

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2010**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Secretary  
Howard Fink, MD  
William F. Lynch, MD  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Deborah Woods

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Ernest Judson, Vice Chairperson  
James Patterson, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Diane Kruger-Carroll, Board of Education Liaison  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Others Present: None*

**Health Department Staff Present**

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH, Health Director  
Beverly Hayes, BS, Administrative Assistant

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

**Approval of Minutes – October 19, 2010**

The minutes of the meetings held on October 19, 2010 were approved unanimously, on a motion by D. Woods and seconded by W. Lynch.

**Environmental Health Report – Laura Miller, RS**

*Anti-blight activities*

As of the week ending November 12, 2010 the Health Department received 195 total complaints of blight since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009. Currently, eleven properties are under investigation while twelve have been issued correction orders from the Anti-blight Enforcement Officer. 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.

Eleven properties have failed to comply with the orders defined in the Notice of Violation and have been 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.

Total # of blight complaints	Repeat complaints	Under Investigation OPEN Record	Currently under orders - NOV OPEN	Record Completed/closed	No cause for enforcement action	Referred to City Attorney
195	<b>44</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>

#### Mosquito Management

The CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) reported this month that the statewide mosquito trapping and testing program has concluded for the year. CAES reports that mosquitoes tested positive for the West Nile Virus in 24 Connecticut cities and towns in 2010. To monitor West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV), the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station maintains 91 trapping stations in 72 municipalities from June through October each year. There are two such stations in Milford, one on Erna Ave. and the other on Fresh Meadow Lane. Mosquito traps are set every 10 days at each site on a rotating basis, a total of 115,734 mosquitoes were trapped and tested in 2010.

The CAES also reported that there were ten human cases of WNV infection in Connecticut this season, with eight patients contracting the virus in Connecticut, and onset of illness from mid-June through mid-September. The individuals infected in the state resided in Bridgeport, Clinton, Greenwich, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, Trumbull and Westport. None of the infections were fatal.

#### Environmental Health Staff Training

During October and November Environmental Health Sanitarians attended classes and seminars to obtain contact hours toward several certifications held by each of the Environmental Health Division Staff. Recently all staff members attended the 2010 Food Inspector Recertification Training in Derby at the Kellogg Environmental Center and at the UCONN campus in Torrington. Topics included an update on new legislation, food borne outbreaks through-out Connecticut and the Nation, Farmers Markets, and updates from the Food and Drug Administration. Environmental Sanitarians were able to obtain 6 contact hours. In order to keep food inspector certification current, staff must obtain 16 contact hours over three years. Other trainings attended by staff members include, the semi-annual bathing water meeting, lead paint inspector and risk assessor re-certification, and the Environmental Protections visible emissions training, aka "Smoke School".

*Comments: None*

#### **Nursing Division Report – Joan Cagginello**

#### Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), notes that Connecticut is experiencing sporadic cases of influenza at this time. Outpatient cases of influenza like illness, in Connecticut

hospitals is slowly beginning to increase, although hospital admissions for pneumonia are below seasonal baseline and emergency department visits for “fever/flu” are at seasonal baseline. In Milford, we continue to monitor our schools for influenza like illness (ILI). We have observed and increase in absenteeism however the absences have not been related to ILI.

The Health Department continues to offer influenza vaccine for individuals. Three general public influenza vaccination clinics have been held at the Connecticut Post Mall on Saturdays over the past month. Similar to our other influenza clinics this season, interest in receiving the influenza vaccine has been low compared to other years. Nonetheless, the Health Department will continue to hold regular influenza clinics offering vaccine to prevent influenza and will to encourage residents to protect themselves from the flu by getting an annual influenza vaccination. The next flu clinic will be held at the Connecticut Post Mall on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. The influenza vaccine is also available at the Health Department Immunization Clinic, held on the second Tuesday of every month.

#### The “Cocoon Program”

The Milford Health Department in collaboration with Milford Hospital and the Connecticut Department of Public Health is working together to provide a “Cocoon Program” for families of newborns. The program provides immunizations to mothers, fathers, grandparents and other household contacts in the newborn child’s home against Pertussis, also known as whooping cough. Pertussis is a serious disease, especially among infants and young children. Protecting the adults that surround the child will provide a cocoon for the infant to protect him from contracting pertussis until he is able to be immunized.

New mothers will be offered the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertusis) immunization before they are discharged home from the hospital. Fathers and other caregivers of the child will be provided with a flyer advising them to come to the Milford Health Department to have a Tdap vaccination at the next monthly immunization clinic. The Tdap vaccine is being provided for this program by the CT DPH at no cost. We will in turn be able to provide the immunizations at no cost for the family. The Cocoon Program will begin in December 2010.

