

May 2017

Points of Interest...

- Diane Forsys, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (EPC), attended *The Great Lakes Homeland Security (GLHS) Conference* and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) EPC Face-2-Face Meeting May 8-11. The GLHS is a prestigious conference offering training and educational opportunities for multi-disciplinary first and emergency responders, trainers and planners. The MDHHS EPC Face-2-Face is an intensive two day training/planning event focusing on Administrative Preparedness which is critical in assuring that routine processes and procedures do not delay response to rapidly emerging events that threaten community health.
- The Strategic Plan for the St. Clair County Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup was recently finalized. Three goals and subcommittees have been established: (1) Improve community readiness of prescription drug abuse/misuse in St. Clair County; (2) Identify barriers and opportunities that would reduce prescription drug abuse impacts on families and children; and (3) Collaborate with prescribers to reduce opiate prescribing. All committees began meeting this month.
- Sheri Faust was awarded the Earth Fair's inaugural *Green Guardian Environmental Professional* award during this year's event. Earth Fair launched the Green Guardian award program to recognize environmental defenders in four categories that have demonstrated an initiative to enhance, preserve, and protect the Blue Water Area. This is the first-ever environmental award program for the Blue Water Area.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Division recently submitted the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan (EOP Annex A – Section 2) for State review. The plans contain detailed divisional and program information supporting COOP operational requirements including administrative procedures to expedite decision making and processes.
- SCCHD's Title X Family Planning Clinic is expanding due to increased demand. The clinic which began in November of 2016 offering initial appointments ½ a day per week by utilizing existing staff, will soon expand availability to two full days per week. Staffing will also increase with the addition of a part time nurse practitioner, registered nurse and clerk allowing SCCHD to meet its unduplicated caseload for this year.
- Two Environmental Health division staff, Steve Demick and Ashley Castello have been awarded scholarships to attend the 2017 *National Environmental Health Association Conference* in July. The annual education conference brings together experts from around the world and is considered the nation's premier environmental health event. A focus of the conference is to gain skills, knowledge, and expertise directly applicable to addressing organizational challenges and improving public health.