

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2019**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN, Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Ernest Judson
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Warren Pawlowski, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Constance Young, EdD, RN
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None

Health Department Staff Present:

Deepa Joseph, MPH, Director of Health
Carol Soulier, Recording Secretary

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

Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on June 18, 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

Temporary Food Service Events: Since the start of the 2019/2020 fiscal year, the Environmental Health Division has conducted inspections at 48 public community events and issued 165 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, but also additional time is spent processing applications, fielding questions, and training volunteer food handlers.

Our food service training program is targeted toward volunteers preparing and serving food at the Oyster Festival and ball field concession stands. The Environmental Health Division held two training sessions for Oyster Festival and Concession Stand volunteers during evening hours. For the 2020 Oyster Festival, we trained 57 volunteers who prepare and serve food to the public at the Oyster Festival and ball field concession stands. These volunteers were issued I.D. badges for recognition of their completion of this training, and for their use when working at the various food booths.

Mosquito Prevention Program: Although September is typically the peak month for West Nile Virus, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station last week reported that eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus has been identified in mosquitoes in 12 Connecticut towns and the Connecticut Department of Public Health announced the first human case of the disease. In a press release on Monday, September 16th, the CT DPH reported that an adult resident of the town of East Lyme has tested positive for EEE. This is the first human case of EEE diagnosed this season. As we head into the autumn months, All Habitat, LLC continues to implement preventive measures at all identified mosquito breeding areas and we have mosquito dunks (BTI) available for 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. The MHD continues to urge everyone to take precautions against mosquito bites and to maintain their properties so that they prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Anti-blight activities: As of the week ending September 13, 2019, the Health Department received 106 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 106 complaints, 31 were complaints of blight for the 2019/2020 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.

Comments:

- *A discussion ensued about heightened attention regarding control of the City's mosquito population due to news of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in the region. D. Joseph commented that the City has a comprehensive mosquito control program and that All Habitat will continue to treat through the end of October. This year, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station scientists have been conducting additional sampling of mosquitoes in Milford from catch basins and extra mosquito traps around the City. J. Cagginello asked if outdoor activities would be curtailed if mosquitoes in Milford tested positively for EEE. D. Joseph said that there would be a review of data and environmental risk factors to determine necessary response.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN

School Health Services: The public health nurses returned to work on August 22, 2019. We started the year with a welcome back staff meeting at which time the nurses were given Chromebooks which they will now be using instead of stationary desk top computers. Training in their use was provided by the Milford Public Schools IT Department. Using Chromebooks will enable the nurses to document nursing notes both in the office and at school meetings, have immediate access to student health records at PPT/504 meetings, and to communicate more efficiently with school staff. Everyone was excited and the Chromebooks are working out very well.

Kathy Malski RN BSN has been reappointed the Lead Nurse among the public health nurses in our department. Kathy brings many years of school nursing experience and is well respected by both her peers and school personnel. She will continue the orientation process of the nurses hired last school year, and also will be assisting in the orientation of a new substitute nurse, Karen Schumann, who is starting work on September 17th.

An open Health Clerk position was filled over the summer. Dee Aquilino has been hired as the Middle School Health Clerk. She replaces Barbara Fuller who resigned.

Flu Season and Influenza Vaccine: This season's influenza vaccine has begun to arrive at the Health Department and the schedule for vaccination clinics in the community has been finalized:

- October 15th – 2:30 – 4:30 pm ~ Board of Ed Employees ~ BOE conference room
- October 21th – 2:30 – 4:30 pm ~ City Employees ~ BOE conference room
- October 23rd – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm ~ Milford Senior Center
- October 24th – 11:30 am – 4:30 pm ~ Health Fair ~ Parson's Gymnasium
- October 30th – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm ~ Milford Senior Center
- October 29th – 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm ~ Board of Ed Employees ~ BOE conference room
- November 6th – 3 – 6:30 pm ~ General Public Clinic - MHD

The trivalent U.S. influenza vaccine composition for the 2019-2020 season will contain:

- an A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1)pdm09–like virus,
- an A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)–like virus, and
- a B/Colorado/06/2017–like virus (Victoria lineage)

Quadrivalent vaccines will include an additional virus strain:

- a B/Phuket/3073/2013–like virus (Yamagata lineage)

For 2019-2020, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends the following:

Routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications. 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:

- *D. Joseph commented that the MHD, City's IT Department, and Milford Public School IT Department have worked in a great partnership to ensure the Chromebooks will allow nurses to serve their students with greater flexibility and ease.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) representatives participated at the Chesprocott Health District emergency preparedness drill on June 25th, 2019, at Cheshire High School. The purpose of the drill was to test the Point of Dispensing (POD) plan to distribute medication in the event of a public health emergency. All health departments and districts nationwide are required to conduct drills and exercises to test operational readiness to respond to a public health emergency. Milford is planning our next drill for October. The Health and Wellness Fair flu clinic reflects the set up Milford would plan to do in a real emergency to provide mass vaccinations to the community.

MHD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator participated in the bi-monthly Health and Medical Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 meeting June 19, 2019. July 1st, the state has required local health to regionalize public health emergency planning. Chesprocott Health District is the regional lead and fiduciary for CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2 and MHD Director of Health is continuing as the ESF Public Health lead for our region. A follow up planning meeting occurred July 3rd, and, on August 21st, we completed the multiyear training and exercise planning meeting (MYTEP) to set the timeline for the next 5 years.

