

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2019**

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN, Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS, Vice Chairperson
Ernest Judson
Mitchell Quintner, DMD
Constance Young, EdD, RN
Ellen Beatty, Board of Alderman Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN
Warren Pawlowski, Board of Education 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 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on October 15, 2019 were approved unanimously as amended on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by M. Quintner.

Approval of Board of Health 2020 Meeting Dates

The 2020 dates were approved as attached on a motion by H. Mulrenan and seconded by M. Quintner.

Public Session: *None*

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

Anti-bligh activities: As of the week ending December 6, 2019, the Health Department received 182 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 182 complaints, 50 were complaints of blight for the 2019/2020 fiscal year thus far. 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 eighteen blighted properties undergoing enforcement action.

Environmental Health Staff Training/Development:

- Milford Health & Wellness Fair – The Milford Health & Wellness Fair was held on Thursday October 24th. As with last 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.
- CT Environmental Health Association, Annual Meeting – On November 1st the Chief of the Environmental Health Division attended the CT Environmental Health Association annual meeting. Speakers from the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection presented on the Bradley Airport fire-fighting foam incident and the impact of the Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) release on the surrounding environment. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station discussed ticks and Lyme Disease in CT, a Retail Food Specialist from the FDA provided updates on national standards in the food industry, the CT DPH Food Protection Program provided an update on the status of the FDA Food Code adoption and implementation in CT, and a member of the Freedom of Information Commission presented on freedom of information facts.
- Bed Bug Forum – On November 7th MEHD staff members attended the eleventh annual Bed Bug Forum held at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. The half day seminar presented the most recent bed bug research, discussed natural products for insect control and their effectiveness, and closed with a presentation from Attorney Judith Dicine who presented on the CT legal aspects of bed bugs.

Comments:

- *A discussion ensued regarding the expansion of the typical temporary event season throughout the winter. D. Joseph clarified the difference between itinerant vendors that get a Temporary Food Service Permit for a particular event and must be inspected on site versus those that have an annual license with the Department. E. Judson asked if licensing fees are deposited into the City's general fund or are revenue for the Health Department. D. Joseph said that they go into the general fund.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, MSN, RN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign: The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity has been gradually increasing in Connecticut. Classification of activity geographically is at the “widespread” status. As of November 30, 2019, a total of 274 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season. Of the 274 positive influenza tests reported to CT DPH thus far, 7 were Influenza A 2009 (H1N1), 10 were Influenza A (H3N2), 84 Influenza B, and 173 were Influenza A (type unspecified). A total of 91 hospitalized patients with laboratory confirmed influenza have been reported. There have been two flu-associated deaths reported to date this season.

The Milford Health Department has administered over 750 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 April 2020 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.

The Milford School Nurses had their Professional Development Day on November 5th at Bailey Middle School in Westport. They were joined by the Westport, Fairfield, Norwalk, Ridgefield and other School Nurses from Southwestern CT. Dr. Darron Bacal presented information on *Vision and Eye Problems in Children*. In addition, Karen Santucci, MD of Yale New Haven Hospital spoke to the school nurses on *Emergencies Seen in the School Health Office*. Lastly, Tammy Sneed, from the Office of Human Trafficking, Department of Children and Families, presented on *Human Trafficking*. 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:

- *D. Joseph reported that regularly scheduled flu clinics have been completed for the season but that the MHD will continue to offer the flu vaccine at the monthly immunization clinics held on the second Tuesday of each month. M. Quinter asked if the Department accepts insurance, and D. Joseph indicated that the Department does not at this time.*

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

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's most recent drill was held on October 24th at the Health and Wellness Fair. The flu clinic set up is a reflection of the Health Department plan to provide mass vaccinations to critical staff and first responders in an actual public health emergency. Milford Health Department (MHD) headquarters staff team up for set up and break down of clinic logistics, and school nurses provide vaccinations. This clinic is a great opportunity for the Health Department to provide health services to City staff and the public.

On December 3rd, the Milford Health Director called a meeting with city partners, the Beth El Center Executive Director and a representative from St. Peter's church to go over Milford's Cold Weather Protocol and No Freeze Shelter operations plan for the winter season. The Beth El center is partnering with St. Peter's this year to increase bed availability and to serve a community need based on numbers of the unsheltered homeless which presented last year. The

goal in serving this vulnerable population is to give them immediate overnight shelter and, for those individuals who choose, integrate into more long term programs the Center offers.

MHD representatives participated in the bi-monthly Health and Medical Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 meeting November 20th & 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 the ESF Public Health lead for our region.

Comments:

- *D. Joseph reported that the Beth-El Center has expanded its program to include a no freeze shelter at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church which is open from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. nightly throughout the cold weather season. The shelter is staffed by two Beth-El staff members plus volunteers organized in partnership with local clergy.*

Community Health Division Report - Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA

Communicable Disease Surveillance: There were 20 cases of disease reported in October and 27 cases reported for the month of November

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 54 referrals for POA. The program is still ongoing with our contract execution date now anticipated in early 2020.

Our SIM (State Innovation Model) project using the POA service model is now in its closing stages. The project received its last referral on 11/8/2019 which totals to 102 referrals from Fair Haven Community Health Center. Although the contract ends January 31, 2020, we will continue to see their referrals until they complete the program and conduct 6 month follow up calls. Currently Fair Haven Community Health Center does not have the capability to continue this project outside of grant funding.

Parent Leadership Training: This year, we applied and did not receive money to implement a different parent leadership training model known as Parent SEE (Parents Supporting Educational Excellence). In response to this, we are applying for funding through the new and emerging programs with the Milford United Way along with a link we have shared that allows the public to either donate or join the 1st cohort of this program. We will continue to search for other funding revenue. Parents SEE is similar to PLTI and 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. 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.

Community Happenings: Our technical assistance (TA) project: Strong Systems, Stronger Communities (SSSC) with NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) has continued, and we hosted two flu clinics at the Milford Senior Center held on October 23rd and 30th. In total, 175 seniors participated in these clinics. 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.

Milford Health Department has also attended both the Wellness Works City-wide Health Fair along with Building Bridges: University of Bridgeport Symposium on Opioids. The Milford Health Department in partnership with Milford Public Schools, Milford Prevention Council, Milford Police and the Milford Legislative Delegation hosted a community forum on Youth Vaping which had a large turnout.

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 Healthy Homes along with the programmatic report to DPH. We have also submitted our monthly expenditure and quarterly programmatic reports to the Office of Health Strategies (OHS).

Comments:

- *None*

Old Business: *None*

Director's Report: *Deepa Joseph, MPH*

- *D. Joseph commented that work continues regarding analysis of school immunization data released by the CT DPH. The Department is taking a three-pronged approach, working with the school nurses, local healthcare providers, and parents and families.*

New Business: *None*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Soulier
Recorder

Board of Health

2020 Meeting Dates

82 New Haven Avenue, 6:30 p.m.

The following meeting dates have been established:

January 21, 2020
February 18, 2020
March 17, 2020
April 21, 2020
May 19, 2020
June 16, 2020
July 2020 - No Meeting
August 2020 - No Meeting
September 15, 2020
October 20, 2020
November 17, 2020
December 8, 2020