

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
May 15, 2018**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson  
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Joan Cagginello, MS, RN  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN  
Warren Pawlowski, Board of Education Liaison  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary  
Ernest Judson

*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 – April 17, 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on April 17, 2018 were approved unanimously on a motion by H. Mulrenan and seconded by M. Quintner.

**Public Session:** *None*

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

Concession Stand Volunteer Food Handler Training

On Wednesday April 25, 2018 this department conducted the annual spring training session geared toward volunteer food handlers working in the concession stands. 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, proper garbage disposal, food protection and general sanitization.

Environmental Health Staff Training/Development

- Certified Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor Training – The CT Department of Public Health held refresher training sessions at various places throughout CT. All MHD Sanitarians attended and currently maintain CT certification as Lead Inspectors/Risk Assessors. In order to maintain certification, we are required to attend an annual 7-hour class and pass

an exam. Childhood Lead Poisoning is the most common pediatric public health problem and is entirely preventable. Once a child has been poisoned, the impairment it may cause is irreversible. Lead harms children's nervous systems and is associated with reduced IQ, behavioral problems, and learning disabilities. CT Lead Regulations require lead inspections be conducted by MHD Sanitarians in response to an elevated blood lead level of a child in residence in a pre-1978 built dwelling or in response to a child less than 6 years of age residing in a pre-1978 dwelling in which toxic levels of lead and defective surfaces have been previously identified.

- FDA training course, Special Processes at Retail – On May 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> two Sanitarians from MHD attended this two-day course taught by FDA instructors. The course was geared toward describing special processes used to prepare food in retail food service establishments. Although special processes are not allowed currently in Connecticut food service establishments, they will be allowed when the FDA Food Code is adopted. A variance from the CT Department of Public Health, Food Protection Program will be required for most of the special processes; however, MHD will be responsible for reviewing requests for those done without a variance. By attending the course, Sanitarians will be able to better identify those establishments who may already be engaging in some of these procedures and will provide information as to what is allowed under the FDA Food Code.

#### Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending May 11, 2018, the Health Department received 308 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 308 complaints, 86 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.

#### *Comments:*

*D. Joseph reported that Milford has many temporary events scheduled this spring and summer. One such event to be held Memorial Day weekend is the Milford Food Truck and Arts Festival which has grown to include 27 food vendors. All four sanitarians will be on hand to complete necessary inspections.*

*E. Beatty asked if the department monitors portable toilets. D. Joseph responded that we do not monitor them but will investigate if a complaint is filed. She added that the department does make a determination regarding the number of portable toilets and hand washing stations needed for temporary events where food is served.*

*C. Young inquired about the Health Department's involvement with the Milford Diner located at 13 New Haven Avenue. D. Joseph responded that the Health Department has issued a Notice of*

*Violation. The sanitarians assigned to the investigation have been in conversation with the owners.*

*E. Beatty asked if it is a busy tick season. D. Joseph reported that the number of ticks taken in for testing to date appears to be in line with what is expected this time of year. J. Cagginello inquired if residents drop ticks off to the Health Department. D. Joseph confirmed that the MHD collects ticks from residents and sends them to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven for testing.*

#### **Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN**

##### *Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign*

For the week ending May 5, 2018, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that although flu activity is decreasing throughout CT, it remains elevated compared to most areas of the country. In CT, flu activity is transitioning geographically from “widespread” to “regional”. Influenza B viruses are the predominant circulating flu viruses at this time. Statewide emergency department visits attributed to the “fever/flu syndrome” remain slightly elevated. A total of 11,604 positive influenza tests have been reported for the current season with 3,160 being in New Haven County. A total of 3,411 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. A total of 150 influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date. Of those, 125 were among patients greater than 65 years of age, 14 were 50 – 64 years of age, 7 were 25 – 49 years of age, 1 was between 19-24 years of age, and 3 were  $\leq 18$  years of age.

The CDC reports that flu activity continues to decrease in the United States. They report that hospitalization rates this flu season have been record breaking and confirm 165 flu-related pediatric deaths. Sporadic flu activity is expected to continue for the next several weeks. The school nurses and the Milford Health Department continue to monitor the Influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools.

The Milford Health Department has begun planning for the 2018-19 influenza season.

Per the CDC, three component vaccines are recommended to contain:

- A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage)

Four component vaccines are recommended to contain the same viruses as the three component vaccine as well as:

- a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus

The Health Department will continue to purchase influenza vaccine through the Connecticut Department of Public Health contract. We plan to order both seasonal vaccine for adults and children and also the high dose influenza vaccine that is indicated for individuals over 65 years of age. One influenza clinic is scheduled for the Senior Citizen Center on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Other community clinics will be scheduled for the fall as it gets closer to influenza season.

