

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2009**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Howard Fink, MD, Secretary
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

William F. Lynch, MD
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Deborah Woods
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present:

Reem Nouh, Student from University of New Haven

Health Department Staff Present

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

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

Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2009

The minutes of the June 16, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by H. Fink, seconded by E. Judson.

Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller

Temporary Food Service Events

Since the start of the 2009/2010 fiscal year, the Environmental Health Division has issued permits for and conducted inspections at 45 public community events where food was prepared on site and sold to the public.

One event in particular, the Milford Oyster Festival, now in full swing on Friday night in addition to all day on Saturday, had a total of 63 food service licenses issued. The Environmental Health Division issued four permits for temporary food service on Friday night, August 15th, in addition to the 43 applications issued on Saturday the 16th. Our food service training program, which works to ensure that food service volunteers have completed training on safe food handling procedures, continues to grow. For the 2009 Oyster Festival, we trained a record 91 volunteers who prepared and served food at the festival. These volunteers were also issued I.D. badges for recognition of their completion of this training, and for their use when working at the various food booths. The

Environmental Health Division personnel spent over 80 hours training volunteers, processing applications, fielding questions and conducting risk based inspections at all food service booths.

Mosquito Control

September is the peak month for West Nile Virus in Connecticut. On August 27, 2009 The State Mosquito Management Program announced that mosquitoes trapped in Milford on August 17, 2009 tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). These were the first positive mosquitoes identified in Milford by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) this year. The Health Department continues to urge all residents to take precautions against mosquito bites and provide information on how to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on individual properties. All Habitat, LLC, Milford mosquito consultant, continues to implement preventive measures against mosquito breeding. The Health Department has mosquito dunks (BTI) available to all residents who need them. It is important to educate the community on the importance of monitoring their own properties for anything that could collect water and become an area for mosquitoes to breed.

Household Hazardous Waste

On Saturday, October 3, 2009, we will be having a satellite household hazardous waste collection at the Public Works yard on Ford St., in addition to the regular collection site in New Haven. Residents will be able to dispose of all the same types of waste at the satellite collection in Milford. Milford residents will volunteer on-site along with Lori Vitagliano, the HazWaste Central Coordinator, and of course workers from Clean Harbors who will collect and dispose of the collected waste. In addition, the Fire Department has coordinated their propane tank disposal on the same day.

Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello

H1N1 Influenza and Vaccination

The Milford Health Department has been actively engaged in monitoring for H1N1 influenza in our schools and community. We are also involved in planning for H1N1 vaccine administration to priority groups when it becomes available.

Recognizing that the median age for H1N1 infection in CT is 14 years of age, much of our planning has focused on school age students. The Health Department is fortunate to work collaboratively and effectively with the Milford Public Schools and our school nurses to keep school staff and parents informed. Throughout the fall and winter the Health Department will provide guidance on H1N1 influenza education, prevention and intervention measures.

Education - A letter to parents & guardians, signed by Dr. McBride and Dr. Polansky, was posted on the Milford Public Schools website. It was also sent to parents without internet capability. The letter provides information and guidance for parents regarding keeping children at home when ill, dismissal from school for illness and our shared goal of keeping children healthy while continuing the important work of educating our children.

The Health Department website offers guidance to residents about the H1N1 influenza and current status. The website also provides links to the CDC for further information.

Prevention – The school nurses are currently presenting instruction regarding hand washing and reinforcing direction to cover your cough and sneeze. Students who demonstrate symptoms of influenza-like-illness (ILI), which is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as fever over 100° and cough or sore throat, will be dismissed home. Parents who come to

pick up their ill child are provided with an instruction sheet that notes that students are not to return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

Intervention – Currently the H1N1 influenza vaccine is in production and clinical trial. The Milford Health Department is in continual conference with the CT Department of Health, the lead agency for the state, regarding distribution of vaccine when it is available. We have been in discussion with some of our local health care providers regarding their plans to provide H1N1 influenza vaccine for their patients. Additionally, the Milford Health Department will provide vaccine as it becomes available, following the guidance from the CDC and CT Department of Public Health regarding priority groups to receive vaccine.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Clinics

The seasonal influenza clinics for Milford residents and employees will begin early this flu season in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. The CDC recommends administering seasonal flu vaccine as soon as it becomes available. Clinics have been scheduled beginning September 15th. A listing of the scheduled clinics will be posted to the Health Department web site, advertised in the newspaper and on the telephone message system when residents call the Health Department.

Senior Citizen Center Flu Clinics – The Milford Senior Center and Milford Health Department will host three flu clinics in October. Clinics are scheduled for October 5th, 7th and 9th. Historically between 1,400-1,600 vaccinations are provided during the 3-day flu clinic event.

School Health Services

Several hundred Milford students enjoyed successful extended school year (“summer school”) and Camp Happiness programs this summer. In light of the ongoing H1N1 influenza pandemic, the school nurses continued daily monitoring for influenza-like-illness (ILI) in students throughout the summer programs to watch for signs of illness.

All public health nurses returned to work on August 27, 2009, reporting to the Health Department for their staff meeting briefing. The briefing, which highlighted the H1N1 pandemic and planning for school age children and the school environment, also included initiatives for the coming school year. School nurse initiatives for 2009-10 include seasonal and H1N1 influenza planning and implementation of vaccine plans as well as a focus on asthma management for our school age students.

