

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2014**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson  
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Ernest Judson  
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS  
Laura Fucci, Board of Education Liaison  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

William F. Lynch, MD  
Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Others Present: Pam McLoughlin, New Haven Register*

*Health Department Staff Present*

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director  
Deepa Joseph, MPH, Deputy Director

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on June 17, 2014 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by M. Quintner.

**Public Session:** None

**Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller, REHS/RS**

Temporary Food Service Events

Since the start of the 2014/2015 fiscal year, the Environmental Health Division so far issued permits for and conducted inspections at 57 public community events and issued 171 temporary event permits to vendors where food was prepared on site and sold to the public. Not only do Environmental Health Sanitarians conduct risk based inspections at all food service booths, additional time is spent processing applications, fielding questions and training volunteer food handlers.

Beach Monitoring

May 26, 2014 kicked off the start of the beach-monitoring season. Every week between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Sanitarians collected water samples and conducted sanitary

surveys at 16 different locations along the Milford coastline. Water samples were sent to the Connecticut State Lab for analyzing. When collecting sea water samples, Sanitarian's also inspected the tide line to identify potential hazards such as medical waste and/or syringes. If there was something suspicious observed, Sanitarians are instructed to contact the Milford Police Department. As with previous years, this year proved to be a great year for water quality.

#### Mosquito Surveillance and Monitoring

September is the peak month for West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in Connecticut and we continue to urge everyone to take precautions against mosquito bites and to maintain their properties so that they prevent mosquitoes from breeding. So far this season, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has identified WNV infected mosquitoes in Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, New Haven and New London counties. All Habitat Services, the mosquito control contractor for the Milford Health Department (MHD) continues to implement preventive measures against mosquito breeding.

Throughout the year All Habitat Services applies a biological larvicide strategically throughout Milford in order to control mosquito larvae. Areas that are monitored and treated include all catch basins, 90 known mosquito breeding sites and any other area that is prone to ponding water. This year representatives from MHD attended various fairs and events including the Oyster Festival to hand out samples of insect repellent wipes and information on how to protect oneself from mosquitoes and West Nile Virus and how to prevent mosquitoes from breeding around the home. The health department website is updated with the latest information on West Nile Virus and tips on how to protect yourself and your home from mosquitoes.

#### Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending September 12, 2014 the Health Department received 84 general complaints from Milford residents for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. Of those 84 complaints, 15 were complaints of blight.

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. These eight properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance.

*Comments: None*

#### **Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN**

##### School Health Services

The public health nurses returned to work on August 21, 2014. The Health Department hired one new full time nurse this summer: Cora Singer, who is assigned to Foran High School. Cora has worked for the Milford Health Department since January 2010 both as a substitute school nurse and also in the Community Health division where she was responsible for monitoring reports of communicable disease and assisting in epidemiology investigations among other duties. We are very excited to have Cora as a member of our full time team!

Kathy Scarinzi, RN, BSN, NCSN has been reappointed the Lead Nurse among the public health nurses in our department. Kathy brings over 20 years of school nursing experience and is well respected by both her peers and school personnel. She will be assisting in the orientation process of our new nurse and will serve as mentor to her throughout the year.

### Flu Season and Influenza Vaccine

This season's influenza vaccine has begun to arrive at the Health Department and we are in the process of setting the schedule for vaccination clinics in the community. For 2014–15, U.S.-licensed influenza vaccines will contain the same vaccine virus strains as those in the 2013–14 vaccine. Trivalent influenza vaccines will contain an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Texas/50/2012 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus. Quadrivalent influenza vaccines will contain these antigens, and also a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

Flu clinics at the Milford Senior Center will be held on October 6th and October 8th from 11am-1pm. A General Public Flu Clinic will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30 – 6:30 pm at the Milford Health Department.

For 2014–15, The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends the following:

- All persons aged  $\geq 6$  months should receive influenza vaccine annually.
- The nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) should be used for healthy children aged 2 through 8 years who have no contraindications or precautions. There is evidence that the nasal spray vaccine may work better in younger children than a regular flu shot. The ACIP and CDC now recommend the nasal spray vaccine for healthy children 2 through 8 years old when it is available.

It is especially important for young children, people over 65 years of age, pregnant women, and people with health conditions to get the flu shot. It is also important for all health care workers and individuals in close contact with children less than 6 months of age to receive an annual influenza vaccination. The Health Department will continue to provide the High Dose influenza vaccine for individuals over 65 years of age. Persons over age 65 are known to have a lower immune response to the seasonal flu vaccine. The High Dose vaccine, known as Fluzone High Dose, has four times the antigen as the seasonal flu vaccine. This allows for a better immune response for people over 65 years of age. The Milford Health Department will have Fluzone High Dose available at both the senior clinics and the community clinics.

### *Comments:*

- *C. Young asked about preparations for the influenza vaccination campaign. D. McBride responded that dates for clinics have been set. D. McBride also stated that he will be looking into the CDC recommendations for use of live attenuated vaccine, as he has not been a proponent of utilizing the live vaccine in the past due to concerns regarding disease transmission and administration methods.*

## **Emergency Preparedness Reports – Tara Mustakos-Wassmer, REHS/RS, CHES**

The City of Milford continues to manage a local emergency planning and preparedness grant. Objectives for this fiscal year include:

- Strengthen regional collaboration among all RESF8 (Regional Emergency Support Function) partners
- Develop regional strategies and strength in meeting all 23 PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) capabilities
- Test regional strategies and strength through operational exercises
- Improve coordination and communication between DPH (Department of Public Health) and RESF8 partners.

