

October 2015

Points of Interest...

- St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) was well represented (Dr. Mercatante, members of the Nursing Division and Health Education) at Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference, "Public Health: Building a Culture of Health for All" October 6th – October 8th. The conference brings together Michigan's public health professionals to recognize the contributions of public health in Michigan communities, celebrate public health's achievements during the past year, and disseminate best practices in working with community partners to improve the health of Michigan's citizens. Liz King, Nursing and Community Health Director and Margaret Sturgis, Nursing Supervisor also presented a session at the conference on SCCHD's community response to the Mercury spill of 2014.
- The Environmental Health Division has completed the bacteriological monitoring of eight Great Lakes beaches. Through the end of the beach season there have been over four hundred samples analyzed resulting in a total of twenty-one single day closures. The SCCHD also participated in a grant study of real-time beach monitoring equipment. This advanced technology produces water quality results within hours and can be used to identify specific sources of pollution using genetic markers. In this study, the real-time qPCR technology agreed with the conventional 18-hour method over 90% of the time.
- Nursing Division was pleased to partner with Council on Aging for their annual "Senior Power Day" on 10/23/15. This event reached over 500 community seniors! Outreach related to Infant Safe Sleep, Lead Prevention, and general health department services was displayed as well as onsite Influenza and Pneumonia vaccines were delivered.
- Steve Demick, Environmental Health Director, was recently elected to the *Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators* (MALEHA) Board of Directors. The mission of MALEHA is to advocate for the protection, promotion and enhancement of environmental health in Michigan.
- SCCHD Health Education division received a mini-grant from Tobacco Free Michigan and the Southeastern Michigan Indians, Inc., to incorporate a youth-focused event on tobacco prevention, education and awareness. The SCCHD, in partnership with the SCC County Smoke Free Team and City of Port Huron Recreation Department completed a cigarette butt litter pick-up on *Make a Difference Day* at Lakeside Beach and Park on 10/24/15. Over 80 people attended, including almost 50 youth. Over 900 butts were collected at the park/playground and 3,260 butts from the beach. A post clean-up will occur next year. This area was selected as a follow-up to the *Tobacco free Beaches/Playgrounds Resolution* that was recently passed by Port Huron City Council in late summer. Presentations with the findings will occur at a future city council and Tobacco Free Michigan state meeting.