

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**April 16, 2024**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Joan Cagginello, MS, RN, Chairperson  
Jamil T. Azhari  
Jennifer Denes  
Ellen Monforte, APRN, MS, CRNA  
Penny Vasilas, MS, RN  
Holly Mulrenan, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Mitchell Quintner, DMD, Vice-Chairperson  
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary  
Tom Koba, 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 6:34 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on March 19, 2024 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Monforte and seconded by J. Denes.

**Public Session:** *None*

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

*Collaborative on Residential Integrity for the Disabled & Elderly (CRIDE)*: Members of CRIDE met on April 8, 2024 to discuss three new cases of troubled housing, all of which were referred to the Health Department from the Fire Department. The Health Department investigates and presents each case to CRIDE to determine whether any of the individuals are known to the various entities at the table and for additional perspective on working with the situation.

*Lodging*: There are a total of twenty motels/inns/suites, etc. in Milford. Applications have been mailed out to all establishments, and we are in the process of inspecting and issuing the 2024 licenses.

*Public Pool Inspections*: There are a total of 25 public pools in Milford located at condominium complexes, schools, motels, and camps. State law requires that all pools be registered with the

Milford Health Department and inspected at least once per year to check the disinfection chemicals, filtration equipment, safety devices, and staff knowledge. Registration forms went out to all public swimming pools in order to obtain up to date information about the operators and phone numbers of the persons responsible for maintaining the pool in compliance with the Public Health Code.

Anti-blight activities: As of the week ending April 5, 2024, the Health Department received 274 general complaints from Milford residents. Of those 274 complaints, 71 were complaints of blight for the 2023/2024 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.

*Comments:*

- *Of three troubled housing cases recently referred to the Department, D. Joseph reported that one required condemnation. D. Joseph added that the Department uses a team approach relative to housing cases with contributions from both the Department's case manager and sanitarians and that these cases typically take a long time to resolve.*

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

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign: The Connecticut Department of Public Health has reported that Connecticut is currently classified geographically as “low” for flu activity. As of April 6, 2024, there have been 28,240 positive influenza tests reported to CT DPH. The most frequently reported flu viruses continue to be of the influenza A type. A total of 81 deaths have been reported since the beginning of the flu season – all adults with the majority being over the age of 70.

For the week ending March 30, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that influenza activity remains elevated but is decreasing nationally. CDC estimates that there have been at least 32 million illnesses, 360,000 hospitalizations, and 22,000 deaths from flu this season. They continue to recommend an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as long as flu activity continues.

The CDC has confirmed one human infection with a highly pathogenic avian influenza A – H5N1 virus as reported by the Texas Department of Health. This person had exposure to dairy cattle in Texas infected with the H5N1 virus. CDC reports that the risk assessment for the general public remains low. They are working with state health departments to continue to monitor workers who may have been in contact with infected birds/animals and test those individuals who develop symptoms and have provided clinical recommendations for antiviral treatment for those with suspected or confirmed avian influenza A virus infections. Seasonal flu vaccines do not provide protection against these viruses.

The Milford Health Department will continue to offer the influenza vaccine through their April 2024 immunization clinic. 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) and Covid-Like Illness (CLI) activity in the schools.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19): The MHD continues to vaccinate the pediatric population and the uninsured/underinsured adults with the COVID-19 vaccine. Two COVID-19 vaccine clinics were held in March and 13 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were administered.

According to the CT DPH, there were 47 positive COVID-19 cases reported in Milford for the month of March.

The Milford Public Health Nurses are following the CDC COVID-19 protocols and guidelines in their school health office setting. They are following up on positive cases and reviewing return to school guidance with parent/guardians and staff and continue to be a valuable resource at their schools for administration, staff, and families.

School Health Services: On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the school nurses enjoyed a Professional Development Day. The day opened with a light breakfast and an all MHD staff meeting with department updates provided by the Health Director. The entire staff benefitted from a *Wellness at Work* presentation facilitated by Diane Frankel-Gramelis. The nurses also received information on the new lead regulations and the MHD's role in responding to reports of elevated levels.

