

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison
Joan Cagginello, MS, RN
Ernest Judson
Warren Pawlowski, Board of Education Liaison
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

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 – March 20, 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on March 20, 2018 were approved unanimously on a motion by J. Costello and seconded by H. Mulrenan.

Public Session: *None*

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

Mosquito Control

The 2018 mosquito control program will kick-off this month when All Habitat Services, the mosquito control consultant for the city of Milford, starts monitoring the wetlands habitats in Milford for mosquito larva and treating the marshy areas throughout the City. On Wednesday, April 18, 2018, the Milford Health Department (“MHD”) will hold a media event to kick-off the mosquito season and to discuss our Mosquito Control Program. The primary focus of our mosquito management program is on preventive efforts through mosquito breeding site reduction, especially in densely populated areas, and education about personal protection. In June, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will begin mosquito monitoring throughout Connecticut to identify, trap and test insects for early detection of West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, as well as monitoring for Zika virus. Mosquito trapping is conducted daily from June through October at 91 permanent locations throughout the state with two locations in Milford.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending April 13, 2018, the Health Department received 288 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 288 complaints, 76 were complaints of blight for the 2017/2018 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.

Sanitarian Position

Interviews for the vacant Sanitarian position were held last month. We received applications from several very qualified individuals and made an offer to Ms. Kristin Ollson who accepted and will be starting as a Sanitarian II with the Department on Monday, April 30th. Ms. Ollson holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health from Southern Connecticut State University and has been working in the field as an Environmental Public Health Practitioner for the last five years. Kristin is a Registered Sanitarian and holds Connecticut certifications in Food Safety Inspection, Subsurface Sewage Disposal, Lead Inspection/Risk assessment as well as Emergency Preparedness. We are excited to have her as part of our Environmental Health Division team and look forward to working with her for years to come.

Comments:

- *J. Costello asked if the Health Department does any tick control. D. Joseph said that the Department accepts samples from residents to send in to the lab for tick testing; however, there is no specific control program. The Health Department always encourages residents to take personal protective measures against ticks and mosquitoes.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

For the week ending April 7, 2018, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that although influenza activity is past peak in CT, it has increased in the last several weeks partly due to increased circulation of influenza B viruses. Classification of Connecticut geographic activity continues to be identified as “widespread”. A total of 10,269 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 2,866 being in New Haven County. A total of 3,022 hospitalized patients with laboratory confirmed influenza have been reported this season. A total of 138 influenza-associated deaths (97 associated with flu A, 40 with flu B, 1 unknown type) have been reported to date. Of the 138 deaths, 115 were individuals greater than 65 years of age, 13 were between 50 – 64 years of age, 6 were between 25 – 49 years of age, 1 was between 19 – 24 years of age and 3 were ≤ 18 years of age.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, influenza activity continues to decrease. However, pockets of widespread flu activity are still seen in several states. Both CDC and CT DPH report that sporadic flu activity will continue for the next several weeks. Flu

vaccination is still recommended along with the timely implementation of anti-viral medications with a positive flu diagnosis.

The Milford Health Department will continue its seasonal influenza campaign at the monthly immunization clinics. A total of 1,054 influenza vaccinations have been administered thus far. The school nurses and Health Department continue to monitor the influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools.

School Health Services

Summer School/Extended School Year (ESY) Program

The Milford Public Schools will hold summer school and extended school year programs from June 18th through August 10, 2018. School Nurses have been assigned to work at Foran High, East Shore, Orchard Hills and J.F. Kennedy schools. Our 12 month nurse, Mary Fowler, will be working at Camp Happiness this summer which will be held at Foran High School.

Nursing Conferences

The annual school nurse conference, *Critical Issues in School Health*, was held on March 22nd in Cromwell, CT. Three school nurses from the Milford Health Department attended the conference. Information on a wide variety of school health issues was presented. Topics included: psychotropic medications in school, acne and atopic dermatitis, advocating for immigrant and refugee students, preventing and responding to intimate partner violence, concussions, gastrointestinal symptoms in children, and several others. The conference was very informative and enjoyed by everyone.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph reported that the Connecticut Department of Public Health's review of the special flu clinics held as part of the Statewide Flu Vaccination Days indicates that the Milford Health Department provided the second highest number of flu vaccinations statewide at these special clinics. Milford has had 419 reported flu cases through March with many fewer in March than in February.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) attended the special meeting of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 on March 28th; the originally scheduled meeting was postponed due to weather. Health care coalition (HCC) members voted to approve the budget for the next grant year.

Milford completed the 3rd quarter Technical Assistance (TA) call with CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH). Local health departments receive funding annually for Public Health Preparedness and Planning; the annual review along with these quarterly calls are a system of accountability to ensure communities are planning and at this stage prepared to address public health emergencies and meeting annual deliverable requirements. Milford submitted the 3rd Quarter Reports to the HCC fiduciary as required by our grant.

MHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (PHEPC) participated in a hot wash conference call to sum up efforts on this year's flu season and the Commissioner's call for Special Saturday Flu clinics. Overall 2,921, vaccinations were provided statewide on 3 Saturdays; Milford's Saturday clinic administered 212 vaccinations.

MHD PHEPC attended the annual Emergency Management Symposium. Topics for discussion this year included communications and response to Puerto Rico hurricane, cyber security and an overview of training and events coming in 2018.

Milford Deputy Emergency Manager held a meeting in preparation for this year's Emergency Planning & Preparedness Initiative (EPPI); the Governor's annual statewide exercise. Milford will participate on June 20th and use this exercise to open the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), touch base on emergency planning efforts, new initiatives and identify areas for improvement from past events, storms, etc. While the city does have an Emergency Operations Plan is it constantly under review and adapted to meet community needs and new emerging threats.

Comments:

- *None*

Community Health – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Communicable Disease Surveillance

There were 36 cases of disease reported for the month of March, with Influenza as being the most frequently reported. The total number of influenza reported thus far is 419.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

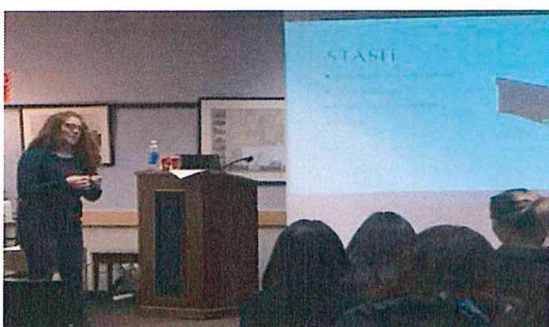
The program offers up to three (3) home visits and a 6 month follow up after a participant has been enrolled. We have received a total of 102 referrals. This month we received 11 referrals. For the year we have completed 33 initial home visits, 23 second and 18 third home visits. We have completed seven (7) 6 month follow up calls.

Community Events

We partnered with MPC to provide the Community with a Hidden In Plain Sight presentation on March 22. The event was a complete success with 50 people signed up and over 30 people attended (see pictures below). We have moved forward in implementing events for April for Public Health Awareness Week. The collaboration with other local health departments and organizations has been great. There was also a Narcan training held in April.



Mock teen bedroom set up



Presenter (Crystal from CAPP) answering questions from participants



Presenter showing one of the many items (hair brush) with secret compartment

Public Health Accreditation

The Milford Health Department is still preparing itself to submit an application to become accredited. We have started the process to creating a Strategic Plan. Staff now has been introduced to strategic planning with an overview session by our consultant. Everyone seems to be on board and is very excited about this exploration for the health department. We have met internally and reviewed and created possible mission, vision and a few value statements. We have also created a “Parking Lot” where all staff can provide feedback and suggestions on the work being done on the back bulletin board. The step is to review our work with the consultant and use her feedback to finalize this part of the process. Everyone appears to be excited to moving forward to taking the necessary action steps in order to submit our application to PHAB (Public Health Advisory Board) to apply for accreditation in the near future.

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 applied for a grant (PSI - Prevention Service Initiative for Community Based Organizations) for the implementation and sustainability of our POA program. We did receive the award for this grant and have been working with them to get the project going.

Comments:

- *Discussion ensued regarding the PSI (Preventive Service Initiative for Community-Based Organizations) grant obtained by the Department. D. Joseph explained that the grant's primary focus is for the MHD to develop relationships with health care providers in the region in order to improve asthma self-management and reduce hospitalizations and emergency department visits through the Putting on AIRS program. The initial contract is \$20,000. The MHD will apply for additional funding after successfully entering into a contract with at least one New Haven-based health care provider. Several of these providers, including the Yale New-Haven Emergency Department, serve Milford residents. One major benefit of this grant is the guidance the Department will receive in establishing systems to bill health care providers for services provided. C Young asked if this type of program might expand beyond asthma. D. Joseph responded yes. While our grant is specific to the asthma management through Putting on AIRS, other grantees are focusing on diabetes. C. Young commented that this will be a good learning process. H. Mulrenan added that it's good to start off with a program with which MHD has experience.*
- *D. Joseph reported that the MHD partnered with MPC to hold Narcan training. Participants listened to a presentation, and Narcan was distributed. Howe's Drug Store was helpful in processing payment and insurance claims for the Narcan.*
- *Discussion ensued regarding the Departments' preparation for accreditation and the mission, vision, and value statements posted on the office wall for staff review and comment. D. Joseph commented that Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MHD's Community Health Coordinator, is doing a great job keeping the strategic planning process moving forward.*

Old Business: None

Director's Report: Deepa Joseph, MPH

- *The MHD will welcome a new sanitarian to our staff at the end of April. Kristin Olsson was the top recommendation from the panel interviews conducted by Human Resources and has five years of experience. She will be a great addition to our team.*

New Business: None

Adjournment:

J. Costello motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by H. Mulrenan and was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Soulier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'C' and 'S'.

Carol Soulier
Recorder