

July 2015

## Points of Interest...

- The Environmental Health Division has received DEQ approval for the recently submitted *Belle River Watershed Plan*. The county received a \$250,000 grant from the DEQ in 2011 to write the watershed plan. The 240 page technical document assesses the present state of the Belle River watershed, the historical changes it has undergone, and the challenges it faces in the future. An approval plan is a necessity to obtain future funding for projects and actions that are needed to restore, enhance and protect the Belle River across Lapeer, Macomb and St. Clair Counties. A result of the project is the discovery that the Belle River is home to two federally endangered native mussels.
- St. Clair County has the fourth highest rate in Michigan (13.4 per 10,000 of live births or 11 total deaths) of *Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths* (SUID). SUID was defined by ICD10 codes for cause of death on the death certificate and included; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation in bed and all cases with an unknown cause of death. This data was taken from 2009-2013, MI Birth Cohort Files and Michigan Resident Infant Mortality Files. St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) will begin initiatives to improve awareness and education related to safe sleep practices with a mini grant of \$22, 500.00 for fiscal year 2016.
- The *Michigan Integrated Food Emergency Response Pilot Project* was rolled out during the July statewide EPC (Emergency Preparedness Coordinator) conference call by Dr. John Tilden (MDARD). The end goal is to provide to Michigan health departments a “**Foodborne Illness and Emergency Response Annex**” EOP template for the purpose of *improving coordination and communication during multi-agency foodborne illness and food emergency responses*. The annex outlines a flexible framework and guidance for conducting the key functions of a coordinated emergency response to non-routine foodborne illness outbreaks and food emergencies. Focus is on providing the command, control, communication, and execution of the local health department’s emergency response activities during a wide range of food-related incidents. Dr. Tilden thanked EPCs of *Kent, Ottawa, and St. Clair Counties* for their involvement in this project and workgroup activities.
- SCCHD Nursing Division has partnered with Alana’s Foundation and St. Clair County Community College (SC4) to bring Influenza vaccine to college aged adults at no cost. Current data from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services indicated that only 8.9% of St. Clair County adult’s ages 18 years to not yet 24 years received an Influenza vaccine in the 2014/2015 season.
- Keri Shinn has replaced Ruth Habalewsky, as the St. Clair County Health Department’s Environmental Health Food Program - Field Coordinator. Keri has been employed with the SCCHD for over 15 years and has inspection experience and knowledge in all aspects of the food service industry. She will now be overseeing the program and performing facility plan reviews.
- August 4<sup>th</sup> at Vantage Point Farmers Market will be an exciting day for SCCHD Women Infants and Children (WIC) division! On-site nutrition education classes will be offered in connection with *Project Fresh* coupon distribution, which allows WIC eligible clients \$20.00 worth of farm fresh fruits and vegetables. A walk to raise awareness and promote breastfeeding will also take place at 10:00 a.m. at Vantage Point! Call (810) 987-8222 for more information.