Four school nurses attended the 45<sup>th</sup> annual *Critical Issues Conference* on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Cromwell. This conference is specifically designed for school health professionals from around the state to become educated on topics relevant to their school health practice. Educational presentations included: Dietary Supplements and Steroids, Anxiety, Suicide and Suicide Prevention, Developmental Pediatrics, Chronic Headaches and Obesity. All expressed that it was a wonderful day learning valuable information along with having the opportunity to meet other school nurses from across CT.

United States Measles Cases and Outbreaks: Due to the United States experiencing an increase in measles cases and outbreaks across the country, the Health Director and City/School Medical Advisor sent a letter to all parents/guardians with children in the Milford school system alerting them of the situation along with providing information on method of transmission, symptomology of illness, exclusion of school if exposed for those unimmunized or under immunized and encouraging vaccination for those not adequately immunized.

According to the CDC, as of April 5, 2024, 113 measles cases have been reported by 18 states. No cases have been reported in CT to date. Of the 113 positive cases, 95% were unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or had unknown vaccination status. Hospitalization was needed for 65 of the 113 positive cases for management of measles complications/isolation.

According to the CT DPH School Immunization Survey for 2022-2023, 98.8% of Milford Public School kindergarten students and 98% of MPS 7<sup>th</sup> graders are adequately immunized for measles, mumps, and rubella.

Summer School/Extended School Year (ESY) Programs: The Milford Public Schools will be holding summer school/extended school year programs from June 17 through August 8, 2024 at four schools. Several school nurses are scheduled to provide nursing coverage at these programs. In addition, our 12-month nurse, Joan Braun, will be working at Camp Happiness this summer, which will be held at Foran High School.

The tentative last day of school for Milford Public Schools is June 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Comments:*

- *D. Joseph added that the nurses are preparing for the end of the school year. Director of Nursing Joan Campbell and Lead Nurse Cora Singer are currently doing chart reviews in each of the school health offices auditing for consistent adherence to established standards.*
- *J. Cagginello asked if Milford has had any cases of the measles reported. D. Joseph responded that no cases have been reported. The Department has done an in-house refresher of the established protocols in the event of a measles outbreak.*

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

Milford Health Department (MHD) applied for a community preparedness and climate change initiative grant. MHD maintains emergency operations plans for response to extreme weather. Extreme temperatures and weather annually contribute to community mortality and morbidity. The Health Department serves to improve community overall preparedness before a storm, educate the public what to do in an extreme weather event, respond including with local Emergency Management as requested, and aid in community recovery.

Milford participated in a time sensitive call hosted by the CT Department of Public Health on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A H5N1 emergence in the United States. Only one human case has been identified in the United States. There is no vaccine currently effective against H5N1, but antiviral medication does appear to be effective for treatment. The CT Department of Public Health released updated information including any reports of suspect animal illness to report to the State Veterinarian.

[Avian Influenza Information \(ct.gov\)](http://ct.gov)

*Comments:*

- *None*

**Community Health Division Report - Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, MPA**

Communicable Disease: For the month of March, there have been 122 communicable diseases reported. Flu is the lead disease reported this month.

Programming/Funding:

- Food Insecurity - The food insecurity group has now disseminated two surveys into the community. The end of the consumer survey will be on April 12; thus far, there have been over 400 surveys completed. An analysis will be conducted and shared in one-page reports.
- Community events - We are gearing up for spring and planning events. Events include:
  - May 4<sup>th</sup> Walk and Talk around Mental Health and Asthma for both Asthma and Mental Health Awareness Months

- May 9<sup>th</sup> QPR (Question. Persuade. Refer) Training
  - May 28 Partnership with Stratford Health Department to host a walk and talk at Silver Sands (speaker TBD)
  - June 1<sup>st</sup> Walk and Talk of Solomon Woods for CT Trails Day
  - National Prevention Week is May 12<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> and we anticipate hosting a Narcan Training
- Health Improvement Alliance (HIA) - We have been working closely with HIA to begin planning our next round of Community Health Assessment (CHA) efforts. This time around 2025-2028, there will be more input from health departments along with ways to increase partnership.

