

Board of Health Meeting Minutes September 18, 2007

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, Chairperson
Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson
Joseph Reingold, Secretary
Howard Fink
Mitchell Quintner
David Amendola, Board of Education Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Robert Toronto
Deborah Woods
Joan Politi, Board of Alderman Liaison
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison

Health Department Staff Present

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director
Joan Cagginello, RN, MS, Nurse Administrator
Robert Grive, RS, Environmental Health
Deepa Joseph, MPH, Community Health Coordinator
Diana Yassanye, MS, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

The minutes of the June 19, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by H. Fink seconded by E. Judson.

Environmental Health Report – presented by Bob Grive, RS

80 Wampus Lane Environmental Cleanup

Tomorrow (9-19-07) preliminary brush clearing and air monitoring will begin at the site prior to beginning the cleanup, which will be supervised by the EPA under the CERCLA ACT. The site was formerly owned by the Burndy Corporation which manufactured rubber and plastic products, as well as doing degreasing, plating and wastewater treatment from 1965 to 1991. The main chemical pollutants that were found at the site were the metals lead and beryllium and Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPHs).

These contaminants are contained in a drainage ditch (swale), which empties into the Stubby Plains Brook. They will be excavated out of the ditch and removed from the premises. The disturbed woods and wetland areas will be restored. Control and security measures, have been put in to place to minimize the risk of exposure to workers and residents in the surrounding area. Control measures will include, but are not limited to, use of worker personal protective gear, dust

control, air pollution monitoring, security measures, and a traffic control plan. The public will also be restricted from the area during remediation.

155 Hill Street

During the course of an environmental cleanup being conducted, environmental contractors accidentally released potassium permanganate into the storm water drainage system running from the property located at 155 Hill ST (the former Robertshaw Controls Co), to a stream on Mayflower Lane. Potassium permanganate is a dark purple compound used as an oxidizing agent and disinfectant. The compound was being used to treat contaminated groundwater. The cracked storm sewer system has been repaired. The permanganate did not surface in any neighborhoods and this department did not receive any reports of neighborhood exposure to the permanganate.

Oyster Festival

This year the Health Department issued permits for temporary food service on Friday night, August 17th, in addition to the 42 applications issued for Saturday the 18th. The Environmental Division personnel spent over 80 hours training volunteers, processing applications, fielding questions and conducting risk based inspections at all food service booths.

In addition to our regulatory responsibilities, the Health Department staffed a booth on the green. Lots of information on many health related issues was passed out including West Nile Virus and how to protect yourself, Lyme Disease, identification and prevention, sun safety, nutrition and physical activity education, food protection at home and emergency preparedness, home emergency kits.

Mosquito Control

September is the peak for West Nile Virus in Connecticut and we continue to urge everyone to take precautions against mosquito bites and how to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on individual properties. All Habitat, LLC continues to implement preventive measures against breeding areas. 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.

Comments:

- C. Young asked where the EPA takes the contaminated soil and if anyone reported illness in connection with this site. B. Grive explained that the soil will be taken to an EPA approved site and he is not aware of any illness. D. McBride added that his staff did a great job of handling this, by training the police on what to expect at the site, as well as walking door to door to St. Mary's School, area businesses and homes to educate them on this site. EPA has taken the lead and has been monitoring this site since 2002.

Nursing Division Report – Presented by Joan Cagginello

Immunization Clinics

Routine monthly immunization clinics were held in July and August, as well as a "back-to-school" clinic in late August. The number of children attending these summer clinics was notably decreased. This may be due to several reasons; the most notable is that the number of students that were non-compliant for school entry at the middle and high school levels has

decreased. Monitoring, intervention and follow-up of students by the school nurses has made an impact on this population. Students entering preschool and kindergarten are receiving their immunizations earlier at their primary care providers or the VNA well child clinics.

Flu Season and Influenza Vaccine

The Milford Health Department will continue our flu vaccine campaign that we have provided for the community in past years and will expand the program this year to provide vaccine to children. The Visiting Nurse Association will work with the Health Department to host a Family Flu Day on November 3rd. The flu clinic that will provide flu shots for all family members will be held at the Milford Public Library. The VNA will be able to accept various insurance plan coverage and will also be able to provide Vaccine For Children (VFC) flu vaccine for those children that do not have insurance or have insurance that does not include vaccine coverage.

