

September 2016

Points of Interest...

- Environmental Health Director, Steve Demick, was recently appointed to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Air Quality Division's (AQD) *Air Advisory Council*. The 22-member board provides input to the AQD in the areas of public participation, air dispersion modeling and other policy and programmatic issues. The group provides a forum for stakeholders to provide feedback and advice to the DEQ, especially as related to the Department's rule-making authority. Goals are to maintain air quality standards, limit emissions of hazardous and toxic pollutants, and inform the public about current air conditions. The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) is the only local public health agency represented on the Council.
- Cities Readiness Initiatives (CRI) jurisdiction counties have all received the results of their Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Operational Readiness Review (ORR) Final Reports. This is a departure from the SNS Technical Review Report used in the previous 10 years. This new format creates a new baseline for plan development and operational status. Highly detailed, requiring a great deal of proof of actual activities through real event or exercise and structured to address 8 of the 15 public health capabilities. (Homeland Security/Emergency Management has comparable capabilities and requirements).
- Approximately 50 participants attended the *Gender Identity & Youth 101* school/counselor training at RESA on 9/12 and 100 participants attended the community conversation at St. Clair County Community College (SC4) on 9/21. The trainings were sponsored by the St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body (CSCB), Region 10 PIHP and SC4. Participants learned basic information on gender roles, current terminology related to transgender youth; and how to become an ally for at-risk youth. Adolescents who identify as LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender) are more likely to use alcohol, drugs, tobacco, as well as suffer from depression and suicide. Participant evaluations were very positive and confirmed the need for further training/discussion in our county.
- A Community Readiness Assessment (CRA) was recently completed with various community stakeholders concerning prescription drug misuse/abuse in St. Clair County. Results were discussed at the SCC Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup meeting indicating community denial/resistance on this issue. Further discussion on education and outreach initiatives will be completed over the next year in order to improve the community's knowledge and efforts on the issue. For more information regarding the CRA contact the Health Education division at (810)987-5300.
- SCCHD is hosting the annual meeting with Lambton Community Health Services this year. The date is set for November 17th at 9:00 AM. Agenda to include Zika updates, recent investigations and outbreaks, policy development and community outreach.