bill has been raised in the Connecticut General Assembly proposing that the records of health departments be audited every three years by the Commissioner of Public Health. Discussion ensued about who would bear the cost of this unfunded mandate if it is passed, and the resources required.*

New Business:

- *R. Vitali inquired about the Health Department's role as the two medical marijuana dispensaries prepare to start up in Milford. D. Joseph responded that she has had some discussion with the Director of Permitting & Land Use over concerns. She also stated that if the dispensaries will have edible products, the dispensaries may be subject to Health Department approval relative to food service licensing in Milford. Discussion is ongoing and to be continued.*

Adjournment:

J. Costello motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by M. Quintner and was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga
Recorder