

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2014**

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
Laura Fucci, Board of Education Liaison
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison

Board Members & Liaisons not present:

Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison

Others Present: None.

Health Department Staff Present

Deepa Joseph, MPH, Acting Director of Health
Beverly Hayes, BS, Recording Secretary

C. Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2014 were approved unanimously on a motion by E. Judson and seconded by J. Costello.

Public Session: *None*

Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller, REHS/RS

CRIDE (Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly): The monthly CRIDE meeting was convened on December 1, 2014. Members reported on and discussed the status of several troubled properties that the Milford Health Department (MHD) is currently involved with. In addition, this month MHD received reports of three troubled properties that we have not been previously involved with. Two referrals came in from the Milford Police Department and one from Bridges. In each instance, an Environmental Health Sanitarian and the MHD Case Manager visited each property.

Anti-bligh activities As of the week ending December 12, 2014, the Health Department received 31 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2014/2015 fiscal year. This number seems to be normal given that the same time last year we received 36 complaints. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 570

complaints. Over time each complaint is in various stages of the process, some properties do not meet the criteria set up in the anti-bligh 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 Notice of Violation are referred to the City Attorney's office for enforcement action. A lien is placed on the land record and the owners of these properties are fined \$100 for each day the violation(s) continue to exist after the compliance date specified in the notice of violation. Once the lien is placed on the land records, after six months if the condition of the property continues to decline, MHD will request the City Attorney foreclose on the property.

Lyme Disease & the tick testing program: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector borne illness in the United States. They also say that "in 2013, it was the 5th most common nationally notifiable disease." Lyme disease does not occur nationwide and in 2013 95% of all confirmed cases were reported from 14 states, Connecticut being one of them. Lyme disease is transmitted through the bite of infected ticks. For this reason, MHD routinely accepts ticks from Milford residents and submits them to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) for testing. Only ticks submitted to the CAES at the request of local health departments can be tested for Lyme disease. Typically, if a Milford resident finds that they have been bitten by a tick, they can bring the insect to the MHD office and we will process the tick and submit it to the CAES laboratory for testing. In order to keep track of tick activity in town, MHD maintains a database of all submitted ticks and their testing results. During this fiscal year, 28 ticks have been submitted for testing, 11% were positive. A positive result means that the spirochete that causes Lyme disease was found in the tissues and may have been transmitted to the host. Any resident who receives a positive test result is referred to their physician for further information and treatment.

Comments:

- *E. Judson asked how long the tick testing results take to come back. D. Joseph responded anywhere between 7-14 days.*

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell, RN, BSN

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity has increased in CT and has been classified geographically as "regional". The predominant circulating virus is Type A (H3N2). A total of 155 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 61 being in New Haven County. Influenza has been reported in all eight counties. A total of 81 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. No flu-associated deaths have been reported to date this season.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that slightly more than half of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses collected and analyzed in the United States from October 1 through November 22, 2014 were antigenically different (drifted) from the H3N2 vaccine virus. In past seasons during which predominant circulating influenza viruses have been antigenically drifted,

decreased vaccine effectiveness has been observed. However, vaccination has been found to provide some protection against drifted viruses. Though reduced, this cross-protection might reduce the likelihood of severe outcomes such as hospitalization and death. During past influenza seasons when H3N2 viruses have predominated, there have been higher rates of hospitalizations and deaths.

The Milford Health Department continues its seasonal influenza campaign with monthly immunization clinics held at the Health Department. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine through March 2014. 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. The school nurses are providing influenza prevention and hand washing education in all of the schools.

School Health Services

Our new Milford school nurse, Cora Singer, attended the two-day, new school nurse orientation program offered by the CT State Department of Education on November 13th and December 4th. The program is very beneficial to a new school nurse as it provides new school nurses with information and materials to assist in the transition into school nursing. Cora continues to be mentored by the Lead Nurse along with the Director of Nursing.

Comments:

- *R. Vitali asked if there has been increase in Mumps cases. D. Joseph responded that there have been no reports of mumps to the Milford Health Department. D. Joseph added that for the school-aged population, Milford has a high immunization rate. C. Young asked if those students who were not immunized could be contacted in the event of a report of vaccine-preventable illness. D. Joseph responded that, particularly with the new nursing software, the nurses can generate reports to pull out and contact those groups that are not immunized for certain vaccines should an outbreak occur.*

Emergency Preparedness Reports – Tara Mustakos-Wassmer, REHS/RS, CHES

Region 2 Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Public Health & Medical, met earlier this month to vote on a new Chair and Co-Chair for the Region 2 ESF 8 group. Acting Director of Health Deepa Joseph and Alan Lynn from Milford Hospital were voted Chair and Co-Chair. The second purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm a work plan to submit to the State Department of Public Health (DPH) for a grant in the amount of \$30,000. This money is being allocated to the 5 Emergency Regions of Connecticut to help satisfy existing grant deliverables and for capacity building of healthcare coalitions. Region 2 will be looking to spend this money on drill and exercise training for staff and developing redundant communications for our region.

