

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2019**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN, Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Ernest Judson
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Constance Young, EdD, RN
Warren Pawlowski, Board of Education Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present:

Deepa Joseph, Health Director
Carol Soulier, Recording Secretary

J. Cagginello called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – April 16, 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on April 16, 2019 were approved unanimously as amended on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

Public Session: *None*

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

Anti-blight activities: As of the week ending May 17, 2019, the Health Department received 350 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 350 complaints, 67 were complaints of blight for the 2018/2019 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.

Concession Stand Volunteer Food Handler Training: On Thursday April 25, 2019, this department conducted the annual spring volunteer handler training session. The training is geared toward volunteer food handlers working in the concession stands. There are ten

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. We had a great group of people attend this year and were able to have a robust discussion surrounding proper food handling practices.

Environmental Health Staff Training/Development:

- Certified Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor Training – On April 3rd all MHD Sanitarians attended the CT Department of Public Health lead inspector refresher training course in Derby. Currently all Sanitarians hold certifications 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.
- Certified Pool Operators Course – On May 7th and May 8th, one Sanitarian from this office attended this free two-day course geared toward pool operators, health officials, and pool maintenance staff. Currently three MHD Sanitarians are Certified Pool Operators. ("CPO"). Sanitarians from the Environmental Health Division routinely inspect public and semi-public swimming pools and spas in Milford during the spring and summer months. By earning certification as a CPO, Sanitarians have a broader knowledge of aquatic facility maintenance and risk prevention, pool and spa filtration and water circulation systems, chemical testing and recreational waterborne illness prevention.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph commented that the temporary event season has begun with sanitarians doing inspections most weekends. Sanitarians are also preparing to hold Oyster Festival Food Booth Training to ensure that food workers are aware of proper food handling protocol.*
- *E. Judson asked if the Department would reinspect a home which had tested positive for high levels of lead. D. Joseph said that for lead cases sanitarians would complete all sampling and clearance requirements in accordance with State lead regulations.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign: For the week ending May 11, 2019, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity remains elevated and the geographic classification remains as "regional". The predominant circulating flu virus is Type A (subtype H3N2). Statewide emergency department visits attributed to the "fever/flu syndrome" have been decreasing. A total of 10,135 positive influenza reports have

been reported in CT for the current season with 3,188 being in New Haven County. There have been a total of 3,366 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza this current flu season. A total of 78 influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date in CT, most (53) were individuals greater than 65 years old.

The CDC reports that flu activity is decreasing across the United States.

The Milford Health Department has begun planning for the 2019-20 influenza season. Per the CDC, three component vaccines are recommended to contain:

- an A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- an A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)-like virus and
- a B/Colorado/06/2017-like (B/Victoria lineage) virus

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. An educational information session on the benefits of getting a flu vaccine has been scheduled at the Milford Senior Center on September 5th. The Milford Senior Flu Clinic has been scheduled for October 23rd. Other community clinics will be scheduled for the fall as we get 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 require 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.

School Immunization Data: Statewide School Immunization Data was recently released by the CT DPH. This information included individual school immunization rates and medical/religious exemption rates for the school year 2017-2018. Per the CT DPH, vaccine exemption data is collected on the child and not on each vaccine. So although children may have received some vaccines, if they have an exemption in place, the survey counts them as not having received any vaccines. Additional information on this has been requested from the Milford school nurses so we can more carefully analyze the percentage rates in Milford.

A letter from Deepa Joseph, Health Director, was sent home to all parents/guardians of students in the Milford Public School system and St. Mary's who were not immunized or under immunized for the measles virus because of a religious exemption. They were encouraged to get their children vaccinated at this time and upcoming MHD immunization clinic dates were provided. In addition, outreach was done to the following schools in Milford: Milford Christian Academy, Charles F. Hayden Boys School at Boys and Girls Village, The Foundation School,

Woodhouse Academy, and Milestone School. They were encouraged to send the Health Director's letter concerning the measles virus to their parents/guardians of unimmunized or under immunized students.

Hepatitis A Vaccination Campaign: Four additional Hepatitis A clinics were held this month in response to an outbreak of Hepatitis A infections across the country among persons who use drugs and persons experiencing homelessness. Since September 2018, the MHD has administered the vaccine to 134 individuals, including the Milford Fire Department EMS Personnel. Efforts to vaccinate at risk individuals will continue during the upcoming months.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph commented that the nurses are preparing for the end of the school year.*
- *D. Joseph reported that the Department is closely analyzing vaccination rates among the City's school children, breaking down rates by school, grade, and age. The goal of this analysis is to identify any pockets of under vaccination and to do targeted education with families in those areas. W. Pawlowski asked if the State can pass laws to eliminate the religious exemption. D. Joseph indicated that some states have done so.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) representatives participated in the monthly meeting of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Public Health and Medical, on April 17th & May 15th. Region 2 health departments/districts, hospitals and healthcare providers participated in a Federal Regional Asset Survey. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities Specifications requires Connecticut health care entities to perform an assessment to identify the health care resources and services that are vital for continuity of health care delivery during and after an emergency. The nationwide survey tool is meant to get a snap shot of what assets are available in the state.