#### *Comments:*

- H. Fink stated that in regards to the number of people seeking the flu vaccine; it should be made available to pregnant women because they not only protect themselves, but the fetus and then the child when born. D. McBride responded that obstetric offices do provide the flu vaccine, however, he will check to see if the Health Department can fill the need for more vaccine.

### **Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph**

#### Disease Surveillance

There were 18 cases of disease reported for the month of October, with Chlamydia being the most reported disease. The Health Department has not received any laboratory-confirmed cases of seasonal influenza for the 2010-2011 influenza season to date.

#### Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The program received a total of 14 referrals for the month of October. The majority of referrals are received from primary care practices and clinics. Approximately 30% are for children with

moderate persistent to severe asthma, having multiple exacerbations requiring a hospital visit. In order to make the home visit as productive as possible, the Program Coordinator has been working closely with pediatricians to obtain an Asthma Action Plan for each referral prior to the home visit. Then, during the home visit, the nurse is able to review the Asthma Action Plan with the caregiver and child. Approximately 50% of referrals now submit Asthma Action Plans with the referral form.

#### Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Health Department, in collaboration with Kids Count and the Discovery Initiative in Milford, is in the process of recruiting participants for Milford's 3<sup>rd</sup> Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI). 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. We have received 10 applications to date and are confident that we will reach our goal of 20 participants. The program has been marketed at various venues throughout Milford including information distributed to every parent in Milford through the public and parochial schools, as well as posting of flyers, information, and applications at several community locations. The classes will kick-off with the one-day retreat on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at the First United Church of Christ, Congregational in Milford.

The Health Department submitted a Venture Funds grant application to the United Way of Milford requesting \$10,000 to support PLTI. A decision regarding the application will be made late November. The Kiwanis Club of Milford has kindly donated \$250 to support PLTI this year. The Community Health Coordinator continues to research alternate funding sources to support the program this year.

*Comments: None*

### **Emergency Preparedness Report**

#### **Regional/CRI Emergency Preparedness Report - Amy Shields**

The Regional Exercise on alternative dispensing methods will be conducted on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2011. Region 2 hospitals will be involved with the drill along with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). A variety of distribution and dispensing methods will be tested including utilization of meals on wheels, distribution to nursing homes and community organizations, and coordination with Universities within the State.

A Regional workgroup is currently meeting to review vulnerable populations outreach. A Statewide database outlines aggregate data for the 169 municipalities in Connecticut. The proportions of those with functional needs are outlined in the database and can be utilized for preparedness planning. The State is using the data to plan for emergency shelter services. Currently, the Region 2 workgroup is focusing on how to get pills to these populations in an emergency event (specifically targeting groups participating in the regional exercise).

The DEMHS Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) is reviewing the budget for next year's funding cycle. Each emergency support function, including public health and medical services, are outlining regional needs to determine how these funds can be utilized. The request for funding will be compiled for the next REPT meeting in December.

### **Local Emergency Preparedness/Volunteer Activity Report - Tara Mustakos**

#### Local Emergency Preparedness

The Milford Health Department continues to offer flu vaccination for the 2010-2011 flu season. Health department staff and volunteers have conducted three clinics to date and have one additional scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup>, at Westfield CT Post Mall.

The Milford Health Department is currently in the planning stages for participation in a regional preparedness exercise in April 2011. A communications drill and Full Scale Exercise to test Mass Dispensing Alternative methods will be the focus of the exercise. Planning will continue through to April including bi-weekly regional and local planning meetings, outreach to community partners as the date approaches and participation in a regional Table Top Exercise to benchmark the planning phases. More information will be available as the exercise develops.

The Milford Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) continues to wait for a decision from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) for a \$5,000 capacity building grant.

*Comments: None*

### **Old Business:**

- D. McBride stated that the Health Department received a transmittal from Planning & Zoning regarding the Olive Tree Hookah Lounge application for a Special Exception & Site Plan Review for which he must respond to before the application goes before the Planning & Zoning Board. C. Young stated the Board will continue to support the Health Department in their monitoring of this establishment for public health nuisance issues.
- D. McBride added that he attended the APHA conference this month and there was a study conducted of carbon monoxide levels of those individuals coming out of a hookah lounge, some so high that those individuals had to seek medical attention.

### **New Business:**

### **Director's Report:**

### **Adjournment:**

M. Quintner motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by H. Fink and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS  
Recorder