



Information from the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

To
Health Providers in Branch-Hillsdale and St. Joseph Counties

Date: December 21, 2004

Re: Changes in HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing in the tri-county area

State funding for the HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing program for our jurisdiction has been cancelled as of January 1, 2005. This Agency's jurisdiction is now classified as a "Low Impact" area due to the low numbers of positive HIV tests that occur, and the low numbers of diagnosed HIV/AIDS citizens in the area. We have seen a continued decline in the numbers seeking counseling and testing services.

Although this Agency will continue to do "low impact" informational counseling and screening regarding HIV/AIDS, as we do for sexually transmitted diseases, we are not funded to do the intensive risk behavior counseling and follow-up testing as previously performed. We are able to refer clients to other health providers for testing as indicated. We will likely refer clients who seek mandatory counseling and testing for other reasons, i.e. adoption, immigration, etc.

Court-ordered testing may still be obtained through this Agency at the Coldwater office. There will be a set fee of \$75.00 as approved by the Board of Health for those services. Appointments for that testing should be made through Candy Cox at 517-279-9561, ext. 143.

Questions may be directed to the Prevention Services Director, Jennie Sholly, at 517-279-9561, ext 122.