

APRIL 2018

Points of Interest...

- The St. Clair County Health Department's (SCCHD) Women, Infants, and Children's Supplemental Food & Nutrition Program (WIC) completed an onsite state management evaluation in late March. Only very minor changes are required of the program to be documented on a CAP (corrective action plan) but more importantly the program received special recognition in seven areas!
- The Teen Health Center underwent evaluation by the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) in March. Multiple reviewers from different professional disciplines were on site to assure adolescent health indicators were being met. Staff did an excellent job. Reviewers were impressed by improvements made to the building environment making it more "teen friendly" and the success of the permanent social worker as well as many more outstanding achievements!
- SCCHD has increased its breast feeding knowledge and skill set for clients! Andrea McCabe, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor has satisfactorily completed certification requirements as a Certified Lactation Educator (CLE). Amelia Berger, Registered Dietitian has satisfactorily completed certification requirements as a Certified Lactation Specialist (CLS).
- A proposal to establish a statewide onsite wastewater code has been introduced (HB 5752/5753) in the Michigan Legislature. These bills could replace our St. Clair County Environmental Health Code requirements with those established by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. In addition, this proposed legislation would require all homeowners with an on-site sewage disposal system to have it evaluated on a 5 or 10 year time frame. Serious concerns have been raised about these bills regarding the loss of local control and the ability of homeowners to pay for the mandatory evaluation and any subsequent septic tank pumping and/or system repair or replacement. If passed as introduced, there will be a significant increase in workload for local health departments in the tracking, evaluation and enforcement of the new requirements with no guarantee of proper funding.
- The SCCHD Exposure Control Program is currently being reviewed. The Exposure Control Program is intended to identify, minimize and eliminate employee exposures and/or occupational hazards; train, educate and guide at-risk health department employees in ways to eliminate or reduce the risk of exposure hazards; provide employees the appropriate preventive health options and requirements; and provide necessary personal protection devices and equipment.
- On April 24, the SCCHD was awarded the "Thank You for Being a Friend" award at the 18th Annual Michigan Communicable Disease Conference in Lansing. "Friends don't let friends battle hepatitis A alone" as we have gained new friends and partnerships throughout this outbreak. This award was a team effort. Special thanks to the Blue Water Recovery and Outreach Center volunteer ambassadors, MDHHS and neighboring counties. Our community support has been extremely helpful during the hepatitis A vaccination clinics and educational outreach.