

**APRIL 2019**

### ***Points of Interest...***

- In an effort to be more proactive regarding any future Statewide Sewage Disposal Code legislation, MALEHA (local environmental health directors) has reached out to MALPH (local health officers) to form a joint workgroup. Steve Demick, Environmental Health Director, has been selected to participate as a representative of MALEHA. The purpose of the workgroup is to have both entities reach a consensus on shared priorities and present a unified public health voice on the issue.
- The Health Department's WIC program is working on two Quality Improvement (QI) projects. One is a regional cross-jurisdictional engagement with Macomb, Wayne and Oakland County WIC programs to develop improvement efforts related to declining WIC caseloads in SE Michigan. The other is an internal QI project relative to improved communication that may expand to other health department programs if proven successful.
- In an effort to address the high rate of pregnant women who use tobacco in St. Clair County, key Nursing division as well as Health Education staff were trained through the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) in SCRIPT (Smoking Cessation and Reduction in Pregnancy) April 22, 2019. SCRIPT is an award winning, evidence based program shown to be effective in reducing smoking in thousands of pregnant woman.
- Under PA 586 of 2018, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Child and Adolescent Health (CAHC) program has increased funding to existing CAHC fiduciaries. The Nursing division will utilize this award to increase mental health services at Algonac Jr/Sr High by placing a full time Social Worker on site. This Social Worker will follow the already existing model used at Teen Health Center.
- Aligning with MDHHS's harm reduction strategies our Personal Health Services program is now offering rapid Hepatitis C screening, with confirmatory Hepatitis C testing for positives at the MDHHS Bureau of Labs, and linkage to care coordination for clients. In addition, a second initiative to reduce harm was introduced in April; The ExChange offering syringes, clean works, safe injection education, first aid, and personal hygiene products. The ExChange offers clients a direct referral to a peer recovery coach if indicated.