

June 2016

Points of Interest...

- The 2016 *St. Clair County Behavioral Risk Factor Survey* (BRFS) telephone survey has begun. Residents ages 18 and over will be randomly selected and contacted via land line or cell phone. Trained staff from Northern Illinois University, displaying an “815” area code, will identify themselves calling on behalf of the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD). Questions will be asked to gather information and data about the health behaviors and social issues of St. Clair County residents. Upon completion, a *Community Health Needs Assessment* (CHNA) will be developed. By collecting behavioral health risk data at the local level, the BRFS and CHNA are powerful tools for targeting and building a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

- SCCHD was awarded “*The chick that laid upon the golden straw award*” at the 16th Annual Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Communicable Disease Conference. The award was given in recognition of staffs dedicated investigation strategies involving a case of Salmonella. The case was directly related to a multistate outbreak, in which the suspected source was chicks. Environmental Health and Nursing staff not only coordinated the investigation but collected multiple specimens on site after carefully timed delivery of chicks!

- The SCCHD is partnering with Wayne State University and water treatment plants in a grant funded project to study two different *volatile organic compounds* (VOC) monitoring systems and evaluate the efficiency and sustainability of the instruments for further protection of drinking water. This six month project includes the installation of the VOC monitoring systems in two locations (the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Water Works Park Plant and the Marysville Drinking Water Treatment Plant), training for the operators, and summarizing the effectiveness and economic logistics of using a real-time VOC monitoring system at treatment facilities along the Huron to Erie corridor.

- Steve Demick, Environmental Health Director and Diane Forys, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, participated in “*CANALUK*” (*U. S. Coast Guard - St. Clair River Oil Spill Exercise*). This is a continuation of the table-top exercise SCCHD participated in last year. The role of the health department (public health) included: 1) monitoring of human and environmental exposures (air, water); 2) providing recommendations for public information release; 3) preparations for (temporary) shelters; 4) identification of the impacted populations; 5) and alternate water sources. There were 36 individuals in the “Environmental Section” of the exercise Command Post. Two staff from MDHHS also represented public health.

- The SCCHD hosted a *Special Pathogens Workshop* designated for local medical and healthcare partners. Speakers included several experts from MDHHS and the Director of the Midland County Mosquito Control Program. Topics included Zika Virus; Ebola Traveler Monitoring and Other Special Pathogens; Communicable Disease Surveillance System Updates; and Laboratory Guidance. Approximately 30 people attended including staff from hospital systems, long term care facilities and the health department. (*Training originally scheduled in February 2016-rescheduled due to weather*).

- The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) received their *Cycle 5 Certification Review* by MDHHS June 27th – June 28th, 2016. MIHP programs are reviewed every 18 months in Michigan, with 64 indicators to meet. The reviewer was especially impressed by the staff’s team approach, how well they worked together, charting, and the number of referrals made for clients! Congratulations to Melanie Dunsmore RN, program supervisor and all MIHP staff on another outstanding successful review.