Accreditation/Pathways: Milford Health Department is still waiting to receive feedback from PHAB. We have provided all documentation for Pathways Recognition. We have continued the momentum to update our VMSG system to track activities for our Strategic Plan. We anticipate meeting with core staff in the near future to begin documentation collecting for full accreditation.

Grant Deliverables: We have been completing grant deliverables for the following:

- Workforce Development funding allowed for an all-staff meeting to build employee well-being, staff engagement and professional development.
- Immunization funding with interviewing an internship team to conduct our Rapid Community Assessment. This also includes developing a survey on flu vaccination attitudes and beliefs to guide us on fall implementation for flu vaccine uptake.
- For Asthma, we will be collaborating with New Haven Health Department to host our regional asthma coalition meeting.

Comments:

- *R. Vitali added that National Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. One can dispose of unwanted or expired medications at the Milford Senior Center from 10 AM to 2 PM.*
- *D. Joseph added that students from the Yale School of Public Health are completing the Rapid Community Assessment regarding trends in flu vaccination as a school project.*

**Old Business:** None

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

- *D. Joseph shared the handout (see attached) prepared by the Department's division heads which D. Joseph will distribute to the aldermen during the Department's Board of Aldermen Budget Hearing. The handout provides a snapshot of key points for each division for the 2023 Fiscal Year. D. Joseph highlighted facts in the handout which provide background relative to the Department's proposed budget.*

**New Business:** None

**Adjournment:**

*J. Denes motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by P. Vasilas and was unanimously approved.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Soulier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Soulier  
Recorder





# Milford Health Department & Department of Human Services



## About Us

The Milford Health Department consists of four divisions, Community Health, School Health, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness. Together with the Department of Human Services, we provide a comprehensive framework of essential public health and social services to the community supporting overall health and wellbeing for all City of Milford residents.



### OUR MISSION

To protect and promote optimal health for all Milford residents through our commitment to excellence and delivery of comprehensive public health services.



### OUR VISION STATEMENT

Working Together For A Healthier Community

## KEY STATISTICS



Fiscal Year  
2022-2023

- **966** Food Service Inspections Conducted
- **\$568,603** Total Amount of Grant Funding Received
- **\$74,598** Financial Assistance provided to Milford Families
- **6 months to 97 years old**- Age range of clients serviced
- **1,942** Total Vaccines Administered
- **43,221** School Health Office Visits
- Responded to over **6,000** calls for service or assistance



<https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/health-department>



82 New Haven Ave, Milford, CT 06460



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# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



## FOOD PROTECTION SERVICES

- 585 Licenses Issued
- 966 Inspections
- 37 Plan reviews for new or remodeled establishments
- 41 Food Illness Investigations
- 128 Violation Orders Issued



## HEALTHY HOMES & SAFE HOUSING

- 75 Complaints of unsafe conditions investigated
- 14 Healthy Homes Assessments
- 4 Lead Poisoning Prevention Inspections
- 22 Troubled Housing/Hoarding Cases



## PUBLIC BEACHES, POOLS & RECREATIONAL WATERS

- 256 Beach Water Samples Collected
- 37 Public Pool Inspections



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS

- 122 Investigations Conducted
- 10 Violation Orders Issued



## LAND USE, SEPTIC SYSTEMS & PRIVATE WELLS

- 41 Septic System Inspections
- 8 Planning & Zoning Project Reviews
- 3 Well Drilling Permits



## VECTOR CONTROL

Mosquitoes, Ticks, bed bugs, rabies, vermin & rodents

- 101 Mosquito Breeding Sites monitored & treated
- 27 Complaints Investigated
- 123 Tick Specimen Submissions



## SCHOOLS & CHILDCARE CENTERS

- 7 Licensed Daycare Center Inspections
- 3 Private School Inspections
- 20 Public School Kitchen Inspections



## ANTI-BLIGHT CODE ENFORCEMENT

- 88 Investigations Conducted
- 24 Warning letters Issued
- 19 Violation Orders Issued



# 10%

10% INCREASE IN  
LICENSED TEMPORARY  
FOOD SERVICE EVENTS



# 63%

63% INCREASE IN CALLS  
TO ASSIST THE FIRE &  
POLICE DEPARTMENTS



# 400%

400% INCREASE IN LEAD  
INSPECTIONS

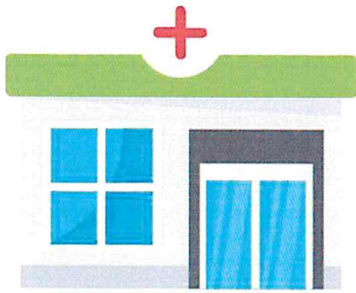




# School Health & Public Health Nursing Division

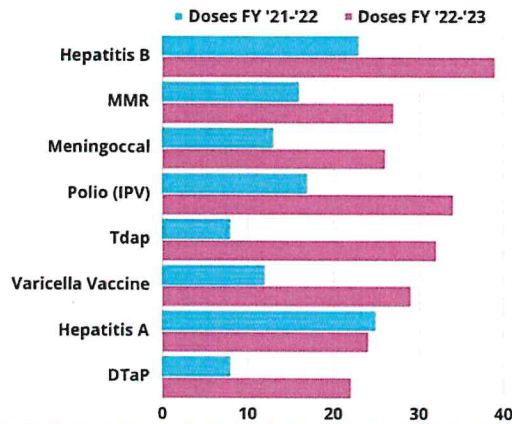
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

## Immunization Clinics



Hosted **40** Clinics serving clients ranging in age from **6 months → 97 years old**

## Immunizations Provided



## Vaccines Administered



**588**  
Influenza doses

**1,104**  
COVID-19 doses

**1,942 Total**  
Vaccines Administered

## School Nursing



### Health conditions requiring management by the school nurse

- ADD/ADHD
- Asthma
- Cardiac Conditions
- Diabetes
- COVID-19
- Seizure disorders
- Food allergies
- Mental health
- Orthopedic issues
- Influenza/RSV



**43,221**  
Health Office Visits

**↑ 15%**

**Over 12,000 Mandated Health Screenings**

- Vision
- Hearing
- Postural

**16,324**  
Medications & Treatments Administered

(Daily medications, emergency medications, and tube feedings)

## Safety in the Workplace



### Annual Training

Provide annual blood borne pathogen training.



### Vaccinations

Hepatitis A & B/ Tetanus vaccinations for new hires if needed.



### Case Management

Post blood borne pathogen exposure case management for all city employees.



### Exposure Guidance

COVID-19 isolation and exposure guidance for all City and Milford Public School employees.

## Specialty Services

- On-Call Immunization Nurse for all Milford Students
- Prophylactic Rabies Vaccine for Milford Veterinary Employees
- Tuberculosis testing and follow-up for individuals needing referral for treatment