### School Health Services

The school nurses have begun getting their student health records ready for transferring to the next school level. This is an end of year activity for school nurses that requires preparation of records and a discussion with the receiving school nurse to exchange important medical information as the students move from the elementary grades to middle school and on to high school.

### Nursing Staff

We have one public health nurse vacancy at this time. The Human Resource Department will be sending over a list of candidates from the recent application pool for our consideration.

### *Comments:*

*D. Joseph commented that the school nurse vacancy will likely be filled from the list of available candidates that is still open from the last time a nursing job was posted.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) responded to Region 2 call down via Veoci, an automated communication system, in response to a New Haven County hospital evacuation drill. A medical surge test drill is required by grant deliverables annually for each region.

MHD Director of Health attended the monthly meeting of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Health care coalition (HCC) members voted to approve the draft regional plan for the next grant year. This plan serves as a template for regional response but does not provide for the operational procedures. It is anticipated planning efforts in the coming years will focus on regional response and mutual aid across health departments and districts on an operational level.

MHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (PHEPC) attended the CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) laboratory annual training to review response to Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological & Explosive (CBRNE) events. First responders from across the state have used this venue annually to review state protocol, response to emerging threats and international events which could impact local CT communities. This year's review focused on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) response nationally and overseas. Ebola and emerging infectious diseases remain on the radar for public health officials and are continuously monitored globally.

Milford will plan to participate in this year's Emergency Planning & Preparedness Initiative (EPPI); the Governor's annual statewide exercise. Milford will participate on June 21st and use this exercise to touch base on emergency planning efforts, new initiatives and identify areas for improvement from past events, storms, etc. Connecticut's hurricane season begins June 1 and runs through the end of November.

### *Comments:*

*D. Joseph commented that the Governor's emergency preparedness exercise will feature a scenario similar to that of Hurricane Irene, also incorporating damage to bridges and tunnels.*

## **Community Health – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA**

### Communicable Disease Surveillance

There were 41 cases of disease reported for the month of April, with Influenza being the most frequently reported. The total number of influenza cases reported thus far is 422.

### 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 110 referrals. For the year we have completed 40 initial home visits, 31 second and 21 third home visits. We have completed seven (7) 6 month follow up calls.

### Community Events

For the month of April, the MHD has partnered with the healthy lifestyles work group through the Partnership for a Healthier Greater New Haven to conduct events for Public Health Awareness Week (April 2, 2018 - April 8, 2018). We hosted food drives at both the Milford (MHD) and Hamden (QVHD) Shop Rites along with a small community health fair. The food drives were a great success. MHD Staff was on site along with volunteers at the Milford Shop Rite to collect donations. Food collected was donated to the Senior Center along with the Beth El kitchen. The drive was such a success the group is looking to collaborate once again to possibly host a back to school drive. We also partnered with Milford Prevention Council to implement Narcan training on April 14, 2018 that had 24 people in attendance. Plans for implementing a community walk and talk are still in progress and will more than likely happen in the fall.

### Public Health Accreditation

The Milford Health Department is still preparing itself to submit an application to become accredited and working on our strategic plan. We have met several times both internally and with our consultant and have developed our mission, vision and value statements in a very creative acrostic poem. We have also completed a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. We are now in discussion on how to include our stakeholders in our strategic plan and allow them to provide feedback on the work completed thus far. The “Parking Lot” is still present and will maintain up in the back conference area for all staff to provide feedback and suggestions on the work being completed. The next step we hope to complete is meetings and survey distribution with our stakeholders.

### 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. As you know, we received the PSI (Prevention Service Initiative for Community Based Organizations) grant, which will continue to provide the implementation and sustainability of our POA program. We are finalizing the contract and setting up dates to meet other grantees, site visits and meetings with Technical Assistance. The healthy homes contract/grant also had both programmatic and expenditure reports submitted this month as well.

### *Comments:*

*Discussion ensued about the Narcan training held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Milford Public Library. Joan Cagginello asked if those attending had specific concerns about family or friends. D. Joseph responded that participants were not formally asked about the reason for their attendance.*

**Old Business:** *None*

**Director's Report:** *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

*D. Joseph reported that the new sanitarian, Kristin Olsson, began work on April 30<sup>th</sup>. She is a great addition to our staff, bringing experience and a fresh point of view.*

**New Business:** *None*

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Soulier  
Recorder