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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Thanks for a Job Well Done

**(Coldwater, MI)** The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency honored three of its departing Board of Health commissioners at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting. Commissioners Ken Lautzenheiser of Hillsdale County and Dave Pueschel and Mike Dunlap of St. Joseph County had completed their office terms, having not sought re-election in November. Each of the commissioners had served for several years. Mr. Dunlap served on the Board of Health for five years; Mr. Lautzenheiser served for seven years; and Mr. Pueschel served for eight years.

Each of the commissioners was presented with certificates of appreciation – one from the Area Agency on Aging and one from the tri-county health department. Steve Todd, Health Officer, remarked “Serving as a member of the Board of Health is a unique assignment for a County Commissioner compared with some of the other committee assignments because it involves solving issues and problems for three counties and two agencies - both the Health Department and the AAA.” He went on to personally thank them for their advice and guidance over their tenure and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Mr. Lautzenheiser praised the agency’s staff for their dedication and commitment, adding that they earned the public’s trust. Mr. Dunlap added that the agency staff possessed “a lot of talent.” Mr. Pueschel

reminded about earlier years and the challenges that faced the agency. Each added that this assignment had been their most enjoyable.

Laura Sutter, Area Agency on Aging Director, joined the health officer in making the certification presentation on behalf of the AAA. Rod Olney, Board of Health Chair, joined Mr.



Left to right: Chairman Rod Olney, Michael Dunlap, Ken Lautzenheiser, David Pueschel and Steve Todd, Health Officer.

Todd in presenting the certificates on behalf of the tri-county health department. Three new Board of Health members will be assigned in January to replace these retiring members.

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency is a district health department organized in accordance with the Public Health Code (P.A. 368 of 1978) in 1971 as a not-for-profit, local governmental entity. The health department is overseen by a seven member board of health which consists of representatives assigned from each of the three local county commissions. The health department serves the residents of Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties. It provides a broad set of public health services including: water testing, restaurant inspections, septic and well permits, the Women Infants & Children program (WIC), child and adult immunizations, and Children's Special Health Care Services. The agency also is home to the Branch and St. Joseph County Area Agency on Aging.

To find out more about the agency and its services, please go to the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency's website at <http://www.bhsj.org>.

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