

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 30, 2006

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER TO LEAVE IN AUGUST –

The Board of Health for the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency regretfully accepted the resignation of Duke Anderson, Health Officer for the tri-county agency at its regular meeting yesterday. The effective date of the resignation is August 4, 2006. Mr. Anderson has been the Health Officer since December 2002 as well as a previous period from June 1989 to March 1998. Mr. Anderson was originally hired by the agency in January 1986 to serve as the health education director.

The Board of Health established a plan and timetable for the recruitment and orientation of a new Health Officer over the next few months. The Health Officer's responsibilities include the day-to-day management of the 80 employees, \$6.8 million dollar agency budget and significant duties related to community health protection as outlined in Michigan law.

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency is an accredited local governmental health department for the tri-counties. The agency has provided a variety of personal health, environmental health, and health promotion and health education services since the 1930's. The agency also serves as a two-county Area Agency on Aging (St. Joseph and Branch) providing service grants and service coordination for senior citizens.

(Any questions may be directed to Duke Anderson at (517) 279-9561, ext. 148 or at andersond@bhsj.org)