

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2009**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson  
Howard Fink, MD, Secretary  
William F. Lynch, MD  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Joan M. Costello, MSN, RN  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Deborah Woods  
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison  
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman Liaison

**Health Department Staff Present**

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director  
Diana Yassanye, MS, Cities Readiness Initiative Coordinator  
Beverly Hayes, Administrative Assistant

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

**Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2009**

The minutes of the March 17, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by J. Costello, seconded by H. Fink.

**Emergency Preparedness Presentation – presented by Diana Yassanye**

**Environmental Health Report – prepared by Laura Miller**

Concession Stand Training

On Wednesday April 8, 2009 Sanitarians conducted our first of two training sessions for concession stand volunteers. There are nine concession stands serving food to the public during sporting events. Organizations utilizing each stand must obtain a license, have their menu approved by this office and have at least two people attend one of our training sessions. Training topics include personal hygiene, food temperatures, food protection and general sanitization. The second training will be held on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Lodging

There are a total of 20 motels/inns/suites, etc. in Milford. Applications have been mailed out to all establishments and we are in the process of inspecting and issuing the 2009 licenses. This year included with each application was an informational pamphlet detailing bed bugs and safe effective pest control. In addition, establishments must list who their Professional Pest Control Contractor is and the date of the last pest inspection.

### Public Pool Inspections

There are a total of 25 public pools in Milford located at condominium complexes, schools, motels and camps. State law requires that all pools be registered with the Milford Health Department and inspected at least once per year. During the month of April this office sends out registration forms to all public swimming pools in order to obtain up to date information about the operators and phone numbers of the persons responsible for maintaining the pool in compliance with the Public Health Code. Our registration form has been sent out and we are in the process of receiving the updated information.

New for 2009 all public swimming pools must be in compliance with the **Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act of 2007** and will not be permitted to open if the pool is found to be out of compliance. In addition to passing an inspection by the Health Department, pool operators must provide a written statement from their Licensed Professional Contractor stating that they have replaced the grate/cover in the pool with ones that are in compliance with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8.2007 standard, and any installed secondary anti-entrapment that was needed.

If we do not receive this notification and/or if the pool is found out of compliance with the **Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act of 2007**, pools will be ordered to delay opening until all public health and safety regulations are adhered to.

*Comments:*

### **Nursing Division Report - Joan Cagginello, RN**

#### American Lung Association – *Breath Express* Program

The American Lung Association's educational vehicle, *The Breath Express*, will visit Milford Schools in May and June this year. The Milford Health Department has arranged to host the visit to our three middle schools, providing education for our seventh grade students. *The Breath Express* will spend two full days at each middle school to allow for all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to experience this program.

*The Breath Express* is an interactive lung health education program for students that provide asthma education including asthma management, environmental health and the importance of healthy air, and the health risks of smoking and dangers of second hand smoke. Thirty minute tours through the interior of the large recreational vehicle are provided by docents from the American Lung Association.

The program has been coordinated by both the Health Department and school nurses and the Milford Public Schools and the school health educators.

#### The Get In Touch Foundation - *Get In Touch Girls* Program

The Get In Touch Foundation of Milford, dedicated to breast health awareness, has developed a program, *Get In Touch Girls*, which emphasizes that girls in grades 5-12 get in touch with their bodies and become educated in on the importance of and how to do a breast exam. In collaboration with their medical consulting board, The Get In Touch Foundation has developed the *Daisy Wheel*, an interactive tool to help girls learn the proper technique for self breast exam.

The Milford Health Department and the Milford Public Schools are supportive of this program and will introduce the *Daisy Wheel* to girls in grades 5-12 beginning this spring. The program, which will be provided by the school nurses will emphasize *Eight Tips for Eight Straight* years, that will give the girls the foundation they need to practice breast self exam throughout their lives.

### Influenza

Connecticut has demonstrated a decrease in the number of influenza cases over the past several weeks, which is expected as the influenza season comes to a close. Although a decreased number of influenza cases are noted, Connecticut still displays regional activity of flu (decreased form widespread) according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and New Haven County has the largest number of new cases of flu according to the CT Department of Public Health surveillance. The Health Department Influenza Like Illness (ILI) surveillance demonstrates school attendance has improved, indicative of decreasing illness in the schools.

### *Comments:*

### **Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph**

#### Disease Surveillance

There were 25 cases of disease reported for the month of March. The Health Department received 8 reports of laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza. We have had a total of 54 cases of influenza reported in Milford to date for the 2008-2009 influenza season.

#### Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program has received a total of 78 referrals for this contract year, with 9 of those referrals received in March. As we approach the end of the two-year contract, program staff is working with DPH on the evaluation phase of the program. Outcome evaluation data based on our database will be available in August 2009. Additionally, DPH is proposing restructuring of asthma regions in the State to be similar to emergency preparedness regions to allow for consistency. Implementation of newly proposed regions is slated for the new contract year. The proposed change in asthma regions would increase the number of towns in our region; therefore DPH anticipates increasing funding next year to accommodate the larger area.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Milford's 2<sup>nd</sup> PLTI class has reached the midway point in this 20-week course focused on teaching leadership skills to parents to encourage advocacy on behalf of Milford's children. All participants have submitted Community Project proposals ranging in topics from health, education, safety, and the environment. Several local community agencies have been sharing positive feedback regarding current program participants, as well as Milford PLTI Alumni, who have become more involved on boards, fundraising committees, and in other aspects of the Milford community. Program staff is in the process of planning and coordination the local graduation ceremony to be held at City Hall in mid-June. In addition to the local ceremony, graduates will also participate in a statewide graduation ceremony at the Capitol building in Hartford.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium on Compulsive Hoarding & Troubled Housing

The Milford Health Department is in the process of planning our third regional symposium on compulsive hoarding and troubled housing issues to be held on June 17, 2009 at the Hilton Garden Inn—Milford. The keynote speaker for the symposium this year is Christiana Bratiosis, a doctoral candidate at Boston University. Christiana has focused her research and clinical work on adults with compulsive hoarding, working under renowned researcher Dr. Gail Steketee. In addition to the keynote speaker, Assistant State's Attorney for Housing Matters Judith Dicine will also be speaking on the topic of reasonable accommodations as it pertains to hoarding. Rick George, Milford's Animal Control Officer, will also be facilitating a session on animal hoarding in conjunction with the State Animal Control Officer. In order to provide participants with a picture of what hoarding looks like and how it can impact neighborhoods and families, participants will also screen an award-winning documentary entitled "My Mother's Garden."

*Comments:*

### **Emergency Preparedness Reports – Diana Yassanye**

#### Regional Preparedness Grants

Planning for three trainings leading up to the radiological public health emergency exercise are in development. The concept is to engage Medical Personnel, Public Safety Officials, and Non-Traditional responders with a perspective of public health's role during a large radiological emergency. All three trainings will be offered to public health officials as well. Regional Staff is working with DPH and DEP to develop these trainings.

#### Cities Readiness Initiative – Unchanged from March Report

The full-scale, regional exercise (1<sup>st</sup> MEDs) on May 19, 2009 is in full planning development.

As a component of the exercise, DPH has decided to drop off dummy pallets of medications to each participating Mass Dispensing Area on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This will test the state's routes and delivery procedures as well as engage the State Police, as escorts.

### **Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report – Tara Mustakos**

#### Volunteer Programs: Milford Coalition for Community Preparedness & Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The Milford Health Department is organizing emergency operations shelter training with MRC/CERT volunteers. Training will take place for the interested MRC/CERT member volunteers from the American Red Cross Milford Chapter representatives. Further development for this training is currently underway.

The next scheduled public health exercise is planned for May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The exercise "1<sup>st</sup> Meds" will be a full scale Regional exercise through the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEHMS) Region 2, of which Milford is the lead planning agency. Local planning for the exercise is active throughout all participating agencies. The goal of the exercise is to drill the dispensing of medications to first responders and critical staff for the City of Milford through the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) grant. Milford will be exercising a portion

of the Mass Dispensing Plan that speaks specifically to the first responders. The exercise will test the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) medication push package drop off at Milford Public Works and the opening of the Municipal Point of Dispensing (POD) at the Milford Senior Center.

The Milford Health Department will also be participating with the Milford Fire Department in a Table Top Exercise on June 4<sup>th</sup>, *Hurricane Ready 09*. This exercise will be a test of emergency communications, evacuation and sheltering policies. Currently this exercise is being planned through several surrounding fire departments and will be brought to the local level; more information will follow for this exercise.

*Comments:*

**New Business:** None

**Director's Report:**

- D. McBride stated that our Region would be working with St. Raphael's Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital on a tabletop exercise entitled, Radiological Emergency, in the fall of this year. He added that our Region works effectively with DEMHS and now communities look to our Region for new ideas.
- D. McBride stated that Diana has been recruited by NACCHO as a liaison between NACCHO (National Association of County & City Health Officials) and ASTHO (Association of State & Territorial Health Officials) to be present at the ASTHO Climate Change Committee Meeting next week in Washington, D.C.
- D. McBride presented a summary of the Monday Board of Aldermen meeting. Copies of the two handouts distributed to the Aldermen at the meeting on Hoarding and the Health Department Grants Summary were distributed to board members. D. McBride added that he would make a budget presentation to the Board at the May Board of Health meeting.

**Adjournment:**

H. Fink motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by C. Young and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS  
Recorder