The annual Milford Emergency Management meeting was held August 4th. Representatives from Milford fire, the Fire Chief, Deputy Emergency Manager, police, animal control, department of planning and land use, and the health department met to discuss planning for hurricane season, winter storms, and the Family Assistance Center (FAC) plan. 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 and Environmental Division Chief attended the Statewide Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meeting. Topics typically include environmental hazardous materials, new and emerging threats to local communities as it relates to Haz-Mat, and responder health and safety. A representative from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented on the type and number of hazardous materials transported through the United States daily and showed the numbers and type of materials specific to Connecticut. Milford is a high traffic location due to the transportation systems and proximity to New Haven Harbor.

Milford new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members were officially sworn in August 4th, 2019. A total of 24 people attended the meeting. New and existing volunteers took the loyalty oath, new members received their CERT backpack, and a presentation on Milford's current state of emergency planning was presented.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph reported that HazWaste Central is being held at the Public Works garage on Ford Street this Saturday, September 21st.*

Community Health Division Report - Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Communicable Disease Surveillance: There were 53 cases of disease reported for the months of July and August

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, 2019 started a new programmatic year and thus far we have received 4 referrals for POA. The program is still ongoing with our contract execution date anticipated in November.

Our SIM (State Innovation Model) project using the POA service model is still underway. The project has received over 90 referrals from Fair Haven Community Health Center. We have accomplished many successes and endured many challenges to adjust to this direction that the state is leaning towards. Many learning curves and systematic adjustments to make this partnership work has been quite the task, but we continue to push forward.

Parent Leadership Training: As you all know, we have implemented PLTI (Parent Leadership Training Institute) over 9 years. 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. This year, we hope to apply and be granted money to implement a different training model known as Parent SEE (Parents Supporting Educational Excellence). This 13 week leadership training is for all parents, grandparents, and caring adults. Each week, participants build on their skills and experience by acquiring new information and tools, working together in a way that encourages understanding of diverse viewpoints and practicing the skills needed to partner effectively to bring about change. It is very similar to PLTI but focuses on education as the main component. Previous PLTI alumni may also apply to join the program. We believe this curriculum will fit the growing needs of our community and assist us in sustaining a leadership program for our parents.

Public Health Accreditation:

The Milford Health Department is preparing itself to become accredited. We anticipate developing small stakeholder meetings in the fall to address issues that came up in the data along with any merging issues.

Our technical assistance (TA) project: Strong Systems, Stronger Communities (SSSC) with NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) has continued and just held a workshop on influenza at the Milford Senior Center. As you are aware, this TA consists of us creating a Quality Improvement (QI) project that will improve vaccination rates with the Milford Senior Center (MSC). We now have two flu clinics scheduled at the MSC in October (*see attached flyer*). Conducting these clinics will allow us to adapt our immunization clinics to

meet community 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, submitted reports to DPH for our Ebola contract, submitted our reports and application for Per Capita, and are wrapping up our POA report for asthma to DPH. We are applying for many other grants and opportunities as well.

Comments:

- *A discussion ensued regarding the on-going, challenging work the MHD is doing in collaboration with the Fair Haven Community Health Center on the State Innovation Model-Putting on Airs grant. D. Joseph reported that fewer referrals than expected are resulting in outreach visits and follow up visits.*
- *A discussion ensued regarding the various factors the Department is considering relative to applying for the PLTI grant versus the Parent SEE grant.*

Old Business: None

Director's Report: Deepa Joseph, MPH

- *D. Joseph reported that new sanitarian, Tim Noia, joined the Department's staff at the beginning of August with several years experience. Tim fills the vacancy created by Bob Grive's retirement at the end of June.*
- *D. Joseph reported that the homeless task force continues its work and has adopted the acronym HUMAN (Homeless and Unsheltered Multi-Agency Network). J. Cagginello commented that the recent Faces of Homelessness presentation hosted by the Milford Homeless Outreach Group at the Milford Public Library was excellent.*
- *J. Cagginello asked how the Board of Health can support the ban on religious exemption for vaccinations. D. Joseph responded that she will speak with legislators and that the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health is supporting the statewide repeal of the religious exemption. J. Cagginello asked how Milford's statistics look. D. Joseph responded that Milford's immunization rate is high overall, but that there are pockets with a higher rate of exemption than has been seen previously.*
- *A discussion ensued about the new law requiring bus drivers to administer EpiPens. D. Joseph commented that Milford's school bus drivers have been trained but that the School Nurses were not involved in that training.*

New Business: None

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carol Soulier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carol" and last name "Soulier" clearly distinguishable.

Carol Soulier
Recorder

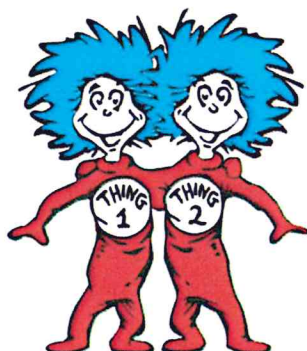
Hey Milford Seniors, DO A THING OR 2 TO AVOID THE FLU

**Get Your Flu Shot at the
SENIOR FLU CLINIC**

9 Jepson Drive, Milford, CT 06460

**October 23, 2019
(10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)**

**October 30, 2019
(10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)**



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