

December 2014

Points of Interest...

- Community leaders will continue to meet with the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) on the feasibility of restructuring the format, funding source, questions, and timeline for the next *Community Health Needs Assessment* (CHNA). The CHNA was primarily the responsibility of SCCHD and has traditionally followed the same format. Current funding does not allow SCCHD to solely subsidize this project. A genuine collaborative effort will result in more meaningful data including the hopes of acquiring better financial support.
- The Environmental Health Division recently provided *ServSafe Food Manager Certification* training and testing for 76 individuals representing 67 food service facilities. *ServSafe* is a food and beverage safety training and certificate program administered by the National Restaurant Association. The focus of the course is the prevention of foodborne illnesses. This certification is recognized nationwide and is valid for five years. The Food Code requires that one person per licensed food establishment must be certified.
- The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) is the largest home visiting program for Medicaid-eligible pregnant women and infants in Michigan. MIHP is essential to the success of Michigan's strategic plan to decrease infant mortality. MIHP staff is committed to promotion of healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes, and healthy infant growth and development. SCCHD's MIHP Certification review took place December 3rd and 4th. This review assessed their compliance with policies and procedures specified in the Medicaid provider manual and MIHP Operations Guide. 98.5% (65 of 66) of indicators were met an excellent achievement!
- The Environmental Health Division has completed another year of collaboration with the City of Marysville Water Treatment Plant for them to provide drinking and swimming pool water analysis. During the past year, over 1,700 samples from the SCCHD were tested for bacteriological contamination. The arrangement has been mutually beneficial and is expected to continue through next year.
- Flu activity continues to increase in the United States. MDSS (Michigan Disease Surveillance System) data indicates Michigan's current influenza activity level is "widespread"- the highest level of activity. Statewide, individual reports of flu disease are higher than levels seen during the same time period last year. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses are the most common strain circulating this flu season. H3N2-predominant seasons have been associated with more severe illness and mortality, especially among the elderly and young children. Flu vaccination is strongly recommended for any unvaccinated persons because the vaccine may still offer benefit. Even when circulating flu strains aren't a perfect match, flu vaccination can still provide protection and can help decrease hospitalizations and doctor visits. Antiviral medications for the treatment of influenza illness, especially among high risk persons, are also an important component. The SCCHD will continue to offer flu vaccination by appointment while supplies last. Call (810)987-5729 for information.
- A new contract agreement has been signed between the SCCHD and Day Treatment Night Watch and is effective January 1, 2015. The Health Education division will again be providing programming to adolescents at Day Treatment Night Watch (DTNW). The Nursing division will also begin to provide up to four hours per week of onsite direct nursing services. Sandy Mangan RNC, FNP-BC will provide well physicals, immunizations, risk assessment screening, STI and HIV screening as well as acute and chronic care.