

The Shiawassee County Health Department (SCHD) is a key link in the effort to provide our citizens with a better tomorrow by supporting solutions to today's health care, economic, environmental, educational and citizen security challenges. The Health Department is one of the largest and most dynamic departments in County government. The Personal and Community Health Division assists both children and adults in becoming and staying healthy thereby allowing them to learn and become more productive. The Environmental Health Division assures clean water, safe disposal/treatment of sewage and safe restaurants. These activities provide a solid basis with which the County can attract new businesses, residents and tourists. The Emergency Preparedness Division assures that in the event of a public emergency such as a toxic chemical spill or pandemic outbreak, proper Federal, State, local and private partners will provide an appropriate response that will enable our citizenry to be informed and feel secure.

2017 was a busy and successful year at the Shiawassee County Health Department. For the first time in its history, the Health Department undertook a Strategic Planning Initiative. The purpose of this initiative was to develop a plan that will guide the Health Department as we move toward the future of public health. Items identified as focus areas included, developing a Health Education program, expanding services for senior citizens, increasing immunizations rates, providing resources to combat the drug epidemic and locating and securing new clinic/office space for the Personal Health Division. The Health Department also developed a new logo and rebranded itself to reflect 21st Century public health.

County Health Director Larry Johnson oversees all operations of the Health Department including finance, personnel, human resources, information technology, personal health, environmental health and emergency preparedness. Nicole Greenway, Director of Personal and Community Health, oversees all personal and community health services offered at the Health Department. Casey Elliott, Environmental Health Supervisor, oversees all environmental health services offered at the Health Department. Dr. Dennis Chernin, M.D., serves as Medical Director and is entering his 32nd year with the Health Department

In 2017, the Health Department continued its extensive community collaboration with multiple organizations working on projects such as the Community Health Needs Assessment, childhood obesity, substance abuse, maternal depression, child advocacy and environmental protection.

In our Personal and Community Health Division, there have been many new initiatives. We received a grant to create and distribute a postcard-based education campaign for both the human papillomavirus (HPV) and pneumococcal (PCV 13 and PPSV23) vaccines. The response from these efforts has been incredible, with the Health Department seeing a marked increase in requests for these vaccines. The Sexually Transmitted Infection Division launched a new program called *Wear One*. This free condom distribution program includes partnerships between SCHD and local businesses where community members can easily access free condoms without added barriers such as cost or transportation. Additionally, SCHD received funding to conduct a Maternal and Child Health Community Assessment. One of the projects conducted during the assessment was a photo exhibit titled, *The Health of Shiawassee County: Our Thoughts Through Photos*; 9 Lincoln High School students photographically answered the question, "what makes Shiawassee County healthy and unhealthy?" Students took photos representing each concept. The result was an 18 photograph traveling exhibit. Photographs were displayed in local businesses and organizations. We also started a Wellness Through Yoga class for senior citizens that was very popular and well attended. Participants were able to increase their flexibility and balance and improve their overall well-being. The Communicable Disease Division continues to provide education and monitor the prevalence of many communicable diseases, thus ensuring the health and safety of the community. The Maternal and Child Health Program continue to provide home visits by a registered nurse and social worker; providing support and education to many Shiawassee County pregnant women and infants.

In our Environmental Health Division, highlights of the year included a major expansion of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program and continued growth in the annual river clean-up event. For the first

time, a HHW collection event was held in Durand in conjunction with an E-Waste Collection conducted by the Shiawassee Conservation District and we collected waste from 152 cars and collected 12,072 lbs. of HHW. At the annual fall collection held in Owosso, we had 216 cars and collected an additional 15,534 lbs. of HHW. This brought our yearly total to 27,606 lbs. of HHW collected and properly recycled. The annual Shiawassee River Clean-up and Scrap Tire Collection received grant funding for an unprecedented tenth consecutive year. 150 volunteers worked to remove 30 cubic yards of debris and 45 tires from the river. 878 tires were received at our community Scrap Tire Collection. We continued to see an increase in our well and septic permits as the economy has improved. Our food service facility inspections have also increased over the last year as we work to protect public health.

In our Emergency Preparedness Division, efforts this year have been focused around preparedness and response geared towards our special/functional needs population. This is a collaborative community risk reduction effort to build emergency preparedness capacity within our county. The efforts will identify sectors of the population who are at risk during an emergency, and to encourage preparedness activities and develop and implement a more efficient response and recovery plan. This year was a planning and goal setting year that will lead the way into next year as we begin to test plans and protocols.

No agency can fulfill their mission without quality staff. The Health Department is fortunate to have outstanding people in all positions and the result is high quality service that the public has become accustomed to. In our Personal Health Division, our general nursing staff includes, Registered Nurses, Lisa Harkness, Kay Hite, Michele Griffin, Marji Nichols, Catherine Youngstrom, Leslie Birchmeier and Amanda Rockol. Harkness works in the communicable disease program. Hite works in the school nursing program at Durand Area Schools. Griffin is the Maternal and Infant Health Program (MIHP) coordinator. Nichols is the immunization coordinator and oversees weekly clinics. Youngstrom coordinates the children's special healthcare and lead programs. Birchmeier works with the MIHP program. Rockol works with the Women Infant Children (WIC) and Sexually Transmitted Disease programs. Melissa Slater and Renee Harrison are Registered Dietitians that work in the WIC program. Nicole Vorce is a Social Worker in the MIHP program. Heather Keves and Christel Root are technicians in the hearing and vision program. Jennifer Babcock is the breast-feeding peer counselor. Tiffany Hanson, Lauri Rubelman and Julie Brown are WIC secretary/technicians. Chasity Ardelean is a secretary in the MIHP program. Heather Jancarik is a secretary in the immunization program. Diane Butcher is the secretary to the Director of Personal and Community Health.

In our Environmental Health Division, Registered Sanitarians, Katie Plashek, Kristina Richmond, Steve Alworden and Laura Kickham provide general environmental health services including food service inspections, septic system and drinking water well permitting and inspections, soil erosion permitting and inspections, campground inspections, public swimming pool inspections, body art facility inspections, point of sale well and septic inspections, household hazardous waste, radon, surface water sampling and environmental health nuisance complaints. Denise Gagnon and Terri Horton are administrative assistants to environmental health staff.

Administrative staff include Tonie Brovont, Director of Finance; Jodi DeFrenn, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Amber Bias, Account Specialist/Human Resources and Deb Bebow; Account Processor/Biller. Jason Camargo, Stephanie Scott and Kevin Tomlinson provide Information Technology services. The Health Department wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Health Board members for their diligence in serving the department and representing the community. Health Board members include Gene Paez, chairperson; Patricia Cords, vice chairperson; Mary Buginsky; John Pajtas; James Capitan; Commissioner Michael Bruff; and Commissioner Brandon Marks.

The Health Department looks forward to an exciting year in 2018 and a bright future continuing to serve the residents of Shiawassee County.