

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2019**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN, Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Ernest Judson

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Constance Young, EdD, RN
Warren Pawlowski, Board of Education 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 6:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on September 17, 2019 were approved unanimously as amended on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by H. Mulrenan.

Public Session: *None*

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

Mosquito Prevention Program: The Milford Health Department continues to remind residents to practice personal protection, avoid outdoor activities during the dawn and dusk hours and to remove all standing water on private property. Although mosquito activity has significantly diminished, the threat of mosquito-borne diseases will not be completely gone until we have two consecutive hours of temperatures below 28 degrees Fahrenheit or three hours below 32 degrees. The CT Department of Public Health in conjunction with the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) reports that there has been a decline in the number of mosquitoes testing positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) which coincides with the downward trajectory in the overall number of mosquitoes being trapped in CT. In 2020, the CAES will maintain the current number of mosquito trapping sites and will be adding 15 additional sites to be located in the areas of the state identified with human and equine cases of EEE. The CAES traps mosquitoes at two sites in Milford.

Anti-blight activities: As of the week ending October 11, 2019, the Health Department received 143 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 143 complaints, 44 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 regarding the presence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Connecticut. D. Joseph shared that although mosquito numbers are decreasing, the state has detected some more positive mosquitoes in new communities. This pattern has been seen in prior years as birds begin their fall migration.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN

Flu Season and Influenza Vaccination: For the week ending October 5, 2019, flu activity is low in the United States but is expected to increase in the coming weeks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that everyone 6 months of age and older get an annual flu vaccine before the end of this month. An annual flu vaccine is the best way to prevent getting the flu and it's potentially serious complications.

The Milford Health Department began our seasonal influenza vaccination program this month and has a number of immunization clinics scheduled throughout the entire month of October and early November.

Flu vaccine will be offered at all Health Department Monthly Immunization Clinics through April 2020. 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 have begun monitoring 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 are in the process of beginning 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 as necessary.

All school nurses will be attending *Physical/Psychological Management Training (PMT)* on October 23, 2019. This training is provided by Milford Public School personnel and is based on Public Act 15-141: An Act Concerning Seclusion and Restraint in Schools. The nurses will become knowledgeable on what PMT looks like and what their obligations are as medical professionals in checking students after they have been in a protective hold.

Southern Connecticut State University Nursing Students: The Health Department continues to provide a learning experience in school nursing for senior nursing students from Southern

Connecticut State University. Students from SCSU will begin their rotation in Milford on October 23rd and will conclude their school nursing experience on November 20th. The students will work with the school nurses in assessment of students, providing daily care, performing mandated screenings and learning the role of the school nurse in the education environment.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph reported that MHD nursing staff gave 75 flu vaccinations at the first flu clinic of the season held on 10/15/2019 for City of Milford employees. The City's 6th Annual Health & Wellness Fair is being held at the Parsons Complex Gym from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the flu clinic running from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Director of Nursing and Case Manager attended the FEMA course Crisis Management for School Based Incidents. Milford was well represented with participation from Milford Police Crime Prevention division, School Resource Officers (SRO) and Milford Public School Safety & Security Coordinator. The purpose of this course is to increase situational awareness, ensure best practices are in place for school systems, and address how best to handle crisis situations involving schools.

MHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Case Manager attended a statewide disaster response training "Understanding Your Role in State Disaster Response." The event was held for mental health providers in the public sector. The theme of the meeting was educating mental health providers how incident response works on the local, state, and federal level, who to work with pre-event, how to plan and communicate with your community leadership and emergency responders.

Milford Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) & Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers assisted with the Regional Water Authority HazWaste Satellite pick up in Milford on September 21st. The Regional Water Authority offers the service to communities but requires the coordination and volunteer help from the community. The Health Department volunteers have historically been the only volunteer group at this event. Hazardous materials are collected from residents and, if available, electronic recycling and paper shredding is also offered as a service. Volunteers are instrumental in funneling traffic and helping residents to register as cars arrive.

MHD representatives participated in the bi-monthly Health and Medical Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 meeting September 18th & the MRC leadership meeting immediately following. Meetings and preparedness planning efforts are required by grant deliverables. The purpose of bi-monthly meetings is to coordinate preparedness drills and events, plan uniformly to develop regional response plans and network with health and medical providers in the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2. Milford's Director of Health is continuing as the ESF Public Health lead for our region.

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 24th at the Health and Wellness Fair. The flu clinic the set up reflects the health department plan to provide mass vaccinations to critical staff and first responders in an actual public health emergency.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph reported that Tara Mustakos-Wassmer is filling in as Volunteer Coordinator in Bruce Varga's absence for the fall semester.*
- *D. Joseph shared that the Chesprescott Health District is the new fiduciary for the Department's emergency preparedness grant. The MHD is adjusting to new routines resulting from this change.*

Community Health Division Report - Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Communicable Disease Surveillance: There were 20 cases of disease reported for the month of September

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 16 referrals for POA. The program is still ongoing with our contract execution date now anticipated in December.

Our SIM (State Innovation Model) project using the POA service model is still underway. The project has received nearly 100 referrals from Fair Haven Community Health Center.

Parent Leadership Training: As you all know we have implemented PLTI (Parent Leadership Training Institute) over 9 years. 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 is 13 weeks of leadership training 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. We hope to hear about funding in the near future for this program.

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 emerging issues. We are also working with our consultant to update our Community Health Assessment (CHA) and our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Our technical assistance (TA) project: Strong Systems, Stronger Communities (SSSC) with NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) has continued, and we will host two flu clinics 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). Conducting these clinics will allow us to adapt our immunization clinics to meet community needs along with becoming customer focused. Stay tuned to hear the outcomes of these two clinics.

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 our expenditure reports for POA along with the programmatic report for asthma to DPH. We have also submitted our monthly expenditure reports to the Office of Health Strategies (OHS) and invoiced Fair Haven Community Health Center for services rendered for POA.

Comments:

- *A discussion ensued regarding the Parent SEE program. D. Joseph reported that the Department will be partnering with the Milford Public Schools Superintendent's Office. The MHD has applied for funding and is in the process of recruiting participants. C. Gonillo asked how the program is advertised. D. Joseph responded that flyers are sent home to all school parents, information will be disseminated via social media, and information will be posted to the PLTI website.*

Old Business: *None*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *D. Joseph reported that the MHD is partnering with State Representative Kathleen Kennedy's Office and several community organizations to implement a community form on vaping to be held in November.*

New Business: *None*

Adjournment:

E. Judson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by H. Mulrenan and was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Soulier
Recorder