

FEBRUARY 2015

## *Points of Interest...*

- Governor Snyder announced a \$1.5 M budget cut to *Essential Local Public Health Services* (ELPHS) funding- roughly equivalent to \$22,000 in St Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) appropriations for this year (FY15). Reductions in funding to ELPHS primarily affect State Mandated Programs.
- The state also announced the current merger of Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) with the Department of Human Services (DHS) referred to now as the *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*. This merger will invariably create some changes in service delivery and funding. We are actively meeting with local St Clair County Community Mental Health (CMH) and DHS leadership to communicate and respond to upcoming changes.
- All participating communities and educational institutions have recommitted to their budget appropriation for the Environmental Health Division provided storm water permit services. In total, nine communities (Port Huron, Marysville, St. Clair, Marine City, Clyde Twp., Fort Gratiot Twp., Kimball Twp., Port Huron Twp. and East China Twp.) and six educational institutions (Port Huron, Marysville, East China, Algonac, RESA and SC4) are contributing over \$23,000 for assistance in maintaining permit compliance. The St. Clair County Health Department remains the only local health department in State of Michigan that has administrative responsibility for the *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* (NPDES) storm water permit.
- Nursing Division and Environmental Health Division are collaborating on implementation of *Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Grant* initiatives; increasing awareness/education and testing for lead within Michigan prosperity region 6 (Huron, Genesee, Lapeer, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, and Tuscola counties). Educational sessions are currently being scheduled within the region, targeting home visiting professionals and educators.
- Key SCCHD operational staff completed the required FEMA course- *Incident Command System ICS 400*. Training was received through St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management. SCCHD is now 100% compliant to training requirements.
- Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, Liz Foley continues to increase the number of peer counseling appointments and referrals. Peer Counselors provide services to WIC mothers such as classes, support groups, and individual counseling sessions in person or by phone. Program promotion and outreach is essential. Look for Liz in March at:
  - Rite Aid Health Fair 3-4-15
  - Women's Expo 3-6-15
  - Community Baby Shower 3-25-15
- The SCCHD *Control of Communicable Disease Plan* is currently being updated based on recent experiences and lessons learned with the West Africa Ebola Outbreak and its impact on U.S. public health and medical systems.