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 109 cases of disease reported for the months of June, July, and August combined. Fifty-six percent (56%) of these cases were reported in June, due to an increased number of reports of influenza. 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.

Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Planning & Response

The Community Health Coordinator participated in the Region 2 H1N1 Influenza Coordinating Committee over the summer months. As part of the Risk Communication Task Force, a Pandemic Influenza electronic library was created as a resource for local health departments and other

agencies in our region. This library was comprised of print materials, including brochures, letter templates, and flyers, regarding H1N1 and seasonal influenza.

The Community Health Coordinator has also been working with local agencies on dissemination of H1N1 information to the community. Specifically, we have been working with the Milford Public Schools regarding communication to parents, students, and staff regarding H1N1. Milford Government Access TV will also be playing the video “Why don’t we do it in our sleeves?” throughout the fall, which teaches the proper techniques for covering coughs and sneezes. These efforts will continue as the situation with H1N1 continues to evolve.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 92 referrals for the contract year, which ended on August 31st. The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) has renewed Milford’s contract for three more years. The total award amount has also increased per year to \$23,750 (from \$15,000) due to the success of the program.

As a result of the program’s partnership with the Hospital of St. Raphael Community Rotation program, one of the Chief Residents has chosen the Putting on AIRS Program as the topic of her Grand Rounds presentation. The resident will present on the program in October.

3rd Symposium on Compulsive Hoarding & Troubled Housing

The Milford Health Department hosted the third regional symposium on compulsive hoarding and troubled housing on June 17, 2009 at the Hilton Garden Inn—Milford. Over 100 individuals from a variety of disciplines including health, social work, fire, animal control, and housing officials attended the symposium. The keynote presentation has been shown on Milford Government Access Television over the past month. The feedback regarding the symposium has been excellent and a follow-up session will be held on September 29, 2009 at the Milford Public Library, per request of attendees. The documentary “My Mother’s Garden,” which tells the story of a hoarder, will be screened that night followed by a discussion.

Emergency Preparedness Report - Tara Mustakos

Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report

Diana Yassanye served her last day as the Cities Readiness Initiative Coordinator for Region 2 on Friday, September 11th. Diana is moving on to her new position with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Amy Shields will continue to serve as Regional Planner for the regional preparedness grants. Patrick Pickering is still with the Department on a very limited basis. Phil Maloney and Bill Richards will also maintain fulfillment of deliverables for Regional/CRI grants until the CRI Coordinator position is filled.

The regional team completed 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. The Milford Health Department scored a 95 out of a possible 100, showing great progress in plan development through the May 19th, 1st Meds exercise.

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.

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2 Influenza Coordinating Committee has been working diligently for several months planning for the predicted pandemic this fall. The Vaccine Administrative Taskforce, lead by Joan Cagginello, works closely to monitor CT Department of Public Health (DPH) and CDC recommendations in vaccine distribution planning.

Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity – Tara Mustakos

Local Emergency Preparedness

The Milford Health Department successfully completed the 2009 Technical Assessment Review with the CT Department of Public Health. As noted above, Milford made remarkable progress in the expansion of emergency operation plans and the creation of necessary documentation to score 95, on the Federal assessment.

The Health Department has begun local planning for seasonal flu vaccination clinics. Several clinics will be scheduled including a general public clinic at Platt Technical High School in early October. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers will participate with this clinic as part of training for mass vaccination.

The Milford Health Department MRC/CERT volunteers will be meeting later this fall for the bi-annual meeting and briefing on anticipated flu activities in which volunteers will be called on for participation.

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.

Bill Richards and Amy Shields have outreached to local Faith Based communities in light of the H1N1 flu virus. Bill Richards and Tara Mustakos will be attending the Milford Clergy Association September meeting to focus on preventative measures and preparedness for H1N1 influenza.

New Business:

Director's Report:

- D. McBride informed the Board that Diana Yassanye has left the Health Department to take a position with the CDC in Atlanta, GA as a Strategic National Stockpile Trainer. Staff in the preparedness division will cover requirements established under the grant till her position is filled.
- D. McBride commended Tara for her work on the Technical Assessment Review (TAR). The Milford Health Department scored at 95 out of 100, which is indicative of the progress in plan development in the last exercise held in May 2009.

- D. McBride stated that Deepa & Joan had participated over the summer in the Region 2 H1N1 Influenza Coordinating Committee, which resulted in a library of printer materials regarding seasonal & H1N1 and Seasonal Influenza. C. Young questioned if the Cough video “Why Don’t We Do It in Our Sleeves” would be run at the mall. D. McBride stated that currently the focus has been the schools and public access television. However the Coordinating Committee should be starting up again and that could be a consideration.
- D. McBride made a presentation to the Board of Education on Monday evening regarding Pandemic H1N1 Influenza & Schools. It was recorded for access television and he provided copies to the Board. He reviewed some of the questions raised at the Board of Education meeting and the Board of Health raised some of their own and some suggestions regarding vaccination were discussed.
- D. McBride added that Monday night at the Board of Alderman, a Blight Ordinance was approved, appointing him as the Anti-Blight Enforcement Officer. He added that the staff at the Health Dept. helped to draft the ordinance.

Adjournment:

H. Fink motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by J. Costello and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder