

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2009**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
William F. Lynch, MD
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Deborah Woods

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Howard Fink, MD, Secretary
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Beverly Hayes, Administrative Assistant

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2009

The minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by E. Judson, seconded by M. Quintner.

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS

Mosquito Control

At the end of April, All Habitat Services, the mosquito contractor for Milford, started inspecting monitoring and treating spring pools, and flood areas; these are some of the primary mosquito breeding areas. This spring has shown to be a wet one and we are finding some breeding. The primary focus of the mosquito management program is on preventive efforts through mosquito breeding site reduction, especially in densely populated areas, and education about personal protection. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station will start mosquito monitoring, trapping and testing for early detection of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus in early June.

Food Protection – Ill Food Worker Campaign

The Milford Health Dept., Environmental Health Division is working with the CT Department of Public Health on a statewide Ill Food Worker Campaign. Recent studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration show that infected food employees are the source of contamination in approximately 25% of the food borne disease outbreaks with a bacterial or viral cause. A key public health intervention and risk factor control identified by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent food borne outbreaks involves implementing employee health controls including the exclusion and reporting of ill food

workers. To that end, the first step in our campaign is getting food service managers to understand why it is important for food workers to report illness to Managers, in addition to determining why many food workers don't report illness. We would like to improve communication between food workers and food management. The Environmental Health Division has distributed educational pamphlets and posters to twenty-five selected food service establishments around the City. The educational material was used to engage management in discussion about food worker illness/reporting and to initiate the creation of site/business specific employee sick reporting rules.

Emergency Preparedness - 1st Meds – Full Scale Exercise

The Environmental Health Division works diligently to ensure all logistical needs are met during any Public Health emergency. In particular, during the 1st Meds drill on May 19, 2009, the Division played a critical role during the planning and implementing of the 1st Meds exercise of the Health Department Pre-Dispensing plan. Members of the Environmental Health Division are responsible for ensuring that the POD (Point of Distribution) is set-up, organized, run and broken down smoothly, in addition to providing logistical support wherever needed.

Nursing Division Report – Presented by Joan Cagginello, RN

Seasonal Influenza & Novel H1N1 Influenza

National and state seasonal influenza activity continues to be monitored in the weekly influenza surveillance. Influenza activity remained at higher than normal levels for this time of year. CT has “regional” activity, similar to what is being noted in most of New England.

Our nursing staff continues to be briefed on the status of Novel H1N1 influenza in our state and region. The Health Department implemented plans developed in our School Pandemic Plan Manual rapidly after news of swine flu surfaced. Parent letters, press releases and recorded phone messages were quickly posted that provided accurate information. Influenza Like Illness (ILI) surveillance was increased at all schools three weeks ago (and continues) and includes monitoring for fevers, respiratory illness and the number of students dismissed home from the Health Office, in addition to the number of daily total absences. Students dismissed home with fever or respiratory complaints have been referred to their primary care providers for assessment. The nurses have been vigilant in monitoring their school population and have reported information about probable cases to us timely at the Health Department. Communication with our Milford Public and Parochial/Private Schools has been excellent and has facilitated the flow of accurate information to families.

The Get In Touch Foundation - Get In Touch Girls Program

As introduced last month, the Get In Touch Girls Program held a kick off on May 12th at Pumpkin Delight School. Hosted by Principal Deborah Herbst, a breast cancer survivor, Milford community leaders gathered at the school to announce the kick-off. School Nurse Debbie Smith provided her annual 5th grade health class for girls, discussing hygiene and menstruation, and she introduced the Daisy Wheels to the girls as part of the class. The program was very well received by the students and their families. A press conference following the class confirmed the Milford Health Department, Milford Public Schools and the Milford Community's support of this educational program

The Get In Touch Girls program, which will be funded by The Get In Touch Foundation and 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. Program founder,

Mary Ann Nilan noted that the kick off in Milford is the “national kick- off” of bringing the program to all girls across the country.

School Health Services

The school nursing staff is at full staff as of this month. Mary Ann Stroup RN, BSN, MBA has been hired for the part time nursing position. Mary Ann has been a member of our substitute nursing staff for many years and is familiar with school nursing practice in Milford. She will be spending two days each week at East Shore Middle School where the acuity of student health concerns is quite high.

Two school nurses will work this summer in the extended school year programs at JFK and Harborside schools. The programs will run from July 6 through August 7, 2009. Our twelve-month nurse will be assigned to Camp Happiness, which will be held at The Academy from July 6th through August 13th.

