

November 2015

Points of Interest...

- St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) recently completed the Michigan Department Health & Human Services (MDHHS) *Local Public Health Accreditation* review process for years 2013, 2014 and 2015. Michigan public health accreditation standards assure local health departments maximize their potential to protect and improve people's health in their communities. Accreditation is a successful program for routinely assessing performance and improving quality. A final evaluation report will be provided to SCCHD by MDHHS in the near future
- **SCCHD Medical Countermeasures (Strategic National Stockpile) Plan and Operational Field Guides** were submitted to the State for review on 11/1/15. The supporting documentation (*drills, exercises, records, communications... proof of activity*) was submitted on 11/18/15, as per cooperative agreement. This year a new operational readiness tool is being tested by the CDC with the intent to develop a new baseline with more emphasis on operational activities (*drills, test, exercises and real life response*).
- November 6th, 2015 marked the end of contractual agreements with two retired SCCHD nurses to deliver immunization waiver education to parents/guardians. On site waiver appointments were scheduled in response to the *Joint Committee on Administrative Rules* approval for new educational requirements for Michigan parents opting their children out of getting vaccinated before entering school beginning January 2015. The total number of immunization waivers signed from January 1, 2015 – October 31st, 2015 was 448.
- The St. Clair County Health Department Environmental Division was recently presented with an award of recognition as a *St. Clair River Restoration Partner* by the St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Council. The Board of Health received the award on behalf of the Health Department for their work on protecting water quality through the beach monitoring program, watershed activities, and illicit discharge removals. This Binational Area of Concern committee acknowledged the Health Department for their dedication and commitment to the health of the St. Clair River.
- Through Region 10 PIHP grant funding, the SCCHD will provide coalition oversight of the *St. Clair County Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup*. Meetings will resume again in January, 2016. The workgroup originally was divided into Medical, Senior and Community Subcommittees and will reconvene as one full body group to establish clear goals and objectives. New data will be presented and gaps and trends will be discussed. Naloxone, youth advocacy, medical assisted treatment and diversion are issues that are of additional concern and need to be considered. Our workgroup will be working to develop a clear strategic plan and interventional strategies. It is imperative we have a broad diversity of stakeholders to inform this process, as this is a complex community problem. Making sure our workgroup has consistent levels of understanding, and aligns with a strong regional marketing campaign are priorities as well.
- Look for *Lead Prevention, Breastfeeding Peer Counseling, Immunizations and Infant Safe Sleep* digital and poster advertisements throughout St. Clair County until March of 2016. Nursing Division has extended a contract with Lamar to continue advertising through grant funding.