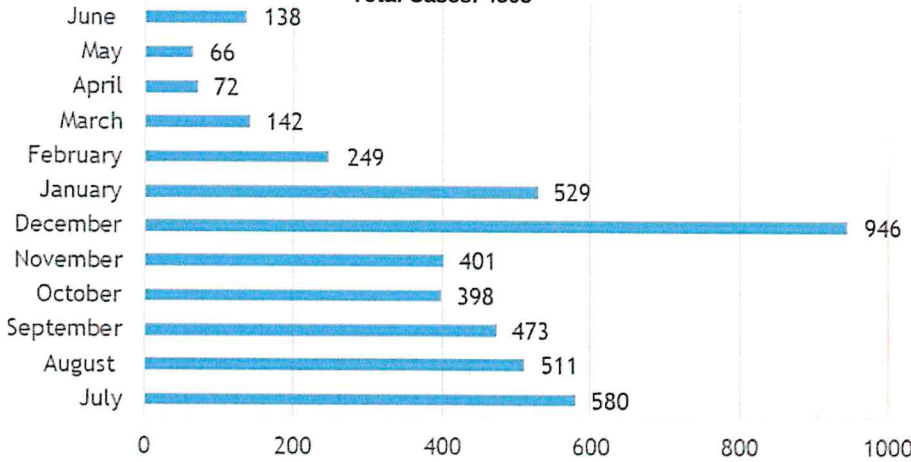
# Community Health Division

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

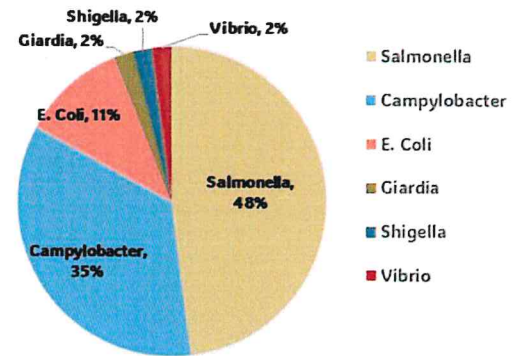


## Communicable Disease Surveillance

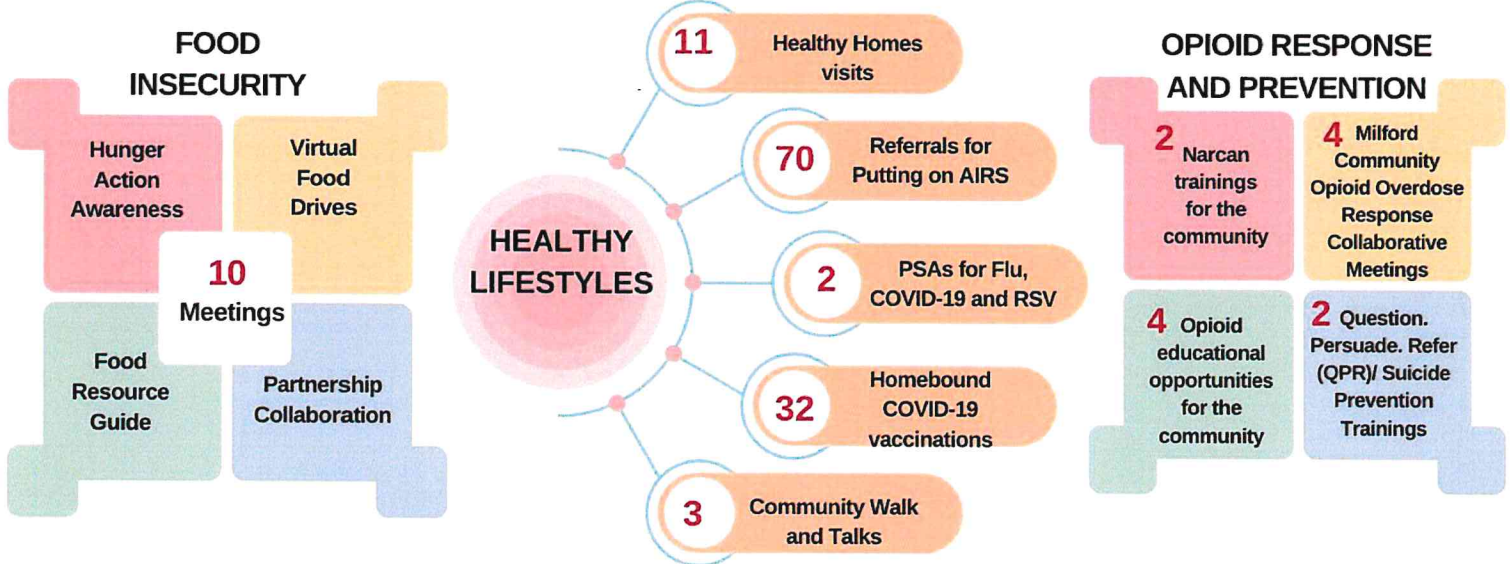
Reportable Communicable Disease cases by Month  
July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023  
Total Cases: 4505



Foodborne Illness Cases  
July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023  
Total Cases: 46



## Health Promotion and Education



## Accreditation Efforts



## Grant Management

IN TOTAL DOLLARS  
**\$568,603**

- Putting on AIRS
- ELC 2
- Healthy Homes
- Per Capita
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Overdose Data 2 Action

Nearly 15% increase

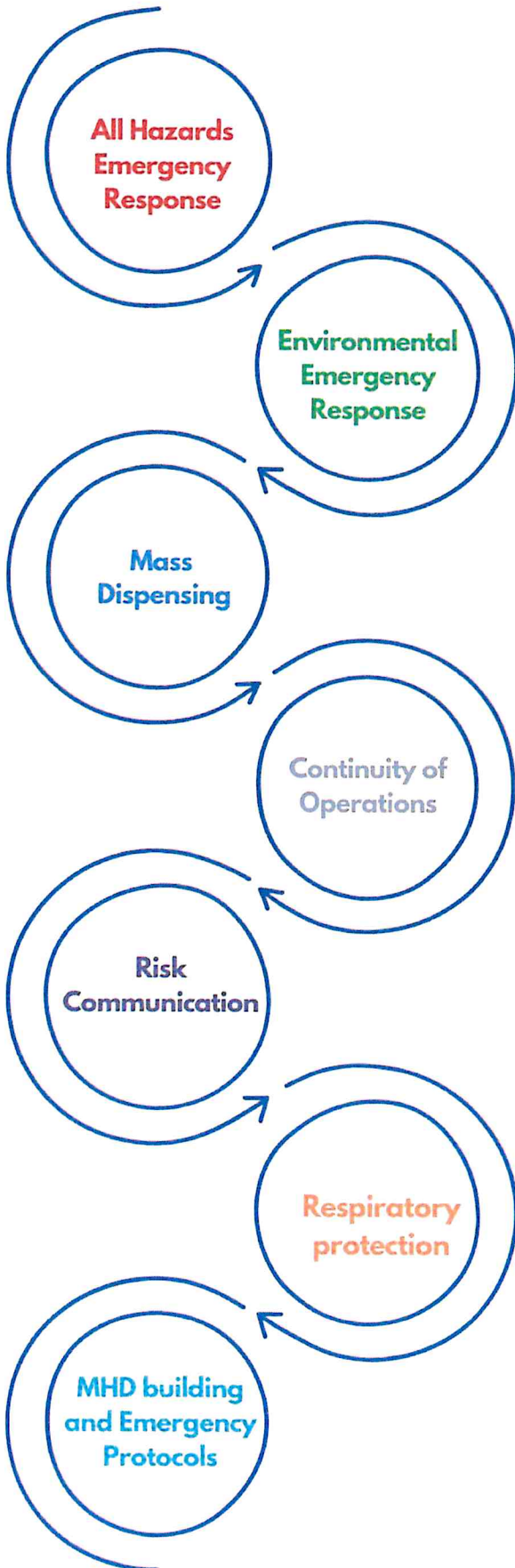




# Public Health Emergency Preparedness Division

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

## Key Highlights



Emergency Planning, Response & Recovery:  
Maintain **7** emergency operation plans

Emergency operations coordination with  
local & regional partnerships:  
**30** New Haven County cities/towns

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) &  
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)  
Coordinated **285** Volunteer hours