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 19 cases of disease reported for the month of April. The Health Department received 4 reports of laboratory-confirmed cases of seasonal influenza. We have had a total of 58 cases of seasonal influenza reported in Milford to date for the 2008-2009 influenza season. In light of the current H1N1 (swine) influenza situation, the Community Health Coordinator has been involved in enhanced surveillance activities, including disease investigations for reports from physicians as well as Influenza-Like Illness surveillance in the community.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program has received a total of 81 referrals for this contract year (August 2008-present). The majority of referrals the program receives are from physicians, who have been very supportive of the program over the past year. Implementation of newly proposed DPH 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.

2nd Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The local graduation ceremony for Milford's 2nd PLTI class will be held on Monday, June 8, 2009 at City Hall. All Board members are invited to attend. All graduates have submitted Community Project proposals ranging in topics from health, education, safety, and the environment. This year's class has already become active in several community-based agencies as a result of their community projects. In addition to the local ceremony, graduates will also participate in a statewide graduation ceremony at the Capitol building in Hartford.

3rd Symposium on Compulsive Hoarding & Troubled Housing

The Milford Health Department will be hosting the third regional symposium on compulsive hoarding and troubled housing issues 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. The registration brochure was

sent out a few weeks ago and registrations have begun coming in. Registrations have been received from a variety of disciplines including health, human services, fire, and housing officials.

Emergency Preparedness Reports

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - Diana Yassanye

Regional Preparedness Grants & Cities Readiness Initiative

The full-scale, regional exercise (1st MEDs) on May 19, 2009 occurred today. The region saw 10 Mass Dispensing Areas, 6 Acute Care Hospitals, Regional Water Authority and American Medical Response all dispensing “medications” to first responders simultaneously beginning at 9 AM. (18 sites across Region 2) Few reports have come in as of yet but the overall tone from the region is positive. Our CDC representative attended, as long as a team of evaluators from the Yale Center for Public Health Preparedness, pharmacists from CT Drug Control and observers from around the state.

As a component of the exercise, DPH decided to drop off dummy pallets of medications to each participating Mass Dispensing Area on May 18th. These tested the state’s routes and delivery procedures, as well as engage the State Police, as escorts. Three of the regional staff trailed the delivery routes and made note of some specific issues that will make this process more efficient in the future.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report – Tara Mustakos

Local Emergency Preparedness

The Milford Health Department successfully participated in a Regional full-scale exercise today, May 19th, 2009.

The exercise “1st Meds” was coordinated and developed through a regional team housed in Milford Health Department for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEHMS) Region 2, of which Milford is the lead planning agency. Local planning for the exercise began back in February with a core team of six from the health department in addition to Milford Fire, Police, health department volunteers and other participating offices/organizations. The goal of the exercise was to test the dispensing of medications to first responders and critical staff for the City of Milford through the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) grant. Milford exercised a portion of the Mass Dispensing Plan that speaks specifically to the first responders. The exercise tested 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.

A formal After Action report will be submitted to the State Department of Public Health. This report includes a summary of the exercise events’ successes and an improvement plan. The improvement plan clearly outlines future objectives for further plan development and a timeline for completion.

The Milford Health Department will also be participating with the Milford Fire Department in a Table Top Exercise on June 4th, *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.

New Business:

Director's Report:

- C. Young stated that the Board had each been given handouts regarding the 2008-2009 Operating Budgets as well as the State & Local Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist. C. Young added that she would like each division head to highlight any critical item(s) in their reports for the Board of focus on at each meeting.
- D. McBride stated that C. Young would be inviting the Board of Health and other elected officials to come to an informational presentation of the current picture of the H1N1 virus. Dr. McBride will be presenting. C. Young is working on a date and would like the following present: Board of Alderman Chairman and Liaisons, Gayle Slossberg, Mayor's Office and Chamber of Commerce representatives.
- D. McBride explained that H1N1 is at very beginning stage pandemic. Dr. McBride added that the Coordinating Committee meets weekly for updates. Dr. McBride was informed that the Chamber of Commerce website has had over 2,000 hits for the Business Continuity Plan.
- D. McBride commended his staff on their superb execution of the 1st Meds Exercise held at the Senior Center today as part of the CRI grant for Region 2 with over 20 Health Departments and Districts participating. He added that Regional Water Authority and AMR were included in this regional exercise.
- C. Young added that they would cover the Operating Budget at the June Board of Health meeting.

Adjournment:

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by D. Woods and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder