

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2009**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

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

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Mitchell Quintner, DMD
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
Beverly Hayes, Administrative Assistant

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2009

The minutes of the May 19, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by C. Young, seconded by E. Judson.

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS

Mosquito Control

The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program is again monitoring mosquitoes for the presence of viruses that can cause illness in people including West Nile virus (WNV) and eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE) in 2009. The mosquito trapping and testing program, coordinated by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), will begin on June 1st. Reporting test results will begin the following week. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station has 91 mosquito traps set throughout Connecticut, two in Milford. To date all mosquitoes have tested negative for West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis. All Habitat Services continues to monitor and treat 86 breeding sites in Milford for mosquito activity.

Beach Monitoring

May 26, 2009 kicked off the start of the beach-monitoring season. The Health Department collects water samples and conducts sanitary surveys at 16 different locations along the Milford coastline, water samples are sent to the State Lab for analyzing.

987-995 Bridgeport Ave

The Milford Health Department was informed by the CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), of environmental contamination on the property located at 987-995 Bridgeport Avenue, formerly Milford Cleaning Village. The former Milford Cleaning Village is located immediately to the north of the Robert Treat Apartments and groundwater flows from beneath that location under the apartment complex. The former Milford Cleaning Village property housed a dry cleaning facility from at least 1972 through 2005. During the operation of the dry cleaner, cleaning solvent, principally tetrachloroethylene (PCE), was released into the soil under and immediately around the building. Dry cleaning functions ceased prior to the property's transfer to the current owner, 993 Bridgeport Avenue LLC, in 2006. The property is currently vacant. Subsurface investigations were completed at 987-995 Bridgeport Ave between 2005 and 2007. Perchloroethylene – also known as tetrachloroethylene, PCE, and PERC was detected in soil and groundwater samples in concentrations that exceeded regulatory criteria. Remediation measures included the excavation of PCE-impacted soil and the installation of a soil vapor extraction system inside the former dry cleaning building. PCE detections in groundwater samples indicated that the pollution was migrating off the former Milford Cleaning Village property toward the adjacent Robert Treat Apartments property.

Currently the Milford Health Department is working with CT DEP while further investigation of the area adjacent to this property is being conducted. A test well on the grounds of the apartment complex showed an elevated level of PCE in the groundwater at that one location. The source of the PCE is believed to be the former Milford Cleaning Village property at 987-995 Bridgeport Ave. In order to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination moving from 987-995 Bridgeport Ave. to the adjoining property, Robert Treat Apartment Complex, additional samples of the soil and ground water were collected on June 3, 2009. Groundwater will then be tested to determine the dimensions of the PCE groundwater plume emanating from the former Milford Cleaning Village property onto the apartment complex. These tests will also show what levels of PCE – if any – are in the groundwater beneath the apartments.

It is expected that full test results and an analysis of them will be reported back to DEP in about four weeks. The owner of that apartment complex is cooperating with state and Milford officials to allow access to their site for the investigation and to determine if vapors from the groundwater pose any health risk to apartment residents. The owner of the apartment complex is prepared to immediately take any steps that are determined to be necessary for remediation on their site and to protect the health of apartment residents.

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 observed “widespread” influenza activity with Fairfield and New Haven counties reporting the greatest number of confirmed cases.

Influenza like illness (ILI) surveillance continues in all of our schools and is monitored closely at the Health Department. Influenza like illness is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a fever over 100°F and cough or sore throat. A spike in the ILI surveillance at

Foran High School was observed last week and a cluster of illness was identified. No other school observed an increase in the number of students presenting with symptoms of ILI. Students at Foran were referred for H1N1 testing and the results were sent to the CT State Department of Health Lab for analysis. We are currently waiting for results. Measures were taken at Foran to decrease the potential spread of disease and ILI continued to be carefully monitored. Collaboration and communication between the Milford Health Department and the Milford Public Schools continues to be excellent.

School Health Services – Summer Programs

The Parochial Schools will complete their school year on June 19th. The final day of school for the Milford Public Schools is June 25th. Plans are in place for the three summer programs that will be in session at JFK, Harborside and The Academy this summer. Additional nurses will be on hand July 7th for the first day of the programs to check the temperatures of all students prior to entry to the program. This will establish a baseline of absence of fever at the beginning of the summer sessions. Influenza like illness (ILI) surveillance will continue at all summer programs. The nurses and the Health Department will monitor for the presence of ILI. Dr. McBride has had discussion with the Camp Happiness Director about health safety at Camp Happiness where a large percentage of participants are medically fragile children. Should students present with ILI symptoms, strict disease control measures will be instituted, including possible closure of summer school or camp programs.

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 16 cases of disease reported for the month of May. The Health Department received 4 reports of laboratory-confirmed cases of seasonal influenza. We have had a total of 62 cases of seasonal influenza reported in Milford to date for the 2008-2009 influenza season. The CT Department of Public Health has reported that Connecticut and neighboring states are now reporting widespread influenza activity, which is atypical for the month of June. 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 88 referrals for this contract year. The program continues to be successful within our region. The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) will be renewing Milford's contract for three more years. DPH anticipates that the award amount will also be increased due to the success of the program and anticipates notifying the Milford Health Department of the exact award amount in August 2009.

2nd Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Eighteen (18) parents from Milford graduated from Milford's 2nd PLTI class on Monday, June 8, 2009 at City Hall. Approximately 80 people attended the ceremony including graduates, their families, as well as honored guests. Honored guests in attendance included City of Milford Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr., Dr. Dennis McBride, Elaine Zimmerman—Executive Director of the CT Commission on Children, and State Representative Barbara Lambert. Graduates will also participate in a statewide graduation ceremony at the Capitol building in Hartford on June 24, 2009.

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 tomorrow, June 17, 2009, at the Hilton Garden Inn—Milford. Approximately 100 individuals have registered to attend the symposium from a variety of disciplines including health, social work, fire, animal control, and housing officials. The focus of the symposium will be on community responses to hoarding, animal hoarding, as well as communication strategies to use with hoarders to enhance motivation to clean up.

Emergency Preparedness Reports

Regional Preparedness Grants & Cities Readiness Initiative

Novel A/H1N1 has topped the priorities in regional and local preparedness, ensuring that local and regional partners are on the same page with key messages. Partners have included local health departments, school districts, hospitals, fire, police, EMS agencies including American Medical Response, Emergency Managers and the business community.

Amy Shields is the new Regional Planner for the regional preparedness grants. Patrick Pickering is still with the Department on a very limited basis, as he has been named Deputy Chief of West Shore Fire Department in West Haven.

The regional team is gearing up for the 2009 Technical Assessment Reviews, which measure the written mass dispensing plans to a federal standard. This is part of the CRI Grant and occurs annually.

Milford Health has applied for a significant grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to become a national public health preparedness Center of Excellence. This grant would provide the opportunity for the department to synthesize national templates based on Region 2 best practices and also develop new preparedness projects that could be applied to small and suburban health departments around the country. The grant is one year, with the option of renewal, and Milford has requested close to \$500,000.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report

Local Emergency Preparedness

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

Local planning for the exercise “1st Meds” 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 and was successful in getting “medication” to approximately 2150 first responders, critical staff and their families.

Three formal After Action reports are submitted to the State Department of Public Health. These reports include 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 participated with the Milford Fire Department in a Table Top Exercise on June 4th, *Hurricane Ready 09*. The purpose of this exercise was to test emergency communications, evacuation and sheltering policies. Several needs citywide were identified including shelter operations/management responsibility and written policy for evacuation procedures from some departments.

The Milford Medical Reserve Corps completed the second round of Technical Assessment (TA) through the Office of the Surgeon General Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. The scoring of the TA reflects positively on the progress of the Milford Unit in regard to training, exercise participation, website updating and communication to volunteers.

New Business:

Director's Report:

- D. McBride handed the Board an editorial that he submitted to the New Haven Register entitled "Partial School Closure for Influenza-like-illnesses, which will appear in June 17, 2009 editorial section of the paper.
- D. McBride explained the decision to start ½ days at Foran High School was based on data from ILI (Influenza like Illness) monitoring by the school nurse. The nurses monitor absenteeism and students sent home from school, with ILI symptoms. He added that after voluntary testing of 7 for the H1N1 virus in those exhibiting ILI symptoms, all 7 were confirmed today by the State Lab as being positive for the virus. All students have recovered, are symptom free and were back to school. The numbers being reported by the Foran High nurses for ILI have gone down, indicative of the ½ schedule
- D. McBride stated that he is working on establishing an H1N1 Influenza Coordinating Committee for DEMHS Region II ESF-8. It focuses on vaccination/antivirals, risk communication and education and social distancing.
- C. Young and D. McBride went over the budget process with the Board .

Adjournment:

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by H. Fink and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder

