

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

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

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, 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
Marianne Klinga, Recording Secretary

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

Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on October 18, 2016 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by M. Quintner.

Public Session: *None*

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

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending November 11, 2016 the Health Department received 178 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 178 complaints, 32 were complaints of blight during the 2016/2017 fiscal year. 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. Currently there are seven blighted properties.

Environmental Health Staff Training/Development

- CT Lead, Radon & Healthy Homes Program Semi-Annual Meeting - On October 24th I attended the CT Lead, Radon & Healthy Homes Program Semi-Annual Meeting in Farmington. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory when you are funded by the CT DPH lead grant. Topics discussed included updates on the CT media campaigns pertaining to

lead in housing, subsidized funded housing data sharing between Federal, State & Local agencies, the CT State Health Improvement Plan.

- Milford Health & Wellness Fair – The Milford Health & Wellness Fair was held on Thursday October 20th. This year the fair was open to the public as well as City employees. During the Health Fair MHD held a flu clinic for the public and City Employees. As with all medication dispensing clinics, staff from the Environmental Health Division worked to set-up and break down the flu clinic area.
- Bed Bugs Meet the Law – On November 8th I attended the annual CT forum on bed bugs sponsored by the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and the CT Coalition Against Bed Bugs. There were two panels, a technical panel and a legal panel to discuss and to provide an explanation of the new CT landlord-tenant bed bug law, Public Act 16-51 that went into effect on October 1, 2016.
- CT Environmental Health Association Annual Meeting – On November 4th I attended the CT Environmental Health Association's annual meeting. Experts presented information pertaining to the surveillance of hazardous materials incidents in CT, regulating body arts establishments, updates on the status of environmental health legislative proposals and Sanitarians from the CT Department of Public Health Food Protection Program reviewed a multi-state foodborne outbreak investigation having to do with ground beef processed and sold from a farm in Massachusetts.

CRIDE (Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Eldery):

The monthly CRIDE was convened on November 7, 2016. Members reported on and discussed the status of several troubled properties that MHD has been involved with. When a case of troubled housing is reported to the Milford Health Department (MHD), the Chief of the Environmental Health Division typically triages the call and deploys an Environmental Health Sanitarian and the Milford Health Department Case Manager to the site. At this month's meeting, a representative from the Milford Fire Department joined us to report and present to the group a new troubled property.

Comments:

- *In response to inquiries about bed bugs in Milford, D. Joseph responded that the Health Department does investigate complaints of bed bugs just like many other towns and municipalities. Discussion ensued about bed bug complaint investigation and elimination.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

For the week ending November 5th, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that flu activity is low in the continental United States. Similarly, the Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that overall influenza activity is low but has been increasing in Connecticut since the end of August. Activity in CT is currently classified as "sporadic". A total of 37 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 13 being in New Haven County. The predominant circulating influenza virus is Type A. A total of 16 hospitalized patients with laboratory confirmed influenza have been reported, with 12 associated with Type A (subtype unspecified), 2 were Type A (H3N2) and 2 with Type B. There have been no flu-associated deaths reported to date this season.

The Milford Health Department has administered over 800 influenza vaccinations to date at various influenza clinics that have been held both at the Health Department and throughout the community. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through March 2017 at the monthly immunization clinics held at the Health Department. Both the regular flu vaccine and the high dose vaccine for individuals over sixty-five years of age will be offered. The school nurses and Health Department continue to monitor the influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity in the schools; to date there is no significant ILI activity observed among our school age students.

School Health Services

The school nurses have completed the Annual Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Survey. This is an annual survey that assesses the compliance of school age children with recommended and mandated childhood immunizations. Compliance with mandated immunizations among school age children in Milford continues to be excellent.

At our October staff meeting, the school nurses were joined by Donna Petrone, RN, Nurse Coordinator from Yale Medicine Department of Pediatrics – Section of Pediatric Rheumatology and Adolescent Medicine. Ms. Petrone provided an educational presentation on Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and its management in the school setting. Milford has a small number of students with this diagnosis. The nurses found this presentation to be very enlightening.

In addition, the Milford School Nurses had their Professional Development Day on November 8th. The nurses received **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training** from Wendy Gibbons, LCSW. In addition, Carole Swift, the Director of Special Education in Milford Public Schools, presented to the nurses. Mrs. Swift discussed the Special Education referral process and reviewed meeting attendance guidelines for the nurses. It was a very informative day for all.

The school nurses are in the process of completing their mandated vision and hearing evaluations for students in their schools. The goal is to complete the screening and make referrals to primary care providers as early in the school year as possible, so that the child can be fully assessed and treated.

Comments:

- *J. Costello inquired about an increase in school nurse office visits for mental health related issues. D. Joseph explained an increase could be attributable to diagnoses of conditions such as depression and anxiety, as well as an increased awareness of mental health related issues.*

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

The State of CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response will be conducting the next quarter conference call with Milford Health Department (MHD) the end of this month. The purpose is to outline gaps in operational plans focusing on the Centers for Disease Control 15 Public Health Preparedness Capabilities. Action items for Milford include:

- Complete preparedness related trainings with at least 50% of identified community partners

- Complete dispensing site exercise with throughput calculations (how much medication provided and how quickly it was dispensed)
- Work on demobilizing public health emergency operations

In an effort to address the gaps the health department utilized the Wellness Works Health & Wellness Fair on October 20th as a drill to test “facility set up” and accumulate “throughput” data. Throughput is obtained by timing individual people through the process of getting his/her shot. This information is used to calculate how many people local health staff can anticipate getting through a vaccine clinic in a set amount of time. This information is crucial when figuring out how many stations, staff, etc will be need in a mass vaccination or dispensing event. Data will be submitted to the state as an After Action Report (AAR) and as a first test of using the Parson’s Government building as a Point of Dispensing (POD).

The mass fatality multistate exercise in Windsor Locks was attended by MHD staff. Family Assistance Centers (FAC) will be the role of local public health offices in the event of a mass fatality/casualty event. Draft plans are under review and development. Local planners are working with mental health professionals, emergency responders and Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection staff.

Milford is waiting for Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) to send the first draft of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) survey.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph noted that the “throughput” data collected at the Health & Wellness Fair flu clinic is being analyzed and results will be shared at the next meeting.*

Community Health – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Disease Surveillance

There were 20 cases of disease reported for the months of October, with Chlamydia being the most frequently reported.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

Putting on AIRS asthma program started a new contract on September 1, 2016. The new contract changes have allowed the program to modify eligibility, while extending the number of home visits as directed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The program now offers up to three (3) home visits and a 6 month follow up after a participant has been enrolled. In total we received 49 referrals since the beginning of the contract year. For the month of October we received 24 referrals with 12 of them coming from the Emergency Department and or Hospital discharge. This month we have been able to complete 7 initial home visits, three 2nd home visits and two 3rd home visits. As you know, follow-ups are conducted to discuss whether individuals and/or families have implemented the recommended control measures, to determine outcomes as a result of the home visit, and to discuss any challenges/barriers/etc. this will be continued. The program is still balancing and managing the numerous referrals that we receive daily.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

We have been granted funding for PLTI through the State Education Resource Center (SERC). Since the announcement we have been pushing for recruitment for participants to join us in January. A press release has been sent out, along with many face to face conversations/meetings, and social media outlets to push for participants. We are looking to recruit and retain 25 participants for the program. We have had great success from this program with 107 graduates. The previous funding year succeeded with 15 very diverse and cohesive graduates who are now members of local boards and organizations. 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.

PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board)

The Milford Health Department is still preparing itself to submit an application to become accredited. Our next step is looking at quality improvement for the department. We will continue to work in the health department as a team to become accredited while keeping a look out for other funding opportunities.

NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) Challenge Award

The Milford Health Department was awarded 2015-2016 NACCHO's Medical Reserve Corps Challenge Award for one year this past spring. The department plans to work with Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPPCCC) to conduct a survey of MRC volunteers to assess their hurricane knowledge, risk perceptions, training experience, communication skills and resources to conduct face to face conversations. The results will then be utilized to develop recommendations for a training and recruitment program for Milford MRC to serve as neighborhood ambassadors. These ambassadors will focus on communicating with vulnerable populations residing in flood zones regarding storm preparedness before, during and after events which will increase social capital and community resilience. We are currently in the process of developing a survey to conduct in the upcoming future.

Comments:

- *With regard to accreditation, D. Joseph noted one of the requirements is to develop a quality improvement plan and show its use in two demonstration projects. A first draft of the quality improvement plan has been written, and a demonstration project focused on the food protection program is being documented.*

Old Business:

- *J. Costello asked about outreach for panhandlers. D. Joseph responded that the Have a Heart, Give Smart campaign is ongoing. Staff from the Department of Human Services have conducted outreach with individuals who have been brought to our attention over the past few months.*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *The 2017-2018 budget has been submitted to Finance. The budget meeting with the Mayor will take place on December 13th.*

New Business: *None.*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Klinga
Recorder