

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2018**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

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

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

None

*Others Present:*

Pam McLoughlin, New Haven Register

*Health Department Staff Present:*

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

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

**Approval of Minutes – June 19, 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on June 19, 2018 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

**Public Session:** *None*

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

*Food Protection Program:* In 2017 the CT General Assembly passed a bill making the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Model Food Code Connecticut's food code. The new law began phasing in on July 1, 2017 and was supposed to be in full effect on July 1, 2018. However, regulations that will fully implement the FDA Food Code are still in draft form waiting to be reviewed, approved and adopted by the CT Department of Public Health "not later than January 1, 2019." MHD certified food inspectors have completed the class-room portion of the re-certification process and are working toward completion of the online FDA Food Code Training by the end of this month.

*Temporary Food Service Events:* Since the start of the 2018/2019 fiscal year, the Environmental Health Division has issued 104 temporary event permits and conducted inspections at 95 public community events and counting. Once again this year, September is proving to be a very busy

month as there are events with temporary food service planned for every weekend. 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 30, 2018 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 17 different locations along the Milford coastline. There was one beach closure this year in July due to high bacteria levels after several consecutive very heavy rains. Water samples collected at one location exceeded the acceptable concentration of bacteria and the beach was closed to swimming until the water was re-sampled. Typically whenever we receive a single water sample result with a concentration of bacteria greater than what is normally considered acceptable for swimming, a resample is required, and based on the sanitary survey of the surrounding watershed and areas that may impact the bathing area, the beach may be closed for swimming until satisfactory test results are received. Beach water samples go to the Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory weekly by courier for evaluation.

Anti-blight activities: As of the week ending September 14, 2018, the Health Department received 119 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 119 complaints, 28 were complaints of blight for the 2018/2019 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:*

- *D. Joseph noted that Connecticut's implementation of the FDA Food Code has been pushed out to no later than January 1, 2019. Sanitarians are finishing up the FDA Food Code on-line training and are working to prepare Milford's food establishments for the upcoming changes. E. Judson asked if fees will be changing along with the food code. D. Joseph said that fees were modified when the ordinance was revised last fiscal year.*
- *E. Beatty asked about the status of the Asian market under construction on the Boston Post Road. D. Joseph reported that, because of non-compliance with a blight order, the property was referred to the City Attorney's Office and its owners are incurring a charge of \$100 per day. The Health Department continues to work with them with the goal of achieving compliance.*

**Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN**

School Health Services: The public health nurses returned to work on August 21, 2018.

Due to recent staffing changes, the Health Department has hired two new full time nurses: Leeann Deloma and D'Arcy Jeffery. Leeann is assigned to John F. Kennedy School, and

D'Arcy is assigned to assist at all three middle schools. Both Leeann and D'Arcy worked for the Milford Health Department as substitute school nurses this past year and did a great job. Nurses submitting their resignation/retirement notices include Laura Trinkoff, Patricia Maguire and Wendy Valentine. The hiring process continues for two additional nurses. The job posting closes on October 5<sup>th</sup> and we hope to bring the new hires on board in the next couple of months.

Kathy Malski RN BSN has been reappointed the Lead Nurse among the public health nurses in our department. Kathy brings over 15 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 the new nurses and will serve as a mentor to them throughout the year.

*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:

- September 24<sup>th</sup> – 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm - City Employees - Learning Center Classroom, Parsons
- September 25<sup>th</sup> – 2:30pm -4:30 pm - Board of Ed Employees - Learning Center Classroom
- September 26<sup>th</sup>- 7:30 am – 9:30 am – Milford Police Dept Employees - MPD
- September 27<sup>th</sup> – 3:30 pm- 6:30 pm – General Public Clinic - MHD
- October 17<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm - Milford Senior Center
- October 18<sup>th</sup> – 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm – Board of Ed Employees – BOE conference room
- October 25<sup>th</sup>- 11:30 am – 4:30 pm – *Wellness Works* City Health Fair, Parsons Gymnasium

The quadrivalent influenza vaccine composition for the 2018-2019 season will contain:

- an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)-like virus
- an A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (Victoria lineage)
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (Yamagata lineage)

For 2018-2019, The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends the following:

Routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged  $\geq 6$  months who do not have contraindications (people who have experienced a severe (life threatening) allergy to a prior dose of a seasonal influenza vaccine or people who have a severe allergy to a component of the vaccine).

It is especially important for young children, all people 50 years of age and older, pregnant women, people with health conditions, residents of nursing homes and other long term care facilities, persons who are extremely obese ( $BMI \geq 40$ ), and those persons who live with or care for persons at higher risk for influenza-related complications 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.

### Hepatitis A Vaccination Campaign

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported an increase of Hepatitis A in at-risk populations nationally and has encouraged all states, including those currently unaffected, to implement vaccination clinics. Recent Hepatitis A outbreaks in California, Michigan, Utah, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas and West Virginia have involved homeless people (both sheltered and unsheltered) and IV drug users. Given the pattern of significant HAV outbreaks seen in other states, there is concern that a similar outbreak could happen here in CT. The CT DPH has made the Hepatitis A vaccine available free of charge to these identified at-risk groups along with those in close contact with them. The MHD has received its supply of vaccine.

Hepatitis A Vaccination clinics have been scheduled in Milford on:

September 20<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm – Beth El Center  
September 21<sup>st</sup> – 11:30 am– 1:00 pm – Beth El Center

Additional clinics will be scheduled in the near future.

### *Comments:*

- *D. Joseph commented that the Director of Nursing is working hard to ensure school nurse coverage in light of recent staff changes including several retirements and an upcoming maternity leave. J. Cagginello asked if there has been any change in the pay scale for full time and/or substitute nurses. D. Joseph responded that there has not been a change other than the negotiated increases per the nurses' union contract for full time nurses*
- *D. Joseph commented that we have scheduled flu clinics earlier than usual this year and that additional clinics will be added as needed.*

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

On June 21, 2018, Milford participated in this year's Emergency Planning & Preparedness Initiative (EPPI); the Governor's annual statewide exercise. Milford uses this exercise to reevaluate emergency planning efforts, discuss new initiatives and identify areas for improvement from past events, storms, etc. Connecticut's hurricane season begins June 1 and runs through November.

The Milford Health Department (MHD) Volunteer Coordinator is working with the Fire Chief/Emergency Manager to plan for additional trainings of "Until Help Arrives." The program

is a bystander training for trauma events in which everyday citizens receive some basic first aid training, information on bleeding control, how to stay safe, etc. Several trainings have already been done in Milford. The nationally recognized program uses Milford Fire Paramedics to conduct the hands on training.

MHD representatives attended the monthly meetings of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Public Health and Medical, on June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 18<sup>th</sup>. There was no August meeting. The health care coalitions (HCC) across the state were required to participate in training on identifying vulnerable populations. The presentation focused on the informational resource, empower, a tool developed by the US Department of Health and Human Services. Data is provided by geographic area to give emergency planners and responders information on vulnerable populations such as electrical dependant households, households using durable medical equipment such as hospital beds, walkers, etc.

ESF 8 & the HCC's next grant year will include working towards an operational plan for regional response. A subcommittee is in the early stages of forming to do a need assessment and identify areas of operational planning.

The Family Assistance Center (FAC) subcommittee met on August 21<sup>st</sup> to review the status of the plan across the regions, and to discuss training going forward and next steps for plan implementation. The FAC subcommittee leader will present Go-Kit information and disseminate starter kits at the next ESF 8 meeting scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> in Wallingford.

MHD is currently working to get Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteer participation for the New Haven Regional Water Authority HazWaste Collection slated for September 22, 2018 at Milford Public Works. MRC volunteers have participated in the past to help with paperwork, checking for residency, etc.

MHD is about to begin administering flu shots at Health Clinics scheduled over the next 6 weeks. MRC nurses are being asked to volunteer their services at clinics schedule to be held at MHD office, Senior Center and the annual Health & Wellness Fair at Parson's Gym.

*Comments:*

- *None*

**Old Business:** *None*

**Director's Report:** *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *D. Joseph reported that there is no Community Health Division Report due to Jennifer Clarke-Lofters' maternity leave. The Department continues to engage in grant work including the PSI SIM grant. C. Young inquired if this is a model being employed around the country. D. Joseph responded that there is a move to value-based systems in which healthcare providers have greater incentive to pursue community health-based programs and are being held more accountable for health outcomes.*
- *D. Joseph reported that the Department recently submitted the grant application for the PLTI (Parent Leadership Training Institute). With funds from the PLTI Mini-Grant*

*which the Department was recently awarded, a group of alumni are planning an event to reinvigorate the program's alumni and to recruit new participants.*

- *D. Joseph commented that the MHD continues to work on its strategic plan. At the Oyster Festival, community members provided feedback about the Department by completing an online survey. E. Judson inquired about the feedback from the stakeholder meeting held in June. D. Joseph responded that feedback was mostly positive and included discussion about how the Department will be able to expand when resources are already spread thin. While suggestions included additional outreach to the community regarding what the Health Department does and increased work specific to substance abuse, the Health Department would need to expand personnel resources in order to accomplish those tasks.*

**New Business:** *None*

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Soulier  
Recorder