

August 2016

Points of Interest...

- The 2016 WIC *Breastfeeding Stroll* on August 2 at Vantage Point was an enormous success with over 75 families and 19 vendors in attendance to support breastfeeding awareness. St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) has been recognized by the Michigan Breastfeeding Network as a silver level awardee for their outstanding breastfeeding support to staff. SCCHD is breastfeeding friendly, supportive to staff who wish to breastfeed and pump by allowing them ample time and a beautiful, peaceful space designated for breastfeeding in the WIC program area. An award presentation will take place August 31 at SCCHD.
- Environmental Health staff joined CMU, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and MDNR scientists and biologists to document and protect biodiversity in the Belle River. The Belle River supports Michigan's largest and most diverse mussel population with many rare and endangered species that can only be studied locally. It was a team effort finding 20 different species, an accomplishment that has not been documented anywhere else in the state. Since mussels are sensitive to water quality changes, the presence of these mussels indicate the high biological integrity of the Belle River.
- The Nursing division welcomed new employee Laura Whittaker, LMSW, to the SCCHD. Laura will fill the new part time permanent Social Worker position at Teen Health Center and will be available three days per week to counsel adolescents, facilitate groups and co-present the LEADS curriculum at area schools. In FY 15-16 Teen Health Center documented 331 encounters/visits for mental health.
- On August 11, at 10:30 p.m. Diane Forys, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, received a call there was a massive fire at DTE Energy's St. Clair Power Plant. The St. Clair County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated and Diane was in attendance. Several SCCHD nurses were sent to the scene to provide care to emergency crews and DTE Energy Employees.
- The St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body (CSCB), Region 10 PIHP and St. Clair County Community College (SC4) are sponsoring a *Gender Identity & Youth 101* Community Conversation, September 21, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at SC4 Cafeteria. Stephanie Lange, LMSW, ACSW, Macomb County Specialist will be presenting. Adolescents who identify as LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender) are more likely to use alcohol/other drugs; have increased smoking rates; and have a greater risk of depression and suicide risk factors. Participants will learn basic information on gender roles, current terminology related to transgender youth; and how to become an ally for at-risk youth. Register by Sept 14 to (810)987-5300 ext. 1470 or lcopp@stclaircounty.org. A training specific for school staff/personnel and those who work with youth will be held in early September. Funding for trainings provided by MDHHS and Region 10 PIHP.