MHD representatives participated in a region-wide table top exercise (TTX) based on community response to an emerging infectious disease (EID) on May 7th. Municipal public health agencies, districts, and health care providers are required to have a plan for how to respond to a person who presents or has the potential to have been infected with an emerging and/or highly infectious (i.e. measles) disease. Milford will use this opportunity to review current plans to ensure policies and procedures are up to date with Federal and State guidelines for emerging infection disease response.

MHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator attended the annual Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) state seminar addressing issues related to responding to chemical agent threats. An overview of chemical terrorism, state lab abilities, discussion of 14th Civil Support Team abilities, and a tabletop exercise were all included in the day's agenda. WMD terrorism is an evolving US threat. The Milford Health Department maintains an All Hazards Preparedness & Response Plan which includes local public health response roles to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) events.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer class is complete. Volunteers who completed all the training week sessions will be sworn in and participating in a graduation ceremony in early June 2019.

Comments: None

Community Health Division Report - Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Communicable Disease Surveillance: There were 37 cases of disease reported for the month of April, with Influenza as being the most frequently reported. This month there has been 12 cases of influenza.

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. September 1, 2018 started a new programmatic year and thus far we have received 81 referrals for POA and 42 for the SIM project. We have submitted our first set of invoices to Fair Haven for home visits. The partnership with this health care organization has grown since taking on the SIM project.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI): This training institute is finalizing its 10th annual training workshop! As you recall, 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. Graduation will be held in May.

Public Health Accreditation: As the Milford Health Department is preparing itself to become accredited, we held a community forum at Milford Hospital on April 30, 2019. Providers in the community met to review the results of the data and the community conversation and assess what the community needs.

Our technical assistance (TA) project: Strong Systems, Stronger Communities (SSSC) with NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) is continuing to develop. It consists of us creating a Quality Improvement (QI) project that will improve vaccination rates with the Milford Senior Center (MSC). We plan to conduct a survey at the MSC to gain a sense of where, when, and how they obtain their yearly influenza vaccine. Gaining this information will allow us to adapt our immunization clinics to meet their needs along with becoming customer focused.

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 are preparing to submit our tri-annual report for POA to DPH. We have submitted a monthly financial report to the Office of Health Strategies (OHS) for SIM and our midyear report to NACCHO.

Community Events: Walk n Talk series has continued to be promoted through as many outlets as possible. We have other area providers who are interested in continuing this event in June as well.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph noted that the PLTI graduation was held Monday, May 20th. The community projects developed by participants included one on food allergy awareness which was featured on a recent Minute with the Mayor.*
- *D. Joseph reported that the Milford Health Department and Fair Haven Community Health Center was the first partnership to enter into an agreement as part of the Preventive Services Initiative (PSI) State Innovation Model (SIM) grant. To date, there have been 42 referrals under this grant with under a 50% acceptance rate.*
- *D. Joseph reported that the Walk n Talk event featuring Walk about Yoga was a success with about 15 participants.*

Old Business: *None*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *A discussion ensued regarding Milford's homeless population. J. Costello asked if there is anything that can be done if homeless individuals don't want help. D. Joseph reported that members of the Homeless Outreach Workgroup have gone out to encourage them to engage with social services and will continue to reach out and to remind these residents of Milford's health and safety regulations. This outreach work group includes representatives from the Health Department, Human Services, the Mayor's Office, Milford Police Department, Beth El Center, Bridges, and other social service agencies. This work group is also developing a strategy for educating the community at large on how best to respond to the homeless population, encouraging citizens to give to agencies which provide services to the homeless. D. Joseph reported that Beth El Center has hired a full-time outreach and engagement worker who is holding regular hours at the Milford Public Library. R. Vitali asked if those homeless who are asking for help are receiving it. D. Joseph responded yes.*
- *D. Joseph reported that four eligible candidates have been identified for the sanitarian position, which is open because of Bob Grive's retirement at the end of June. Panel interviews will be held in early June.*

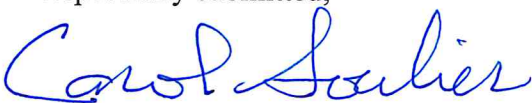
New Business: *None*

Adjournment:

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by J. Costello and was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Soulier
Recorder