

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

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40 Never Looked So Good!

Coldwater, MI. It may be too soon to write much about the second decade of the 21st century. But for the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, the second decade is looking promising! Over the past two years the health department has seen much fruit born from its past labors. During the last two years, the Agency:

- Received full accreditation with commendations from the Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program – having met all 123 essential indicators and 13 important indicators.
- Received the Director’s award from the Michigan Department of Community Health two-years in a row for its Project SLIC (Car Seat Safety) program and its Healthy Beginnings (parenting education) program.
- Received a grant to initiate a breast feeding peer support program through its WIC clinic.
- Became a certified provider of Maternal and Infant Support Services, a program that is designed to reduce infant mortality and improve prenatal care for women and infants who have Medicaid health insurance.
- Was recognized for its efforts in a multi-state cryptosporidium outbreak which was featured in two national publications (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Review from the Centers of Disease and Control and Prevention; and the Journal of the American Medical Association published by the American Medical Association).
- Has maintained high marks in customer satisfaction as measured through its various client satisfaction surveys.

- Has established a strong financial footing from which to base its operations.
- Assisted in developing a new interlocal agreement between Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties that assures adequate funding will be available for the future, while solidifying the counties' commitment to providing joint public health services for years to come.

According to Steve Todd, Health Officer for the Community Health Agency since 2006, "We at the health department are very committed to the work we do and the communities we serve. We have witnessed the benefits of good public health practices through the years and have paid close attention to the lessons learned and the successes made. We are proud of our staff, who diligently work to provide high quality services in a friendly and cost effective manner and are appreciative of our Board of Health for their guidance. As we look back, we recognize the ever changing role of public health and their need to adapt to the community's needs. And we look forward to what the future holds and meeting those needs whatever they may be."

To learn more about your local health department and how we can better serve you, check out our website at www.bhsj.org.

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