Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

July 27, 2015

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency Gets a Perfect Score, Again!"

Coldwater, MI. There is much to celebrate at the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency. For a second cycle in a row, the Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program has conferred on the tri-county district health department its highest honor - an "Accreditation with Commendation." A presentation of the award was made at the July 23rd Board of Health meeting, held in Three Rivers, Michigan. Steve Todd, Health Officer for the health department states "This is a glowing tribute to our hardworking staff, our agency's board and our collaborative partners, who all work together to protect the public's health through various disease prevention, health promotion and health enforcement efforts."

Michigan's Local Public Health Accreditation Program measures whether the health department effectively implements its statutory duties and responsibilities. Full 'Accreditation with Commendation' only occurs when a health department is able to meet the required number of essential and important indicators and also implements a comprehensive quality improvement program. Steve Todd adds "This cycle, the quality improvement component was modified to reflect new national accreditation standards. Our ability to comply with these more stringent standards is further evidence of the high quality services this organization provides."

During this past review, the tri-county health agency met all 125 applicable essential indicators and three important indicators. Reviews were conducted at the Agency's offices during the week of March 2nd to March 6th by site reviewers from the Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture and Rural Development and Environmental Quality who reviewed the following program areas:

- Powers and Duties & Quality Improvement
- Food Service Program
- Communicable Disease Program
- Hearing Program
- Immunization Program
- On-Site Sewage Treatment Program
- HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease Program
- Vision Program

- Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) and
- Children's Special Health Care Services Program

Mark Miller, Division Director for Local Public Health Services, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, commented during the award presentation, "This agency's staff does an amazing job on a daily basis. They lived through a large reduction in resources, a potential client population that is growing in size and diversity, and state accreditation, all while continuing to provide excellent service to our clients. We appreciate your continued collaboration and are very impressed with the efficient and innovative programs that are being delivered to residents of Branch, Hillsdale, and St Joseph Counties."

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, a tri-county health department, has served Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties for 43 years. The agency provides a broad array of personal health, environmental health and health education services, and assists with Medicaid and Marketplace health insurance enrollment. Check out our website at www.bhsj.org to learn more about how the health department works to make the tri-county area a healthier place to live, work and play.

From Left to Right: Presenting the Award: Mark Miller, Division Director, Local Health Services, MDHHS. Receiving the award: Stephen Todd, Health Officer; Branch County Commissioner Dale Swift, Chair, Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Board of Health.

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