Milford's Local Emergency Management Committee continues to meet quarterly. The Environmental Division Chief, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Deputy Director of the Health Department are actively involved with committee meetings and subsequent planning projects. The Environmental Division Chief and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator recently attended the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meeting. Presentation topics included Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and their importance, response to hazardous material events and emerging hazards through advances in technology. Several members of the Milford Fire Department Hazmat team also were in attendance.

Several employees including high school interns worked the Oyster Festival tent for the Milford Health Department. Our tent hosted a variety of public health information including asthma education and awareness, personal preparedness, tick and mosquito prevention, sun safety as well as a mixture of handouts, give-a-ways, a place for passer-buyers to wash his/her hands and a game focused on asthma education. The Milford Health Department will be hosting a high school intern for the fall. Responsibilities for Milford Health Department interns include a variety of different tasks: bulletin board design and production, creating E-Magazine articles and health and emergency preparedness related handouts for community events.

A monthly meeting of all Region 2 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinators was held at the University of New Haven. The Milford Volunteer Coordinator announced a meeting of Milford MRC/Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members where a CERT volunteer will present on his experience sheltering at the Astrodome in Texas following Hurricane Katrina. This Milford volunteer was the Red Cross lead for this huge sheltering operation and had some special insight and experiences to share with the audience. All Region 2 MRC coordinators and their respective volunteers were invited to attend. The August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Milford CERT/MRC Volunteers was attended by 14 members. There was interest on the topic of sheltering with the possibility of bringing in trainers to conduct a more formal and extensive Red Cross based shelter training workshop.

New CERT group member training is in the works. An employee from Center Fire District in West Haven has agreed to be the certified trainer of record for the upcoming new CERT team training. Following a meeting with EMD Chief Edo, it was determined that the MFD would supplement the training in the areas of portable fire extinguishers, CPR/AED and first aid.

*Comments: None*

## **Community Health – Deepa Joseph, MPH**

### *Disease Surveillance*

There were 86 cases of disease reported for the months of June, July, and August, with chlamydia being the most reported disease.

News regarding Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) is quickly evolving, with this serious respiratory illness spread across several states. Currently, the Health Department has not received reports of increasing illness and/or absenteeism in the community. Milford Health Department staff continues to work with local and state officials to monitor the situation closely. The Health Department will provide updates and information regarding the virus as necessary.

### *Putting on AIRS Asthma Program*

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 98 total referrals for this contract year, with 49 home visits made. Our region continues to serve as a leader in the state, with the highest number of referrals and visits in the state. This year, the Milford Health Department received an increase in funding to support this regional program. DPH is requesting the program staff complete at least fifty (50) home visits by the end of the contract year. Program staff will be working with local health department and districts, as well as providers, to continue to encourage referrals in order to meet our contract goals. The New Haven Register featured a story regarding increases in Emergency Department visits due to asthma and cited the Putting on AIRS program as an effective program to assist with addressing this issue (see <http://www.nhregister.com/health/20140915/connecticut-er-visits-and-hospitalizations-for-asthma-on-the-rise> ).

### *School Nurse Application Program (SNAP) Health Software*

This summer the Deputy Director worked closely with the City's MIS Coordinator to implement a new school nurse database system, SNAP Health Center. SNAP Health Center is a comprehensive medical documentation and tracking software suite that manages every aspect of student health related data. All of the nurses were received hands-on training with the software when they returned from summer vacation. Initial feedback regarding the program has been extremely positive. The configuration of SNAP allows for streamlined documentation, specific to student health needs and concerns.

### *Parent Trust Fund Grant*

The Milford Health Department submitted a grant application in July to the State Education Resource Center/Parent Information Resource Center to support parent leadership training in Milford. The proposed program model is the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI). The Health Department received notification that we have been awarded the maximum amount of \$26, 685 for this year. The PLTI Design Team had its first meeting this month and has begun recruitment efforts, with the goal of beginning the class in January 2015 with 25 participants.

*Comments: None*

**Old Business:**

- *C. Young asked D. McBride for an update on the dental surveys. D. McBride reported that the surveys are going out with the permission slips as the dental hygienists go to each school. D. Joseph added that data will be collected and analyzed on an ongoing basis, as it is received from each school.*
- *C. Young asked D. McBride for an update regarding the outdoor smoking policy. D. Joseph responded that the Recreation Department is working with the City Attorney's office on developing a policy.*

**Director's Report:**

- *D. McBride discussed the recent news regarding Enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68), a virus that has caused serious respiratory illness in several children in various states. D. McBride stated that the Milford Health Department has not received any reports of illness and/or increased absenteeism due to illness. Per a conference call with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the average age of children who have been seen in hospitals in the Midwest is 5 years of age and over 50% of cases have a history of asthma. D. McBride and Dr. Feser, Superintendent of Schools, sent a letter out to parents regarding the virus. The Health Department will send a second notice out to local providers regarding the case definition, signs, and symptoms to be aware of.*

*Comments:*

- *J. Costello asked if there have been any adult cases. D. McBride responded none at this time.*

**New Business:**

- *R. Vitali asked if D. McBride is aware of the electronic cigarette venue that has recently opened in Milford. D. McBride*

**Adjournment:**

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting and was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deepa Joseph, MPH  
Recorder