

July 2014



Points of Interest...

- St. Clair County Health Department's (SCCHD) *Crisis, Emergency and Risk Communication (CERC) Plan* was forwarded to the state for annual review. This plan contains the methods, procedures, roles and responsibilities of the health department to provide accurate, credible actionable and timely information to the public at times of crisis, emergencies or anytime when a threat to community health or well-being is at stake. The plan includes communication strategies for hard to reach and vulnerable populations, scripts, tools, job action guides and resources.
- As of July 2014, 4,298 (80.1%) of St. Clair County (SCC) residents have enrolled in the *Healthy Michigan Health Plan*, yet 1,066 (19.9%) remain unenrolled. SCCHD provides application assistance to help ensure that qualifying families receive state health insurance benefits. Select clerical staff received *MI Bridges* training in July. *MI Bridges* is a web portal for various state assistance programs, including health insurance programs, *MIChild* and *Healthy Kids* for qualifying children; the *MOMs* program, for qualifying pregnant mothers; and *Healthy Michigan Plan* for low-income, eligible MI residents ages 19-64.
- SCCHD Teen Health Center (THC) will have extended hours August 4 – September 12 in preparation for back to school health care needs. Mondays and Thursdays 8:00am-6:30pm; Regular business hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to take advantage of these hours for obtaining their child's comprehensive, school sports physicals for a discounted rate of \$25.00 if payment is received the same day as appointment (regular price \$40.00).
- Communicable Disease and Environmental Health staff interviewed and identified a SCC resident who is part of a rare patterned small cluster of *Salmonella Saintpaul* cases in Michigan (MI). The Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern is new in MI and very rare nationally. There are currently five cases in this cluster in MI from four contiguous counties in southeast MI; characteristics are suggestive of a common source outbreak. Investigation is ongoing.
- The Environmental Health division is monitoring a total of 15 Great Lakes and five inland beaches this season. An additional 19 sites around the county are also evaluated. A grant funded summer aide samples these locations for the presence of *E. coli*, which is an indicator of potential contamination. Sampling continues until Labor Day. SCC is one of the few counties that test all of its public coastal beaches.
- August marks *National Breastfeeding Month*. Activities throughout the state and in SCC are planned to draw attention to the importance of breastfeeding for the health and well-being of mothers and children. SCCHD Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) is leading up this initiative with extensive outreach and education planned.
- WIC has received a grant to institute a *Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program* at SCCHD. Monitoring breastfeeding data is part of a current breastfeeding quality improvement plan and the foundation for evidenced based interventions. Funding will assist SCCHD to expand and support sustainable services, and outreach for breastfeeding in turn increasing the clients experience and improving health outcomes. This is an excellent opportunity to improve breastfeeding rates and duration which has remained significantly below state averages in SCC for years.