

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
June 18, 2013**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson  
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary  
Ernest Judson  
William F. Lynch, MD  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS  
Susan Shaw, Board of Alderman Liaison  
George Gensure, Board of Education Liaison

*Others Present:*

*Health Department Staff Present*

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

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on May 21, 2013 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

**Public Session:** None

**Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller**

*Anti-blight activities*

As of the week ending June 14, 2013 the Health Department received 94 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 330 complaints. 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. We are seeing a rise in the number of complaints about vacant homes that are not being maintained, i.e. peeling paint, vegetation not cut back, fallen trees not removed. MHD is working hard to track down the responsible parties and get them to clean up the property. Unfortunately, the enforcement process takes time and getting the banks, mortgage and management companies to take care of the issues is proving to be arduous.

Currently, seven properties failed to comply with the orders defined in the Notice of Violation. Liens have been placed on the corresponding land records and these properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance. MHD referred the addresses to the City Attorney's office requesting that they initiate foreclosure in order to eliminate the blight.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2011/2012	Currently under orders - NOV <b><u>OPEN</u></b>	Referred to City Attorney <b><u>OPEN</u></b>
440	106	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>

#### Beach Monitoring

May 29, 2013 kicked off the start of the beach-monitoring season. Every week between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Sanitarians collect water samples and conduct sanitary surveys at 16 different locations along the Milford coastline. Water samples are sent to the Connecticut State Lab for analyzing. When collecting sea water samples, Sanitarian's also inspect the tide line to identify potential hazards such as medical waste and/or syringes. If there is something suspicious, the Police Department is promptly notified.

*Comments: None*

#### **Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell**

##### School Health Services

The Milford Public Schools will complete their school year on Friday, June 21, 2013. The private schools will be finished by that date as well. The school nurses are scheduled to work until June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The nurses had a productive school year, delivering health services to students from age 3 – 21 years old in a variety of programs in the schools. The school nurses monitored student health through the influenza-like illness surveillance system, completed the state mandated health screenings and provided health education programs to students at various grade levels in addition to the daily care of students for medication administration, treatment administration, illness, injury and chronic health conditions.

##### Extended School Year Programs

The school nurses will conclude their work on June 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be several summer programs taking place in the public schools this summer and the Health Department will provide nursing service for them at the request of the Board of Education. The extended school year programs will be held at Orange Avenue and Harborside Middle Schools. Summer educational enrichment

programs will be held at Mathewson and Pumpkin Delight elementary schools. The twelve-month nurse will be assigned to Camp Happiness, which will be held at The Academy for five weeks.

*Comments: None*

## **Emergency Preparedness Reports**

### **Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report – Quiana Lewis**

#### *Training and Exercises*

The Connecticut Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2 ESF 8 in collaboration with CT-RI Public Health Training Center at the Yale School of Public Health and Columbia University National Center for Disaster Preparedness is hosting a public health conference on Hurricane Sandy and future storm preparation entitled **“Hurricane Sandy Revisited” on July 30, 2013 at Yale University West Campus**. This event will mark the first multi-jurisdictional, post-Sandy panel discussion in Connecticut. Public health leaders from four of the affected towns will share their experiences, challenges and lessons learned with the broader community. Representatives from the Centers of Disease Control, FEMA, and Connecticut Department of Public Health will be present.

#### *Public Health Preparedness Contracts*

The first regional Technical Assistance Review (TAR) was successful. The Centers for Disease Control applauded the successful development of a regional framework and awarded us a final score of 0.89 out of 1.0.

### **Local Emergency Preparedness/Activity Report - Tara Mustakos**

#### *Local Emergency Preparedness Contract*

The Milford Health Department is scheduled to participate in the Statewide Governor’s exercise on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The City of Milford Emergency Management Director and Deputy Director will open and activate the emergency operations center (EOC) at Milford Fire Headquarters. The scenario is in response to an ice storm in the Northwest corner of the state. All surrounding Regions will play a supporting role to Litchfield County. In the past, Local Health Departments overwhelmed as a result of a natural disaster will need logistical support; this includes Environmental Sanitarians, Public Health Nurses and staff trained in Incident Command Systems (ICS), a universal communication and disaster management structure.

The Milford Health Department has complete end of year grant deliverables. Included with this report is a call down log for non-emergency & emergency tests of the city’s emergency call back system, a report of volunteer recruitment and retention and any updates to plans/POD locations. The health department’s current plans have not changed in the last fiscal year; updates have been completed as required.

#### *Public Health Preparedness Activities*

The Milford Health Department Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers participated in several events in the past few weeks. Volunteers attended training on psychological first aid,

conducted presentations for health and science classes at the high schools and middle schools on emergency preparedness and provided information to the Boy Scouts at a local event. Volunteer participation at local events and with health department activities continues to be ongoing piece of recruitment.

*Comments: None*

## **Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph**

### Disease Surveillance

There were 21 cases of disease reported for the month of May, with chlamydia being the most reported disease.

### Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 21 referrals in May resulting in 114 total referrals for this contract year. The CT Department of Public Health Asthma Program notified all funded regions that the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has significantly reduced grant funding for the upcoming contract year. As such, in collaboration with the State and the 5 other funded asthma regions, the Milford Health Department will be applying for funding through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Health Care Innovation Awards Round 2. If awarded, funding would begin in April 2014.

### Staffing Transitions & Coverage

The Personnel Department has posted for all vacancies in the Health Department, including the Director of Nursing and two (2) Public Health/School Nurse vacancies. The closing date for the job postings is June 28, 2013. As a result of the vacancies in the nursing division, the Health Department will be changing nursing assignments in the coming year. Nursing assignment decisions are made based on an evaluation of several items across the entire district, including acuity of chronic health conditions, prevalence of acute health conditions, special education needs, school census, as well as personnel considerations within the Health Department as a whole.

*Comments: None*

## **Old Business:**

### **Director's Report:**

- *Dr. McBride stated that the Regional Grant will not be renewed and the staff has been notified of this. He added that there are other opportunities for various grants, however, not preparedness grants.*
- *Dr. McBride stated that he and Laura Miller met with the City Counsel and discussed putting together a coalition of city departments to address the blighted properties.*

## **New Business:**

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS  
Recorder