

March 2017

Points of Interest...

- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Division provided a Crisis, Emergency, Risk Communications (CERC) Plan refresher for the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) Public Information Officer (PIO) Team. This refresher covered the plan structure, tools, and resources with emphasis on the prioritization and scaling of routine PIO tasks to meet the needs of an event. Furthermore, the SCCHD CERC Plan was submitted to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response for review on February 28, 2017.

- The Environmental Health Division has received funding through a MDHHS grant to monitor for the species of mosquitos that could potentially transmit the Zika virus. The intent of this new program is to develop a low-cost surveillance system geared at identifying populations of Aedes species mosquitoes that are capable of transmitting the Zika virus; to support community engagement projects aimed at education, mosquito breeding site elimination; and supporting the development of mosquito control. Five traps will be operated twice a week throughout the County this summer. Neither of the mosquito species of concern have been confirmed in Michigan but indications are that their range is migrating northward.

- SCCHD was represented at Parent University, March 4 and the Community Baby Shower, March 15 at St. Clair County RESA. Staff members educated patrons on Maternal Infant Health, Safe Sleep, Lead, Breastfeeding and WIC. Parent University is focused on providing participants with current information on trends or topics surrounding early childhood. The Community Baby Shower is an annual free event for expectant families offering information on topics important to the well-being of new babies. Participants are provided with workshops on varied topics such as growth and development, healthy foods and nutrition, pre-term labor, safety and play.

- The St. Clair County Breastfeeding Coalition held its kickoff meeting in January of 2017. The coalition is led by SCCHD's Andrea McCabe and Rebecca Campau with a goal to improve communication surrounding breastfeeding and "get all involved to speak the same language" while improving breastfeeding rates. Attendees included representatives from both SCC birthing hospitals, MSU Extension, Blue Water Pregnancy Care Center, local medical community, and other stakeholders. The next meeting is May 17 at SCCHD. Meetings will continue bi-monthly, at rotating sites.