Medical Reserve Corps  
Attended **18** meetings and events

Public Health Emergency Preparedness:  
**46** meetings, events and exercises







# MILFORD DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



## Outreach Client Services

1,350 Households ~ 2,622 Individuals

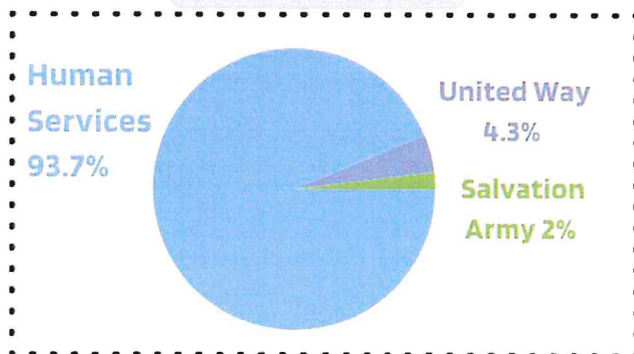


Service	Households	Individuals
Utility Counseling & Assistance / Emergency Oil	100 ↑ 92% FY22 TO FY23	224 ↑ 85% FY22 TO FY23
Rent/Mortgage Counseling & Assistance	52	131
Emergency Lodging	8	12
Food Vouchers* & Holiday Meal Programs	643 ↑ 52% FY22 TO FY23*	1623 ↑ 59% FY22 TO FY23*
Adopt A Family	63	204
Senior Farmers Market Vouchers	565	652

\*Emergency Food Vouchers distributed to households and individuals increased by 52% & 59% respectively

### Financial Assistance Provided

Total: \$74,598.42



### Federal & State Assistance Programs

#### Energy Assistance

130 applications taken by DHS - 95% approved  
Total amount provided: **\$70,890.00**

#### Renters Rebate

386 applications taken by DHS - 97% approved  
Total amount provided: **\$201,618.50**

#### Dollar Energy

22 applications taken by DHS - 100% approved  
Total amount provided: **\$3,850.00**

### Other Services Provided

Budget Counseling  
Clothing Assistance  
Employment & Training Referrals  
SNAP/DSS Assistance/Counseling

Access Health CT/ Medicaid/ Medicare  
CT Diaper Bank  
Camp Happiness Scholarships  
Case Coordination with Community Partners





# MILFORD YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



## Featured Programs

### Building Resilience in Youth Workshop

- A discussion to better understand how resilience allows us to develop skills to cope with experiences that could feel overwhelming.

### Community Walk and Talk Series

- A community collaboration - Drawing Connections: Prevention, Connection, and Community
- A walk to discuss stress and sexual assault awareness while building resiliency. Hosted by Diane Frankel-Gramelis, MS, & Rape Crisis Center

### Mayor's Youth Award

- Honored Milford youth, age 18 or under, who have participated in activities to improve the quality of life in the city, or assist its citizens. 243 youth were honored in 2023.



## Prevention Based Services



## Community Collaborations & Partnerships

- Milford Public Schools
- Milford Police Department
- Milford Fire Department
- Boys and Girls Club of Milford
- MDT - Milford Rape Crisis Center Multidisciplinary Task Force
- The Department of Children and Families
- The United Way of Milford
- Milford Recreation Department
- Bridges Healthcare
- Milford Clergy Association
- Youth Services Network
- Beth-El Center
- Bridgeport Hospital Milford Campus
- Woodruff Family YMCA
- Milford Prevention Council
- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
- Juvenile Diversion Program
- Mattioli Sports Scholarship - 9 youth
- Health Improvement Alliance Behavioral Health Task Force
- Milford COOR - Opioid taskforce

### Back-to-School Backpack Program

223

Backpacks Distributed

↑ 30% Increase

### Salvation Army Shoe Voucher Program

100

Shoe Vouchers

distributed

### Basic Needs Assistance

163

Households

Assisted