

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2019**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN, Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Ernest Judson
Constance Young, EdD, RN

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison
Warren Pawlowski, Board of Education Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present:

Joan Campbell, Director of Nursing
Carol Soulier, Recording Secretary

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

Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on May 21, 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

Beach Monitoring: Beach monitoring and seawater sampling at Milford beaches started on May 29, 2019. Recreation waters are tested weekly to ensure they meet safe swimming standards. Every week between Memorial Day and Labor Day, sanitarians collect water samples and conduct sanitary surveys at 17 strategic locations along the Milford coastline. Water samples are sent to the Connecticut State Lab for analyzing. When collecting sea water samples, sanitarians 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.

Anti-bligh activities: As of the week ending June 14, 2019, the Health Department received 403 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 403 complaints, 82 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.

Food Protection Program: Status of the Connecticut FDA Food Code Adoption - During this past 2019 legislative session, the CT Department of Public Health proposed legislation to once again extend the adoption date for the FDA Food Code from no later than January 1, 2019 to no later than January 1, 2020. The CT Office of Policy & Management continues to review the proposed regulations; once they are approved, the FDA Food Code will go into effect in Connecticut.

Comments:

- *None*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign: For the week ending May 18, 2019, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity has decreased from regional to local. At the time of the report, influenza activity remained elevated within some areas of the northeast including Connecticut. The weekly flu updates from CT DPH have concluded until the fall.

A total of 10,213 positive influenza reports have been reported for the current season with 3,200 being in New Haven County. A total of 3,378 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. A total of 78 influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date (68 associated with flu A (subtype unspecified), 7 with flu A (2009H1N1), 1 with flu A (H3N2), and 2 with flu B). Of the deaths, 53 were among patients greater than 65 years of age, 20 were 50 – 64 years of age, 4 were 25 – 49 years of age, and 1 was in an individual between 5 – 17 years of age.

The school nurses and the Milford Health Department have concluded the monitoring of influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools for this school year.

School Health Services: Three school nurses attended the *Critical Issues in School Health* conference on May 22nd. Keynote speakers presented on the following topics: *Juul, Vaping and Electronic Cigarettes: A Public Health Crisis*, and *Integrating Care in Connecticut: Understanding Trauma and Resiliency in Student*. Workshop sessions included educational information on Diabetes Technology; Treatment, Techniques and Strategies for the Hearing Impaired Student; Medication Management in Mental Health; Ear Exam Techniques; School Medical Emergencies; Gastrointestinal Issues; Addressing Health and Improving School Attendance; Supporting LGBTQ Students; and others.

The school nurses completed their school year on June 10, 2019. They will be returning on August 22nd. All school nurses had a very productive year.

The Connecticut State Department of Education Health Services Survey was recently submitted to the CSDE. This data collection process is designed to assist the CT State Department of Education to understand the status of school health services in Connecticut school districts, the needs of school districts and students in the area of school health services, and progress being made in these areas over time. The survey addresses several areas in school health services such as student health care needs, concussion data, health care procedures performed, screenings and referrals, staffing and health coordination. The survey is a requirement for all school districts in Connecticut.

In addition, the school nurses were actively involved with end of the school year activities in their schools during the months of May and June. Field trips were planned for many students which required the school nurse to provide medication training along with preparing the necessary medications and first aid equipment to accompany the students and teachers. School nurses also conducted the transferring of health records to new school levels. This is an end of year activity 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.

Bloodborne Pathogen Training: All City of Milford lifeguards received Bloodborne Pathogen Training at the Milford Health Department this past month. In addition, summer playground staff employed by the Recreation Department will be receiving their BBP training this week.

Comments:

- *J. Campbell presented to the Board of Health on the Department's Nursing Division and all of the services it provides.*
- *J. Cagginello asked if the Department saw an increase in the number of measles vaccinations in response to news of the 2019 measles outbreak. J. Campbell reported that two children came to the MHD clinic in April to receive the MMR vaccine and, in addition, others have followed up with their medical provider.*
- *C. Young inquired if it is common for health departments to provide dental hygienist services to their municipalities' school children. J. Campbell indicated that it is uncommon in Connecticut and that Milford's program is funded through the Department's budget, although it started as a grant many years ago.*
- *E. Judson asked if the Department is following any lead cases. J. Campbell reported that there is one case at present.*
- *J. Campbell invited Board Members to visit school health offices during the upcoming school year.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) representatives participated in the bi-monthly meeting for the Family Assistance Center (FAC) workgroup on May 22nd. Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Regions 2 (New Haven county) and 5 (Litchfield county) health department/district representatives discussed updates to the plan, reauthorizing the plan through the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Public Health &

Medical group and how the plan ties in with the state transitioning to one statewide Health Care Coalition.

