

OCTOBER 2018

Points of Interest...

- According to 2016 Maternal and Infant Health Program (MIHP) enrollment data, almost 50% of pregnant woman ages 15-24 live in smoking households. The March of Dimes is committed to decreasing the rate of pregnant women that smoke in Michigan. Smoking during pregnancy is one of the few know risk factors that can cause premature birth. St. Clair County Health Department's (SCCHD) SCRIPT program was chosen as the March of Dimes "Fund the mission" cause at the Signature Chefs fundraising event on October 11. All donations raised are going towards hosting a "SCRIPT training" in St. Clair County (SCC). SCRIPT is an evidenced based program shown to be effective in helping thousands of pregnant women quit smoking as well as those living in their household.

- On September 27 the St. Clair County Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup hosted a "Prescriber Response to the Opioid Epidemic." Twenty-eight physicians, prescribers, and nurses from around the Thumb Region gathered to learn best practices in how to respond to the opioid epidemic. Topics included addiction physiology, office-based screening tools (including Michigan Automated Prescription System or MAPS), and how to prevent drug diversion. Marlette Regional Hospital partnered with the Rx Workgroup by housing the training and providing dinner. Continuing Medical Education credits were offered for participants through St. Clair County Medical Society.

- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Division is in the process of integrating "Sustained Dispensing" into the SCCHD Medical Countermeasures – Strategic National Stockpile Plan. This section describes the process to provide additional medication to the population beyond a 10-day antibiotic regimen and/or there is a need to administer multiple rounds of vaccines post exposure. An extended mass prophylaxis response from SCCHD may also be needed when diseases have longer incubation periods or when multiple, staggered exposure events occur.

- Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer and President of Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH), attended the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference in Bay City on October 16-18. At the conference Dr. Eden Wells, Chief Medical Executive for MDHHS, was voted by her peers to receive the Roy R. Manty-Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Mercatante shared "Eden's contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Michigan is huge and greatly appreciated by all those privileged to work with her and should be acknowledged on behalf of every person who lives or works in Michigan."

- The St. Clair County Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup recently completed a Community Readiness Assessment with key stakeholders. Community Readiness measures the degree to which a community is ready to take action on an issue. In 2016, our overall Community Readiness score was 3.43 out of 9. The 2018 score is 4.41 out of 9. This indicates that our Rx Workgroup and community partners have been working to increase awareness of the issue of prescription drug misuse. Though more work needs to be done to improve our score, it is moving in the right direction.