

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

Board Members & Liaisons Present:

Constance Young, EdD, RN, Chairperson
Joan M. Costello, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson
Holly Mulrenan, BSN, RN, MS
Atty. Christine M. Gonillo, Secretary
Ernest Judson
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:

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 – February 18, 2014

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

Under Old Business Replace First Bullet with the following correction:

- *L. Fucci reported to the Board of Education that the Board of Health members were interested in a school based health care center.*

Under Directors Report Add:

- *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.*

Public Session: None

Environmental Division Report – Laura Miller

Food Service Establishment license renewal

In January 2014, Food Service Establishment license renewal letters were sent out to 396 food service establishments for the 2014 licensing year. Food Service Establishment licenses expire

on the last day in February every year. Currently, 348 establishments have renewed. There are 48 outstanding. Final notices have been sent out certified. In addition, renewal letters to the 10 concession stands are due to go out so that they will be licensed for the 2014 sports season.

Collaborative on Residential Integrity for the disables & Elderly (CRIDE) Members of CRIDE met on March 3, 2014 to discuss the status of four current cases of troubled housing. 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. Many of these difficult housing problems require a comprehensive process of gaining trust, encouraging the resident's participation in the remediation process, and long-term contact and monitoring. Various members of the CRIDE team often provide the important background information, financial support, critical services and professional guidance that make it possible to resolve these complex cases.

The Health Department finds out about these properties either by a complaint of blight or a call requesting assistance from the Police or Fire Departments. When a case of troubled housing is reported to the Milford Health Department (MHD), the Chief of the Environmental Health Division typically triages the call and deploys an Environmental Health Sanitarian and the Milford Health Department Case Manager to the site. The complaints comprise a wide variety of issues such as physical disability/reasonable accommodation concerns, fire and life safety hazards, housing issues and lack of financial resources, medical/mental health issues compromising quality of life, hoarding, bed bugs, and moving/storage concerns. During the meeting it was discussed how the health department receives reports of troubled housing and whether the complaint driven system is satisfactory. Moving forward, members will be looking to find a tool that may help identify potential troubled housing situations in the community before the situation turns into an emergency.

Odor Complaint – Caswell Cove On Tuesday March 11, 2014 Laura Miller & Dr. McBride met with board members of the Caswell Cove Condominium Association in response to a letter complaining about chronic nuisance odors emanating from the Grillo recycling facility located at 1183 Oronoque Rd. In the last several months MHD Sanitarians have investigated odor complaints in conjunction with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) from residents of the condo complex and the surrounding area. In the next few weeks the MHD plans to work with the affected residents to define and characterize the odors and engage the CT DEEP and the CT Department of Public Health to assist in identifying any potential health risks and remedy the situation.

Anti-blight activities As of the week ending March 17, 2014, the Health Department received 42 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 487 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 <u>OPEN</u>	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
487	42	16	8

Comments: None

Nursing Division Report – Joan Campbell

Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity appears to be past peak, but still remains elevated in most areas within CT and continues to be classified geographically as “widespread”. A total of 3,979 positive influenza cases have been reported statewide for the current season with 1,103 being in New Haven County. Of the 3,979 positive influenza reports: 1,295 were Type A (2009 H1N1), 198 were Type A (H3N2), 2,333 Type A (subtype unspecified), 87 influenza B viruses, and 66 of unknown type. A total of 938 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported statewide. A total of 19 influenza-associated deaths in individuals greater than 30 years of age have been reported. At the end of Influenza Season Week 10 (March 8, 2014), the Center for Disease Control reports that influenza activity continued to decrease in the United States. CT was one of four states reporting widespread influenza activity.

The Milford Health Department has expanded its seasonal influenza campaign by providing the influenza vaccine at the March and April immunization clinics at the Health Department. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that providers continue to provide the influenza vaccine into the spring months. 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.

