

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2014**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:**

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson  
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson  
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS  
William F. Lynch, MD  
Mitchell Quintner, DMD  
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman Liaison  
Laura Fucci, Board of Education Liaison  
Greta Stanford, Board of Alderman Liaison

*Board Members & Liaisons not present:*

Ernest Judson  
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary

*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 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on January 28, 2014 were approved unanimously on a motion by J. Costello and seconded by H. Mulrenan.

**Public Session:** None

**Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller**

Local Emergency Management Committee (LEPC) Laura Miller, Chief of the Environmental Health Division and Tara Mustakos, the Health Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator has been appointed voting members of the Milford LEPC. Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are required to develop an emergency response plan, review the plan at least annually, and provide information about chemicals in the community to citizens. In addition, under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), every community is required to plan for emergencies involving hazardous substances. EPCRA requires hazardous chemical emergency planning by local governments and industry. Among other things, it requires industry to report on the storage, use and releases of hazardous chemicals to federal, state, and local governments.

Anti-blight activities

As of the week ending February 18, 2014, the Health Department received 36 total complaints of blight since the beginning of the 2013/2014 fiscal year. Since the ordinance went into effect in September of 2009, the Division received a total of 481 complaints. 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.

Currently, eight properties 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 and after 6 months of actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance, the City Attorney will initiate the foreclosure process.

Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2013/2014	Currently under orders - NOV <b><u>OPEN</u></b>	Referred to City Attorney <b><u>OPEN</u></b>
481	36	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>

Comments: None

**Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell**

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity is continuing to increase in many areas within CT and has been classified geographically as “widespread”. A total of 2,638 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 667 being in New Haven County. Of the 2,638 positive influenza reports: 955 were Type A (2009 H1N1), 99 were Type A (H3N2), 1,481 Type A (subtype unspecified), 38 influenza B viruses, and 65 of unknown type. A total of 585 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. Ten influenza-associated deaths in individuals greater than 45 years of age have been reported.

At the end of week Influenza Season Week 6 (February 8, 2014), the Center for Disease Control reports that influenza activity decreased but remained high in the United States. CT was one of six states reporting high influenza-like illness ILI activity. (Influenza-like illness is defined as fever (temperature of 100 F or greater) and cough and/or sore throat).

The Milford Health Department continues its seasonal influenza campaign by providing the influenza vaccine at the monthly immunization clinics 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. The school nurses have provided influenza prevention programs in all of the schools.

#### School Health Services

A Health Clerk was recently hired for the middle schools. Judy Berard, a Milford resident, started earlier this month. In her 19 hr/week position, Judy will be dividing her time among all three middle schools assisting the nurses in the health office. We are glad to have Judy on board.

#### Bloodborne Pathogen Training

Annual Bloodborne Pathogen Training will be provided by the Health Department to identified employees of the Recreation Department on February 19<sup>th</sup>. All City of Milford employees who are at risk for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens receive this annual training.

*Comments: None*

### **Emergency Preparedness Reports – Tara Mustakos**

#### Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

The Milford Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met for the first time in over approximately 8 years at the end of January. Emergency Management, through the Milford Fire Department is the lead of this group in coordination with the Environmental Division Chief and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator from Milford Health. This group will now meet quarterly to discuss city planning, hazardous material sites, shelter coordination, risk communication and general preparedness topics.

Emergency drills and exercises continue to progress in planning. Representatives from the Milford Health Department maintain a presence on workgroups and at planning meetings. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the state health department have several events scheduled in the coming months which local health departments are expected to participate. These include:

**February 25, 2014:** Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 tabletop exercise, Seymour

**April 14, 2014:** Point of Dispensing Regional Exercise, Old Saybrook

**April 21-25, 2014:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) drill to test CT Department of Public Health (DPH) Mass Distributing capabilities

**May 2014:** Durham Fair Mass Casualty Regional Response, Durham

**June 2014:** Governor's Annual Emergency Preparedness and Planning Initiative (EPPI), Statewide

#### Public Health Preparedness Activities

Milford Health Department has been awarded the National City & County Health Officials (NACCHO) capacity building award for Milford MRC in the amount of \$3,500.

Milford Health Department submitted a grant proposal in the amount of \$1,500, for CERT team supplies.

Milford Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team volunteer trainings have been put on hold for the month of February as a result of the weather. The Region

2 MRC coordinators continue to meet on a monthly basis. The last meeting was to discuss the possibility of a large scale recruitment fair, possibly at a large outdoor venue in the spring. More discussion will follow.

The Regional MRC coordinator from the National organization conducted a call down of all MRC coordinator last month. Milford successfully received the communication.

*Comments: None*

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

### *Disease Surveillance*

There were 62 cases of disease reported for the month of January, with seasonal influenza being the most reported disease. Reports of influenza locally follow state and national trends with increasing activity with each month.

### *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. Participants have completed week 5 of the class and are beginning to identify their interests for the community project. The PLTI Coordinator is working closely with participants to match projects with community agencies that may share similar interests and goals. There are currently 18 participants in the class.

### *Putting on AIRS Asthma Program*

The program received a total of 4 referrals for the month of January, resulting in a total of 56 referrals for this contract year. Of the 56 referrals received this year, 8 referrals were in Milford. The program has been contacted by a group of undergraduate public health students from Yale University, as their group would like to research the effectiveness of Putting on AIRS as an intervention for patients who report multiple emergency department visits and/or hospital admissions due to uncontrolled asthma. The group is hopeful that the results of their research may be used as a tool to obtain additional funding to support the program, perhaps through the Yale New Haven Health system.

### *Access Health CT*

The Milford Health Department obtained a grant in the amount of \$12,000 through the CT Office of the Healthcare Advocate and Access Health CT to assist Milford residents in understanding their health insurance options and in enrolling in the health insurance program or plan that best meets their needs. The Health Department has been conducting outreach with approximately 25 faith-based organizations (i.e. churches, synagogue, etc.) in Milford. Many of these organizations have placed announcement in their bulletins regarding assistance being available through the Health Department. Additionally, the Health Department is partnering with the First Baptist Church of Milford, to conduct an enrollment day for their church on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Congregants are signing up for appointments and will receive enrollment assistance on-site at the church on enrollment day.

Comments: None

**Old Business:**

- *L. Fucci reported to the Board of Education that the Board of Health members were interested in a school based health care center*
- *C. Young asked for a merger update regarding the Health Dept merging with the Health & Human Services Department. D. McBride explained that a proposal was submitted to the Mayor. The proposal reduces costs while continuing and enhancing the current services offered.*

**Director's Report:**

- *D. McBride stated that he participated on a Milford Hospital committee to prioritize the community's health care needs based on a Community Needs Assessment required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. There were four areas, access to medical health care, infections and chronic diseases, elderly care, mental health and addiction.*
- *D. McBride stated that he had two new ideas he is researching. The first is an infirmary within the public school setting to hold students at a set location who are sick instead of parents having to leave work. The nurses would work with local doctors on follow-up visits. The other idea is dental services offered by participating dentists facilitating students be seen for dental care. Discussion recognized that additional exploration of both would be needed. The Board raised many questions about a central infirmary in one public school. The greatest concern was the issue of transportation of sick children to the designated site. The board expressed interest in the possible increase in dental services from local dentists if a review of dentists and parents supported this service for school aged children.*

**New Business:**

**Adjournment:**

J. Costello motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by W. Lynch and was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS  
Recorder