The Senior Citizen Center will host three flu clinics at the center beginning in early November. The additional clinic day will allow for the same total number of seniors to be vaccinated, while reducing the number of patrons at each clinic, resulting in decreased waiting time. The Health Department will also sponsor a Vote & Vax campaign on Elections Day this year. A flu vaccine clinic will be held at a polling place and voters will be able to receive a flu shot after they vote. Both morning and after work hour clinics will be offered. We will also plan to hold clinics to provide flu vaccine for city and Milford public school employees.

School Health Services

The school nurses returned to work on August 28, 2007. One of our nurses Vivienne Chambery has retired effective September 7, 2007. A new nurse, Joan Campbell, was hired and is assigned to St. Gabriel School. She is currently being oriented and mentored by our Lead Nurse, Marsha Schultz.

The school nurses will focus on three areas of interest this school year; asthma management and education, influenza vaccine for children and professional development for the nurses.

Community Health Division Report—Presented by Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 58 cases of disease reported for the months of June, July, and August cumulatively with chlamydia being the most reported disease for each month.

2nd Annual Symposium on Troubled Housing Issues

The Health Department conducted the 2nd annual regional symposium on troubled housing issues and hoarding entitled Bursting at the Seams: Too Many Pets & Too Much Stuff in June. Over 100 participants from various disciplines attended the symposium, along with prominent speakers including Speaker James Amann and Senator Gayle Slossberg. As a direct result of the discussion with legislators at the symposium, a Blue Ribbon State Task Force will be established to address troubled housing and hoarding issues from a statewide perspective.

2007 Milford Oyster Festival Initiatives

In an effort to encourage healthy lifestyles and healthy communities in Milford, this year the Health Department encouraged food vendors to consider providing festival goers healthier food choices this year at the festival. Vendors were receptive to the idea with several groups

providing healthier alternatives including veggie wraps and veggie burgers. In addition, all vendors chose to use zero trans fat oil for cooking at the festival this year.

In addition, this year was the first year for Milford's Friday Night at the Festival event held the night before the Oyster Festival. In order to increase access to wholesome fruits and vegetables, the Health Department requested the incorporation of a Farmers Market into the event. Robert Treat Farm participated and provided a variety of vegetables for the market. The market was not as successful as we had hoped due to inclement weather as well as the location of the market. Oyster Festival Committee members are already discussing changes for next year and are excited about incorporating the Farmers Market again.

Putting on AIRS

The Putting on AIRS asthma home assessment program has received 32 referrals to date. Of these referrals, three were received from a pediatric practice in the region for children who were newly diagnosed with asthma. The Milford Health Department has been approved for continued funding to continue this program for the next two years. The focus for the year ahead is to increase marketing and strengthen relationships with physicians in the region to encourage referrals.

Walking School Bus Program

The Walking School Bus program at Calf Pen Meadow continued this year with the start of the school year. A letter encouraging participation was sent to parents during the summer and additional recruitment has been conducted at events throughout the beginning of the school year. The Health Department will continue to work with the Wellness Committee at Calf Pen Meadow School to expand the program this year. In addition, the Health Department has been awarded continued funding through the Connecticut Department of Public Health to expand the program to two additional schools.

School Based Health Center

The Milford Health Department is revisiting the idea of establishing a school based health center in Milford. Health Department staff has begun discussions with the new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Harvey Polansky, as well as other officials regarding the feasibility of establishing a center in Milford in the near future.

Pioneering Healthier Communities

The Health Department has been working with the Woodruff YMCA on conducting the Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative in Milford. The initiative is a community leadership strategy to facilitate healthier living through policy and environmental changes and is being conducted in communities around the country in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goals of the Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative are to raise awareness and strengthen the framework for community-wide movements to reverse the trends in physical inactivity and increase access to wholesome foods in our community. The Health Department is collaborating with the Central Connecticut Coastline YMCA on submitting an application for funding from the YMCA of the USA to support initiatives in Milford including the Walking School Bus program.

Comments:

- D. McBride explained regarding the School Based Health Center, he has already spoken with Superintendent Polansky and as long as we do not address family planning he is in support of the center. D. McBride explained that this center would be an inexpensive way of helping families and providing primary care to those who need. D. McBride, in partnership with education officials, would like to establish a planning committee. H. Fink asked where the money is coming from. D. McBride responded that most of the funding would come from grants and support from State legislators. D. Amendola asked if a location for the center has been determined and where in the school would the center be placed. D. McBride responded that he would start at Foran High School, which could service Alternative Education students then move onto Law High School. He explained that a very small space is required and the location is important within the building for confidentiality purposes. D. McBride stressed that the planning committee will play a crucial role in determining the details and logistics of the school-based health center.
- E. Judson asked if we take on newly diagnosed asthma patients only through the Putting on AIRS program.. D. Joseph responded that they take all asthma cases, however the patients that have been already diagnosed for several years typically are well educated regarding the illness. Those who are newly diagnosed seem to benefit to a greater degree from the education provided.

Emergency Preparedness Report – Presented by Diana Yassanye

Cities Readiness Initiative

Phil Maloney, ret. Milford Police, has been hired to coordinate security plans for mass dispensing sites in Milford and across the region. These security plans will comply with CDC standards set out in the Strategic National Stockpile Technical Assistance Review. He will work with local public health and security authorities to evaluate their mass dispensing sites across the region.

The paperwork for a lease for an additional space for preparedness staff is being reviewed by city boards (Planning & Zoning, Aldermen). There are currently four part-time and one full-time preparedness staff using three desks in two offices. There is a need for at least one more full-time and possibly other part time staff with the addition of future grants. The CRI grant will pay for all expenses involved in a supplemental space to house and support these staff.

In addition, office supplies for such a space needed to be purchased under the grant period that ended Aug. 30, 2007. These supplies are going to be kept at a storage facility until a time they can be installed. The paperwork for the storage facility is in process and as soon as possible, the supplies at the Health Department will be transferred.

Local Preparedness Grant

The local preparedness coordinator position has gone back out to bid. The announcement closes on October 18th.

Regional Preparedness Grant

The Regional planning grant that Milford has managed for the past few years went out to bid over the summer. One of the other regions' coordinating health departments withdrew from the grant and DPH decided to request new applications from all five of the regions. Milford Health Department has submitted the grant application with the support from the region's Health

Directors. The funding cycle for regional planning will be from September 2007 to August 2010.

Pandemic Flu planning

The local flu awareness campaign will officially begin October 1st:

Tri-Folds 18,800 tri-folds have been allocated for mailings through the Milford Chamber of Commerce, The Milford Bank and Milford Public Schools. They will also be distributed through all flu clinics, the Milford Condo Association, and other events planned for the winter in Milford. Business Continuity guides Hard-copies of this guide will be offered through the health department, The Milford Bank and Milford Chamber of Commerce. Electronic versions will be available through the Chamber of Commerce.

Volunteer Programs: Milford Coalition for Community Preparedness & Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Milford has been approved for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) status. Milford is currently in the process of applying for a \$10,000 grant to support the MRC.

The “Westfield Mall” CERT team, which will be made of employees and Milford residents has been slated to begin training in October. This team will be specialized for the mall, which could become a major asset during an emergency. Milford CERT and MRC will be promoted with a booth on October 13th at the mall’s annual public safety day.

All volunteers, including the first CERT team have been mailed a newsletter with information on trainings and exercises through December.

Comments:

- D. McBride commended his staff, D. Joseph for her grant writing skills and D. Yassanye for her work on the Business Continuity Plan.

Director’s Report – Presented by A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

- D. McBride stated that the priorities for the Health Department are the School Based Health Centers, the hiring of a Local Preparedness Coordinator and acquiring the office space across the street from the Health Department.

New Business

- None.

Adjournment

J. Reingold motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by H. Fink and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS, Recorder