School Health Services

Milford Public Schools are holding kindergarten registration in all K – 2 schools during the month of March. The school nurses are meeting with the parents of all of the students registering for kindergarten to review medical information, discuss health concerns and obtain necessary health releases to speak to primary care providers regarding the health needs of the children during the school day.

The Milford Health Department will host Southern CT State University nursing students for the spring semester. The senior students will spend time weekly at the various grade levels, learning the role of the school nurse and assisting with care of students throughout the school day.

The school nurses will be joining school social workers and guidance counselors on April 4th for an educational session on 504 planning presented by Attorney Megan Buxton.

Comments: None

Emergency Preparedness Reports – Tara Mustakos

Local Emergency Preparedness Contract

Representatives from the Milford Health Department and three Milford Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers will participate in Old Saybrook at the April exercise testing the stations of a Point of Dispensing (POD). The goal of this exercise is to work on standardizing all the materials needed for PODs including training materials and forms.

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:

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

Milford participated in another DPH statewide call down to test local health readiness. Milford conducted a call down of all health department staff, all 35 school nurses & staff were contacted and 33 responded. The two non-responses were a technical error. Milford Health Department uses the City's Everbridge emergency call back system to conduct these calls.

The Milford Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is scheduled to meet again next month. 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.

Public Health Preparedness Activities

Milford Health Department has been awarded a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) grant in the amount of \$1,500.00. This grant will help to supply existing and new volunteers with personal protective gear and tools to assist in response to a public health emergency where volunteers are requested to aid the Milford Health Department staff.

The Milford Health Department Volunteer Coordinator is working with local Boy Scout Troop leaders and the Borough of Woodmont to develop a plan for two new CERT groups.

The Region 2 MRC coordinators continue to meet on a monthly basis. Details are being worked out for a large scale recruitment fair in the summer. More discussion will follow.

Comments: None

Community Health Division Report - Deepa Joseph

Disease Surveillance

There were 65 cases of disease reported for the month of February, 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 begun Phase 2 of the curriculum, which focuses on learning the ins and outs of civic engagement—how a city works, how the state works, how to understand budgets, etc. During Phase 2, several guest speakers will visit the class including the Mayor, our local legislators, and key community leaders.

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 deadline for enrollment is March 31, 2014, in order for individuals to avoid tax penalties. As such, staff has been working diligently to conduct outreach through the Milford Public Schools and the City of Milford to encourage individuals and families who are uninsured to sign up. The Health Department, in collaboration with the Milford Public Library, is conducting enrollment sessions at the library from 10:00am-2:30pm every Thursday in March. Additionally, our Assister, Cora Singer, RN, is making appointments at the Health Department for those individuals who cannot meet on Thursdays.

Comments: None

Old Business:

- *C Young asked how AccessHealthCt registration was progressing. D. McBride responded that there is no data tally reporting by the assister.*

Director's Report:

- *D. McBride stated that the infirmary and dental program he proposed last month are temporarily on hold because of the budget and the long range planning in Board of Education. L. Fucci suggested that perhaps dental education could be added to the health curriculum. C. Young added that a Bulletin Board on dental health could be done. R. Vitali reported that the dental hygienists do promote dental health and stated the curriculum is online on the Board of Education website.*
- *D. McBride stated there are changes in the interpretation of regulations regarding nurses delegating administration of medications and there is a meeting with the Board of Education legal counsel next week regarding the same.*
- *D. McBride added that the CT DPH has agreed to provide preparedness funds to develop a long term care mutual aid plan for the region. As the Region 2 Chair of Emergency*

Support Function (ESF) 8, Dr. McBride is working with the CT Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security to contribute to the project as well.

New Business:

- *C Young stated that upon graduation from the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), she would like one of the graduates to make a presentation of their project to the Board of Health in June.*
- *G. Stanford suggested that the meeting date for April 15th be changed due to the Passover Holiday. The Board unanimously changed the date to Tuesday, April 22, 2014.*

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes, BS
Recorder