

DECEMBER 2015

Points of Interest...

- The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) Environmental Health Division completed DEQ authorized self-evaluations for the on-site wastewater treatment management and private/type III water supply programs. The quality assurance guidelines in the evaluations included extensive record reviews of numerous components. According to the findings, all minimum program requirements are being met. In the case of the on-site wastewater program, the self-assessment results were verified during the department wide accreditation. The Environmental Health Division also successfully completed an MDARD accreditation review of the food service program. Four MDARD inspectors evaluated all aspects of the food program, including a field review of staff. After the review, it was determined that all 16 minimum program requirements were met.

- The SCCHD received and passed an annual unannounced after-hours emergency communication drill from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of EMS, Trauma, and Preparedness (BETP). After hours calls (depending on incident type) are received and triaged by Diane Forsy (Emergency Preparedness Coordinator), Greg Brown (Administrator) or Dr. Mercatante (Medical Health Officer). Central Dispatch is the Health Department's emergency (after hours) contact alternate, assuring health department officials receive the communication within the allotted time frame. T. Conger (Central Dispatch Director) verified the message and assured it was forwarded to SCCHD using redundant communications methods.

- The Environmental Health Division recently hired two new Sanitarians to fill vacancies created by staff retirements. Ashley Castello has been hired as a Sanitarian II. She was previously employed with the Oakland County Health Department. She is a MDARD Food and Dairy Division Standardized Food Trainer, which allow her to train other food inspectors. In addition, she is a Serv Safe Food Safety Certified Instructor and Registered Proctor. Linda Stanbridge has been hired to fill a Sanitarian vacancy. She was previously employed with the Sanilac County Health Department. She brings experience in all areas of Environmental Health. Both will be primarily involved in the food program.

- Each flu season, flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands and sometimes tens of thousands of deaths. Don't delay! Flu vaccine is still available. To schedule an appointment for a flu shot at the St. Clair County Health Department, call (810) 987-5300.

- The St. Clair County Health Department with other state and local public health departments observed a national moment of silence earlier this month in memory of our fellow colleagues in San Bernardino, CA. With that being said, it is important to share a resource that the Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with NACCHO, developed called *Psychological First Aid for Leaders* (PFA-L). This free, 90-minute interactive and effective on-line training helps leaders at any level understand and address their staff's stress risks and reactions and create a resilient workplace. PFA-L is based on the principles of Psychological First Aid which is an evidence-informed approach for assisting children, adolescents, adults, families, and responders in the aftermath of a disaster or emergency event. For more information visit <http://nacchopreparedness.org/building-workforce-resilience-through-the-practice-of-psychological-first-aid/>.