

November 2014

Points of Interest...

- Ebola Update: The St. Clair County Health Department's (SCCHD) Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (EPC) and other key staff recently participated/observed/evaluated St. John River District Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and McLaren Port Huron Hospital exercise critical components of their emergency plans in order to test their ability to rapidly inform and mobilize staff; ready equipment and PPE; and adapt their Emergency Departments (ED) to contain a highly infectious patient. Other exercise partners included Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Emergency Medical Services (EMS), St. Clair County Hazmat, Port Huron Fire Department (PFPD) and St. Clair County Homeland Security Emergency Management.

- The Environmental Health Division has been appointed by Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) to join the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) Development Team. The SIP team is responsible for ranking priority projects for protecting, restoring and enhancing public use of the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair. These projects can address such issues as habitat restoration, green infrastructure and storm water management, bacteria reduction, parks and recreation development or acquisition, invasive species management, pollution prevention, and public education.

- The St. Clair County Health Department's Teen Health Center in partnership with Professional Counseling Center (PCC) is pleased to announce confidential counseling services are now available for those 10-21 years of age in this community. Compassionate, fully licensed professional therapists are now available to help individuals work through personal mental health concerns. Payment or financial concerns should not stop an individual from seeing a counselor. Many insurance plans are accepted. Special programs are available to eliminate financial barriers for those who are uninsured and/or under-insured. Appointments can be made by calling Teen Health Center at (810) 987-1311.

- The Port Huron Area School District (PHASD) approved an amendment to its contract with the SCCHD to permit Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) services at the Teen Health Center. This type of examination would allow the SANE to collect evidence and allow for follow-up care to survivors of sexual assault. Services will be provided to clients age 12 and older. Aftercare will be provided by Safe Horizons.

- Environmental Health's stakeholder's meeting on establishing a coordinated Federal, State and Local agency spill response protocol for water treatment plants along the Lake Huron to Lake Erie corridor has led to the development of a smart messaging procedure for public water supply alerts. The enhanced communication process involves the DEQ's Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS) notifying potentially affected Emergency Managers, Environmental Health Directors and water plants of both unconfirmed and confirmed reports of surface water spills.

- The St. Clair County Smoke Free Team (tobacco coalition), led by the SCCHD Health Education Division, with support of other community partners, is working to promote environmental and policy changes in the community around tobacco use. Technical assistance can be provided to organizations interested in the development/implementation of tobacco-free (TF) campuses, including such areas as parks, trails, beaches, playgrounds, etc. Common goals are to protect residents from the dangers of secondhand smoke and to assist in eliminating the tremendous environmental impact of tobacco litter. For more information contact (810) 987-5300 ext. 1414.