

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**June 21, 2011**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Secretary  
William F. Lynch, MD  
Christine M. Gonillo

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Deborah Woods  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Diane Kruger-Carroll, Board of Education Liaison  
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Others Present: None*

**Health Department Staff Present**

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

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2011**

The minutes of the meetings held on May 17, 2011 were approved unanimously, on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

**Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS**

*Anti-blight activities*

As of the week ending 06/11/2011, the Health Department received 141 complaints of blight, 26 of which are repeat complaints. Each complaint is in various stages of the process – some properties do not meet the criteria set up in the 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. After several inspections, reviews, and discussions with owners, twelve properties have been issued a notice detailing violations. They are currently within the specified compliance date.

Eleven properties have failed to comply with the orders defined in the Notice of Violation and have been 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.

Total # of blight complaints	Submitted by anti-blight complaint form	Submitted by other	Repeat complaints	Notice of Violation issued	Under Investigation	Abated/remedied/closed	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney
141	79	62	26	12	8	58	23	11

### 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 2011. The mosquito trapping and testing program, coordinated by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), began June 1st. Monitoring and risk assessment for WNV emphasizes mosquito trapping and testing results. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station has 91 mosquito traps set throughout Connecticut, two in Milford. All Habitat Services, the mosquito contractor for Milford continues to monitor and treat all breeding sites in Milford for mosquito activity. The City of Milford mosquito control program consists of controlling mosquitoes through breeding site reduction. Activities in the 2010 season included inspection, monitoring and treatment of 88 breeding sites including spring pool and flood areas and routine treatment of approximately 7,574 catch basins. All activities are directed at both salt water and fresh water mosquitoes; with priority shifting to disease-bearing mosquitoes should a public health threat be identified at any point.

### Beach Monitoring

June 2, 2011 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.

### Comments:

- D. McBride stated the City Attorney has drafted a formal policy to deal with unresolved blight issues.
- C. Young expressed her concern regarding stagnant pools of water around the new boardwalk. D. McBride responded that he would have staff follow up to see if they are breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

### **Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello**

#### School Health Services

The Milford Public Schools will complete their school year on Monday, June 20, 2011. The private schools will end for the school year on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The school nurses are scheduled to work until June 24<sup>th</sup>.

The nurses enjoyed a productive school year, delivering health services to students from age 3-21 in a variety of programs in the schools. They continued to monitor student health through the influenza like illness surveillance system, provided the state mandated school screenings and provided health education programs to students throughout the grades levels in addition to the daily care of students for illness, injury and chronic health conditions.

The nurses continued their professional development by attending courses and workshops related to the care of children and school health issues. Staff meeting speakers included presenters on eating disorders, HIPAA & FERPA laws, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, immunizations and juvenile fire starters. Continuing education programs (CEU) included Flu Mitigation & Immunization, Mental Health First Aid, Pre-K and the Role of the School Nurse among several others.

#### Extended School Year Programs

The Milford Public Schools have scheduled extended school year (ESY) programs for students in elementary through high school grades from July 5<sup>th</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup>. The elementary school program will be held at Orange Avenue School and middle and high school programs will be held at Harborside middle school. A nurse is assigned to each of the schools from 8:30am-2:30pm.

Camp Happiness will be held at The Academy from July 11<sup>th</sup>-August 11<sup>th</sup>. The twelve month public health nurse is assigned to work at Camp Happiness.

#### Public Health Intern

We are fortunate to have a public health intern working with us at the Health Department for the months of June and July. Kacey Richards is a student at Yale University who is completing her masters of public health degree. Kacey is studying childhood overweight and obesity in school age children and also works at the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale. Kacey was with us briefly last summer and we look forward to working with her and learning from her expertise on the subject of childhood overweight and obesity.

*Comments: None*

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

#### Disease Surveillance

There were 12 cases of disease reported for the month of May, with chlamydia being the most reported disease.

#### Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 11 referrals for the month of May, resulting in a total of 98 referrals for this contract year. Since 2008, the program has partnered with the Hospital of St. Raphael. The Pediatric residents at St. Raphael's are required to go through a Community Rotation each month. As part of this program, residents spend one day with the Putting on AIRS program learning about the value of working with public health officials to manage asthma within the community. This month one of the residents chose Putting on AIRS as the focus of his Grand Rounds presentation. The resident presented excellent information regarding the program to his fellow residents, as well as other pediatricians on staff at St. Raphael's that was present for Grand Rounds.

#### Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

Eleven (11) parents from Milford graduated from Milford's 3<sup>rd</sup> PLTI class on Monday, June 13, 2011 at City Hall. Approximately 60 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, State Representatives Paul Davis and Kim Rose, and Dawn Homer-Bouthiette of the CT Commission on Children. Graduates will also participate in a statewide graduation ceremony at the Capitol building in Hartford on June 29, 2011.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Health, Wellness, & Green Fair

The Health Department participated in the first "Health, Wellness & Green Fair" at the Milford Parsons Government Center on June 2, 2011. Approximately 60 vendors participated in the event promoting health, wellness, and going green to the community. Several members of the general public, as well as city employees, attended the fair. The Health Department provided information on emergency preparedness, sun safety, the importance of physical activity, West Nile Virus, as well as immunization requirements for the upcoming school year.

*Comments: None*

### **Emergency Preparedness Report**

#### **Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report** - Amy Shields

#### Hurricane Workshop

Region 2 is working with Columbia Regional Learning Center to coordinate a hurricane workshop on July 8<sup>th</sup> at Yale West Campus. Both New York and Connecticut representatives will be attending the workshop. The focus will be to discuss and define the needs of local and regional response 72 hours post-landfall of a category 3 hurricane, specific to public health planning implications. The day will consist of various speakers presenting on the science of hurricanes, flooding post disaster, vulnerable populations and other public health impacts, a panel discussion, and a key note speaker during the lunch session.

#### Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) Workshop

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a competency-based training and recognition program that assesses preparedness planning and response efforts. The program builds preparedness capacity and capability through a continuous quality improvement model. The assessment consists of the evaluation of all-hazards preparedness plans, exercising the plans, and development of a strong workforce through training. Under contract deliverables, each of the five [5] regions in Connecticut will complete a PPHR application by 2013. A statewide meeting to review key concepts of PPHR, and outline steps to complete the regional application is scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Public Health Preparedness Contracts

Regional and local preparedness contracts are coming to a close for the 2010-2011 grant year. All Mass Dispensing Areas are completing contract deliverables for submission to the state. The technical assistance reviews (TARs) to evaluate local mass dispensing plans begins June 23<sup>rd</sup>. A total of nine [9] reviews will be conducted in Region 2.

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

##### CT Statewide Volunteer Update

The Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is merging with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety as well as other state organizations. The Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are part of the Citizen Corps council which falls within the DEMHS. As a result of the statewide changes all grant funding for CERT teams is on hold. This does not affect the Milford Health Department CERT members as we are an established group, but no new teams will be formed in the state at least until fall 2011. These changes may also impact local volunteer groups in the future. Stay tuned. The next volunteer meeting will be held June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Milford Public Library.

##### Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The Milford Health Department is coming to the end of the grant year for emergency preparedness funds. Additional reports include an equipment inventory, expenditure reports, an update of plan development and reports from any exercises/drill completed in this timeline. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) conducts a Technical Assessment Review (TAR) through the state health department at the end of each grant year. Milford's TAR is scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup>.

##### *Comments:*

- D. McBride stated that several members of Region 2 and himself went to Portland, Oregon. The Portland Metropolitan Area in Oregon, Public Health Department shared best practices with representatives from CT DEMHS Region 2. They participated in a mass dispensing exercise, as well as witnessing MRC best practices in action.

##### **Old Business:**

- C. Young gave accolades to Ernie Judson, Dr. McBride, Joan Cagginello, Laura Miller in presenting to the Board of Alderman regarding the proposed cuts to the Sanitarian and School Nursing Position.
- E. Judson asked if the redistricting of the Region had taken place. D. McBride responded that it will not take place.

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

- D. McBride stated that there is a federal grant coming from the CDC as part of Affordable Care Act. This grant is for communities that have a population of over 500,000 to help communities address racial and ethnic health disparities and reduce chronic diseases by promoting health living and tackling the social and economic causes of poor health. The State is one of the applicants for the grant, as well as the Connecticut Association of Health Directors, and New Haven Health Department, to name a few.

**New Business:**

- C. Young stated that she received a form from Linda Stock, City Clerk regarding the Milford Board of Health Rules & Regulation. It is to be completed and returned so she went over the information with the Board. Further information raised by the Board's discussion will be sought from Linda Stock. It is anticipated that completion of Rules and Regulations of the Board of Health will take place at the September meeting.

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS  
Recorder