

JANUARY 2019

Points of Interest...

- As part of a statewide initiative all community and schools water supplies in St. Clair County have been sampled for the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFAS) contamination. PFAS substances are part of a group of chemicals used globally during the past century in manufacturing, firefighting and thousands of common household and other consumer products. In recent years, experts have become increasingly concerned by the potential effects of high concentrations of PFAS on human health. All results received from St. Clair County were non-detect for the chemicals of concern. Of the over 1,700 supplies sampled statewide nearly 1,500 were non-detect with only two found to be above the health advisory level.
- Dr. Mercatante, Medical Health Officer, continues to provide training on ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) to local stakeholders including Lighthouse Family Practice, Blue Water Chamber of Commerce Board, SCC Board of Health and the SCC Rx Prescription Abuse Prevention Workgroup. ACE's is one of the strongest public health predictors of adverse health and welfare outcomes that we know of, and has promising potential to change the trajectory of poor health that burdens our community.
- Kathy Bladow RN, BSN, Nursing Supervisor, represented the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) at the Southeastern Michigan WIC Engagement Project. This cross jurisdictional grant project for FY 19' is to develop improvement efforts related to declining WIC caseloads in the region. The group identified goals, outlined a common language, as well as conducted a root cause analysis into why caseload had declined. The next steps include focus groups or community conversations with data analysis.
- This month approximately 30 SCCHD staff and non-staff attended the National Incident Management System ICS 300 - Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS) for Expanding Incidents class held at the health department. The class provided training and resources for personnel requiring advanced knowledge and application of the incident command system. This three day class was offered by Homeland Security and Emergency management and coordinated by the SCCHD Emergency Preparedness and Response Division.
- Dr. Mercatante attended the "Action Breakfast" hosted by Operation Transformation featuring guest speaker Anthony Jones who discussed Intercultural Training for Leaders. The important topic of cultural and racial differences, and perceptions was covered. A key element of raising health outcomes is to incorporate health disparities and social determinants of health issues into planning interventions. This dialogue should be enhanced and expanded.