

January 2014



Points of Interest...

- The Michigan Department of Community Health recently expressed their appreciation to all local and state partners who participated and/or contributed to the overall success of Michigan's Strategic National Stockpile Plan. In the end, success is measured by collective ability to rapidly expand public health emergency operations; efficiently and effectively utilize scarce resources; and coordinate timely response with multiple disciplines and agencies to assure the mission goals and objectives are achieved (*before it is too late*). St. Clair County (SCC) is a Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) jurisdiction; therefore the SCC Health Department (SCCHD) is responsible for rigorous annual requirements, exercises, and federal and state technical reviews. The State's expression of appreciation to SCCHD for recent contributions and successes was affirming and appreciated.
- The Environmental Health Division recently responded to a mercury contamination situation at a residence, with small children, in St. Clair. Mercury beads were found by a homeowner in a floor drain at a recently purchased home. Levels of mercury vapor above acceptable levels were found throughout the dwelling. It is suspected that the mercury had been dumped down the drain sometime prior to the purchase of the home. Environmental Health staff (along with the EPA) oversaw the initial response, abatement and clearance.
- The Community Grant Assistance Program (CGAP) grant proposal for the feasibility study of collaborative services with Sanilac County was submitted to the Department of Treasury within the application deadline.
- The SCCHD has hired a part-time coordinator for the Prescription Drug Abuse Medical Subcommittee. Sarah Hurley will provide SCCHD with critical support for this initiative while still providing part time work at Community Mental Health (CMH) for the Community Services Coordinating Body.
- The Environmental Health Division has completed its first year of collaboration with the City of Marysville Water Treatment Plant who now provide drinking water and swimming pool water analysis. In 2013, over 1,800 samples were tested for bacteriological contamination. The arrangement has been mutually beneficial and is expected to continue.
- A cooperative agreement/contract has been established with Day Treatment Night Watch (DTNW), Health Education and Teen Health Center staff. DTNW adolescents will be provided a variety of educational and health risk assessment programs. This opportunity has a great deal of potential and definitely fits our role and Strategic Plan (*Goal #6- The SCCHD will develop, nurture and maintain effective collaborative partnerships to carry out its mission*).