On Friday June 14th, MHD staff met with Milford Emergency Manager/Fire Chief and Deputy Emergency Manager as a follow up to discuss the Regional FAC plan locally. The goal of this meeting was to update local Emergency Management on the regional plan and decide which organizations should be present on a local workgroup. A local plan/annex will be needed to outline who for Milford and how will Milford initiate the regional FAC plan, what facilities should be evaluated ahead of time to serve as a FAC, and how will Milford support our local community in the event of a mass causality/fatality event.

MHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator attended the Statewide Health Care Coalition meeting May 29th. An update on forging ahead was provided by CT Department of Public Health staff and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). CT DPH will be looking to reconvene the statewide Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee by invite only and start a statewide Health Care Coalition advisory committee including representation from all four core members: local public health, hospitals, emergency management and emergency medical services (EMS).

CT DPH released the resource report required by Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities Specifications completed by CT local health departments/districts. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the health care resources and services that are vital for continuity of health care delivery during and after an emergency.

Comments:

- *None*

Community Health Division Report - Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Communicable Disease Surveillance: There were 38 cases of disease reported for the month of May.

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 91 referrals for POA and 59 for the SIM project. At this time last May 2018, we received 110 referrals. This year, we received 150 referrals in total. This program has grown and evolved in many ways, and we hope to stay on a positive trend of adaptation to address the needs of the community.

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 was held on May 20, 2019 and had 14 graduates! We plan on submitting an application for the upcoming funding in 2020.

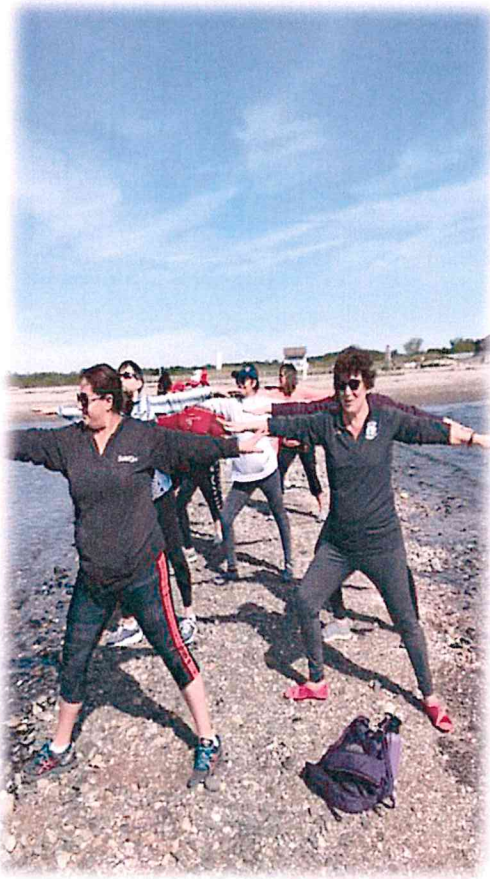
Public Health Accreditation: As the Milford Health Department is preparing itself to become accredited, we held a community forum at Milford Hospital on April 30, 2019. Providers in the community met to review the results of the data and the community conversation and assess what the community needs. We will begin to develop small stakeholders meetings in the fall to address issues that came up in the data.

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 have conducted a survey at the MSC with nearly 50 participants! We hope to review the data 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. Stay tuned to hear what our next steps will be.

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 have submitted a monthly financial report to the Office of Health Strategies (OHS) for SIM and our Healthy Homes grant reports.

Community Events: Walk n Talk series wrapped up in May with a bang! Although the first two sessions were rained on, the last session with Tracy Weber was great with nearly 15 people! See pictures below.





Comments:

- *J. Cagginello commented that Milford Hospital's acquisition by Bridgeport Hospital was finalized at the beginning of the month. She expressed the Board's desire that the cordial relationship between the Health Department and the Hospital continues.*

Old Business: *None*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

New Business: *None*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carol Soulier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Carol Soulier
Recorder