

For Immediate Release

August 27, 2009

From: The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

RE: Health Department receives State Accreditation Certificate

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency was formally awarded their Certificate of Accreditation by The Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program at the August 27, 2009 Board of Health meeting. The certificate was awarded by Mark Miller on behalf of the Michigan Public Health Accreditation Commission, to Ken Lautzenheiser, Chairman of the tri-county Board of Health.

The objective of the Accreditation Program is to assure and enhance the quality of local public health for Michigan's citizens. The Program meets this objective by identifying and promoting the implementation of rigorous public health standards for all local public health departments across the State and evaluating and accrediting on their ability to meet these standards. The Program's goals are to:

- assist in **continuous quality improvement** of health services;
- assure a **uniform set of standards** that define public health in Michigan;
- assure a process by which the state can **ensure local level capacity** to address core functions;
- provide a mechanism for **accountability to the public**.

In February of this year, the Health Department went through a weeklong, comprehensive on-site review from the Michigan Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality and Public Health to review compliance with 112 program indicators. 109 of the 112 indicators were met during the review. This represents 97% of indicators met during the review, the highest level of performance from the Community Health Agency in the 4 reviews that have occurred since the programs inception in 1999. The final 3 unmet indicators were corrected in the spring.

Your local public health department is proud to have gained this recognition and takes great pride in its certification that high quality services are provided to the citizens of Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties. This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff of the agency and they take great pride in this award.

Photo –
persons pictured from L to R:
Steve Todd, Health Officer,
Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph
Community Health Agency, Ken
Lautzenheiser, Chairman of the
Board of Health, Mark Miller,
Director of Local Health
Services, Michigan Department
of Community Health