January will be the next quarterly ESF 8 meeting. Additional discussion of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) preparedness will likely be included in the agenda. Local health authorities are responsible for the needs of individuals under quarantine monitoring. This can include food, shelter (if applicable), laundry services if needed, medical & prescription needs, entertainment

and arrangement of educational services for school-aged children. The Milford Health Department developed a draft plan to address an EVD quarantine person in Milford.

The City of Milford Health Department met with local partners regarding response to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) the first week of December; the Acting Director of Health (Milford) and VP for Milford Hospital Chair this meeting. It was decided this weekly meeting will be called on an “as needed” basis going forward. Agency participation at this meeting included Milford Health Department, Milford Hospital (leadership and ED staff), Milford Fire, Milford Police, Milford Board of Education Facilities, Milford Public Works, Milford Emergency Management, Bridges Community Center, American Medical Response (AMR), Yale New Haven Hospital and Department of Emergency Management, Division of Homeland Security (DEHMS).

The next meeting of Milford’s Local Emergency Management Committee will be in 2015. Meetings will now be held bi-annually as per the Deputy Director of Emergency Management. The Environmental Division Chief, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Deputy Director of the Health Department are actively involved with committee meetings. Local meetings address issues of community emergency preparedness, first responder health and safety and interagency communication.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings are complete. The Milford Health Department Volunteer Coordinator will work with the acting Director of Health, as well as Fire Chief Douglas Edo to arrange an all volunteer meeting where new CERT members will get sworn in. All volunteers who took the course and exam passed successfully.

Comments: None

Community Health – Deepa Joseph, MPH

Disease Surveillance

There were 55 cases of disease reported for the month of November, with influenza being the most reported disease. The CT DPH reports increasing influenza activity in the state since August, while transmission is now classified as geographically “regional” to date.

Putting on AIRS Asthma Program

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 8 referrals for the month of November, for a total of 36 referrals this contract period. The program continues to see positive outcomes for each participant. For example, one Milford referral was placed on a controller medication as a result of this visit, received their flu shot, and most importantly, has not visited the school nurse’s office for asthma-related issues since the home visit was conducted. The program is also working closely with other programs at the Milford Health Department. As such, another referral was connected with additional social services support through our Case Manager, Lesley Darling.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

The Milford Health Department has been awarded grant funding to support the 6th Annual Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) in Milford. 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. The PLTI Design Team is continuing recruitment efforts, with the 8 individuals interested in participating to date. PLTI will kick-off with a one-day retreat on Saturday, January 17, 2014 at the First United Church, Congregational in Milford.

Comments: None.

Old Business:

- *C. Young stated that the Mayor has not received the resignation of board member, William Lynch. They cannot appoint someone else till he submits his resignation. E. Judson volunteered to contact him. D. Joseph added the Mayor said a few people have expressed interest.*
- *C. Young added that D. Joseph and C. Gonillo have kept everyone updated on Milford Patch articles. C. Gonillo thought perhaps some could be shared, which D. Joseph thought perhaps on the News and Announcements section of the website.*
- *C. Young suggested that perhaps the board should be exploring more regarding e-cigarettes. R. Vitali cited statistics indicating that more adolescents are willing to try e-cigarettes over regular smoking cigarettes. M. Quintner added that the lack of regulations on them is of concern.*
- *C. Young asked about the Panhandling outreach program. D. Joseph responded that Beth-El reached out and actually set up appointments for Human Services for some.*
- *C. Young added that the search committee selected two candidates for an interview for the position of Health Director. H. Mulrenan was on the committee and added that it was a great experience. C. Young added that the candidates are not MD's but have MPH's*

Acting Director's Report: Deepa Joseph, MPH

- *Administrative Asst. position was posted last month within the city and only one internal candidate applied and she felt she was not ready for the position. The position has been posted externally and closes January 4, 2015 and then testing and interviews.*
- *An all health department staff meeting was held with all employees here at 82 New Haven Ave and the nurses and dental hygienists. Some hadn't met and it was great for them to meet and understand their role at the department.*
- *A retreat for the employees at 82 New Haven Avenue was held in Stamford through the Youth Services Bureau to work on teambuilding, trust and encouraging communication. All enjoyed the event and since the retreat there has been a very positive vibe in the office.*
- *In regards to the Medical Advisor, the City and the Board of Education are in the process of hiring someone to fill the role. Currently Dr. Zelson, of the Orange Health Department is fulfilling the role, and was only needed once for a new employee physical review.*

New Business:

Acceptance of the 2015 Board of Health Meeting Dates

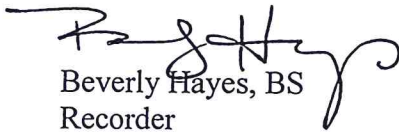
E. Judson made a motion to accept the meeting dates for 2015 with J. Costello seconding the motion and it carrying unanimously.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder