

**Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph  
Community Health Agency**



**Annual  
Report 17**



# Board of Health



**Terri Norris**  
Branch County



**Bruce Caswell**  
Hillsdale County



**Allen J. Balog**  
St. Joseph County



**Donald Vrablic**  
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**Mark E. Wiley**  
Hillsdale County  
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(Vice Chairperson)

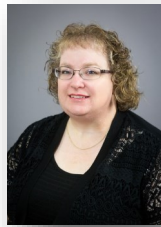
# Administrative Staff



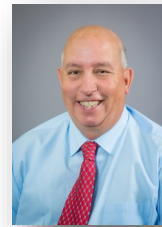
**Rebecca Burns, MPH, RS**  
Health Officer



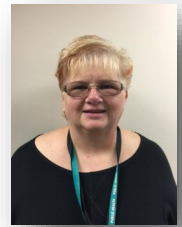
**Dr. H. Lauren Vogel, DO, MPH**  
Medical Director



**Theresa Fisher**  
Director of  
Administrative Services

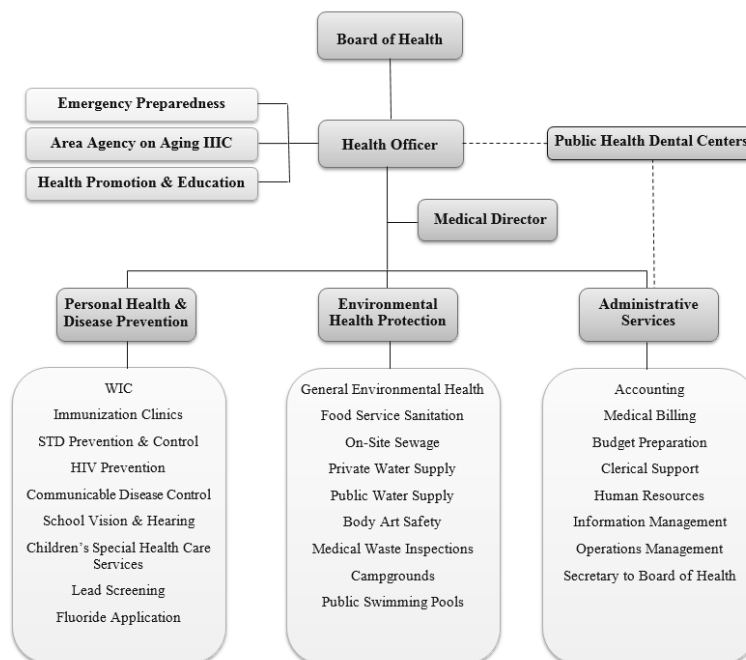


**Paul Andriacchi, REHS**  
Director of  
Environmental Health



**Valarie Newton, RN, BSN**  
Director of Personal  
Health & Disease  
Prevention

# Organizational Chart



# Letter to the Community

Letter to the Community:

As the Public Health Officer for the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, “Your Local Health Department”, I’m pleased to provide this Annual Report highlighting the many accomplishments during fiscal year 2016/17. The year brought changes and successes, including:



- Your Local Health Department in collaboration with My Community Dental Centers (MCDC), expanded Public Health Dental Services within the jurisdiction by opening two new dental centers in Sturgis and Coldwater. Both opened as four-chair dental centers with the ability to expand to six-chair as needed. These new dental centers join the two currently operating facilities in Three Rivers and Hillsdale and expand our ability to care for those on Medicaid, the underinsured, and the uninsured.
- Your Local Health Department’s Environmental Health section fully implemented throughout the health jurisdiction a mosquito surveillance project that targeted the Aedes species mosquito. The Aedes species mosquito, a transmitter of Zika Virus, has been increasing its range further north as our climate changes. Surveillance trapping throughout the summer of 2017 identified 1338 female, 40 male, and 13 unknown mosquitos; no Aedes species were identified in the mosquitos trapped. Although the Aedes species wasn’t found, our residents need to be vigilant, protecting themselves and family members from mosquito bites that can transmit diseases such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.
- Your Local Health Department was notified by MDEQ of a Vapor Intrusion area within the City of Sturgis, potentially impacting a number of residents in homes in that area. The Environmental Health section assisted MDEQ and MDHHS by communicating with residents and encouraging air testing and evaluation of their homes.
- Your Local Health Department’s change in our organizational structure was completed; transforming the Agency with a leaner administration. The result combined the Core Support and Financial & Information Technology sections into the Administrative Services section and moved the Health Promotion & Education section under the Health Officer.
- Your Local Health Department continued work across disciplines through our collaboration with the Area Agency on Aging IIIC (Branch-St. Joseph) by participating in the innovative approach to handling potential issues of elder or vulnerable adult abuse in St. Joseph County and including the AAA team in the Agency’s outbreak response and surveillance activities.
- Your Local Health Department increased access to our clinical services by moving to a new and larger location in Sturgis.
- Every fiscal year brings about opportunities and the challenges of responding to events both planned and unplanned. In FY 2016/17 the Agency was able to realize our mission and successfully provide public health services to our citizens.

Yours in Good Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca A. Burns". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rebecca A. Burns, MPH, RS

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## ***Our vision...***

***We envision positively impacting the health of individual, families, communities and the environment through responsiveness, competence and collaboration.***

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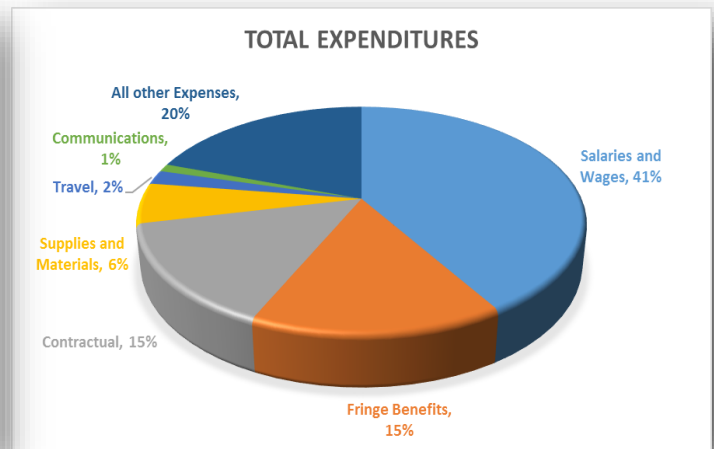
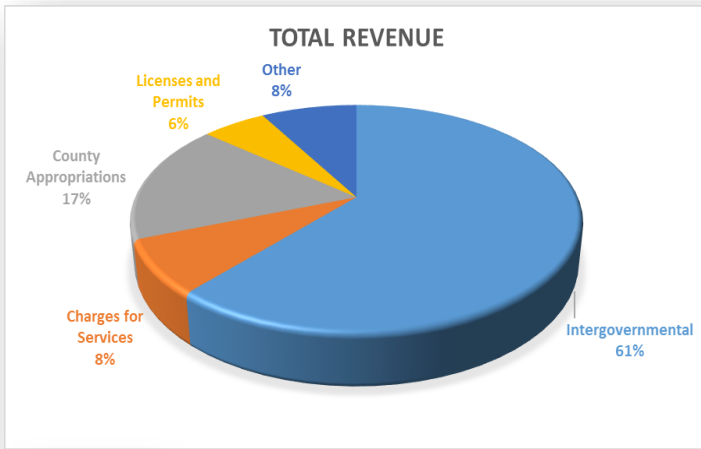
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## ***Our mission...***

***We promote optimal health to prolong life, by preventing disease and assuring protection of the public’s health in our community and environment.***

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# Finance



BHSJ CHA extends a warm welcome to Jeff Macklin, the Community Health Agency's new accountant. Jeff began at the Agency in the summer of 2017.

**Fiscal Year 2016/2017**

**Total Annual Budget Based on Actuals:  
\$6,025,671.83**

# Public Health Dental Services



| Age   | Coldwater | Hillsdale | Three Rivers | Sturgis | Total |
|-------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|
| 0-4   | 1.8%      | 3.1%      | 4.8%         | 6.6%    | 3.9%  |
| 5-14  | 9.4%      | 10.7%     | 22%          | 18.9%   | 15.6% |
| 15-20 | 5.7%      | 5.8%      | 10.2%        | 8%      | 7.6%  |
| 21-60 | 64.6%     | 68.5%     | 52.9%        | 55.7%   | 60.6% |
| 60+   | 18.4%     | 11.9%     | 10.2%        | 10.9%   | 12.2% |

|                                 | Coldwater | Hillsdale | Three Rivers | Sturgis | Total  |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|--------|
| <b>Number of Patient Visits</b> | 3,909     | 8,373     | 8,238        | 3,095   | 23,615 |
| <b>Service Mix:</b>             |           |           |              |         |        |
| Medicaid                        | 29.6%     | 45.1%     | 25.2%        | 26.1%   | 33.1%  |
| Healthy Michigan Plan           | 25.7%     | 24.2%     | 26.1%        | 24.7%   | 25.2%  |
| Traditional Insurance           | 24.7%     | 13%       | 14.4%        | 18.7%   | 16.2%  |
| Delta Healthy Kids              | 8.9%      | 12%       | 25.1%        | 17.1%   | 16.7%  |
| Uninsured                       | 11.1%     | 5.7%      | 9.2%         | 13.4%   | 8.8%   |

*"The staff was courteous and caring. I had an emergency walk-in and they got me in within a half hour. Everyone was nice and explained everything thoroughly. They gave me a treatment plan and explained the steps of care. I definitely recommend this office!"*

*"Best dental office I've ever been to! I've never waited more than 2 minutes after I arrive to get called back to a chair and EVERYONE is super friendly and makes your visit totally comfortable! Highly recommend!!"*

# County Health Profile

| Profile - 2016            | Branch County | Hillsdale County | St. Joseph County | Michigan  |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Population                | 43,410        | 45,879           | 60,947            | 9,962,311 |
| Marriage                  | 334           | 337              | 454               | 59,383    |
| Divorce                   | 146           | 181              | 302               | 28,916    |
| % of Population 65+ years | 17.2%         | 18.6%            | 17.1%             | 16.2%     |

| Leading Causes of Death (2016)<br>- (Age Adjusted Rates per 100,000) | Branch County | Hillsdale County | St. Joseph County | Michigan |
|--|---------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Heart Disease  | 182.1         | 249.8            | 199.5             | 200.8    |
| Cancer   | 180.0         | 156.1            | 188.2             | 167.1    |
| Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease                                    | 78.0          | 38.1             | 65.8              | 44.7     |
| Unintentional Injuries   | 62.9          | 58.6             | 55.2              | 50.8     |
| Stroke   | 52.5          | 37.0             | 42.3              | 39.1     |
| Alzheimer's Disease  | 47.1          | 51.6             | 45.8              | 33.8     |
| Diabetes Mellitus  | **            | **               | 32.5              | 21.5     |
| Kidney Disease   | **            | **               | **                | 14.5     |
| Pneumonia & Influenza  | **            | **               | **                | 13.7     |
| Intentional Self-Harm - Suicide                                      | **            | **               | **                | 13.4     |

| Maternal/Infant Health Indicators (2016)         | Branch County | Hillsdale County | St. Joseph County | Michigan |
|--|---------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Live Births                                      | 540           | 567              | 761               | 113,374  |
| Number of Teen Births (15-19)                    | 32            | 38               | 61                | 5,792    |
| Teen Pregnancy Rate (per 1,000 births)           | 31.4          | 29.2             | 42                | 29.2     |
| % Low birth weight                               | 6.3%          | 5.3%             | 5.9%              | 8.6%     |
| % Very Low Birth Weight                          | **            | 1.2%             | 0.7%              | 1.5%     |
| % Adequate Prenatal Care—Kessner Index (2014-16) | 54.3%         | 49.0%            | 55.1%             | 67.5%    |
| Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)                | **            | 12.3             | 7.9               | 6.4      |

| Economic Indicators (2016)                                     | Branch County | Hillsdale County | St. Joseph County | Michigan  |
|--|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| % Unemployment (Annual Rate—not seasonally adjusted)           | 5.0%          | 5.3%             | 4.2%              | 4.6%      |
| Median Household Income  | \$46,428      | \$44,458         | \$45,410          | \$50, 803 |
| % Children Eligible for Free & Reduced Lunch (185% of Poverty) | 52.7%         | 51.3%            | 56.6%             | 45.8%     |

\*\* Rate does not meet standards of precision or reliability.

# Personal Health & Disease Prevention



Glei's Orchards and Greenhouses proudly accept Project FRESH coupons.

**"Early reporting with quick intervention can prevent a community wide outbreak, preventing serious illnesses and saving lives."**

-Aimmee Mullendore,  
Clinic Coordinator,  
Communicable Disease Nurse

## School Age Hearing and Vision Screenings

Provides periodic hearing and vision screening to children from age three through high school.

|                              | 2016          | 2017          |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Hearing Screenings Performed | 7,272         | 7,562         |
| Vision Screenings Performed  | 14,257        | 13,421        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>21,529</b> | <b>20,983</b> |

## Children's Special Health Care Services

This county-based program helps pay for specialized medical treatment for children and some adults with chronic and severe medical conditions.

|                            | 2016         | 2017         |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Individuals Enrolled       | 791          | 799          |
| Assessments                | 899          | 911          |
| Referrals for Medical Care | 13           | 29           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>1,703</b> | <b>1,739</b> |

## Communicable Disease Prevention & Control

Provides Public Health Code compliance regarding prevention, investigation, and control of defined communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV/AIDS, animal bites and many other infectious diseases.

|                                      | 2016          | 2017          |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Infectious Diseases Reported         | 20,908        | 27,831        |
| STD Testing & Contact Follow-up      | 252           | 234           |
| HIV/AIDS Testing & Contact Follow Up | 66            | 93            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>21,226</b> | <b>28,158</b> |

## Immunizations

Services that provide immunizations for vaccine-preventable disease for children and adults. Includes collaboration and assistance with health providers in the Vaccine For Children (VFC) Program and use the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR).

|                       | 2016          | 2017          |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Children Vaccinated   | 7,904         | 7,009         |
| Adults Vaccinated     | 3,181         | 3,743         |
| Travel Vaccines Given | 180           | 266           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>11,265</b> | <b>11,018</b> |

## Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

A nutrition and educational program directed toward increasing healthy outcomes for pregnant and breast-feeding women, infants and children up to 5 years of age.

|                               | 2016  | 2017  |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Average Monthly Participation | 4,892 | 4,528 |

## WIC Peer Breastfeeding Support Program

A peer counseling program for WIC participants that provides mother-to-mother support to encourage breastfeeding.

|   | 2016  | 2017  |
|---|-------|-------|
| Breastfeeding Initiation Rates                | 85%   | 82%   |
| Peer Counselor Contacts Made With WIC Clients | 2,154 | 1,845 |

In addition to WIC services, clients have access to Project FRESH.

Project FRESH is a program that makes fresh produce available to low income, nutritionally-at-risk people by using Michigan Farmers' Markets.

Women and children that are enrolled in WIC are eligible for the Project FRESH program. Participants receive a coupon booklet that has five \$5 coupons that must be used between June 1 and October 31 of that year.

All farmer's markets participating in Project FRESH will have a yellow laminated sign that says, "Project FRESH Coupons Accepted Here."



# Environmental Health



Tony Headley, pictured above, has been with the Community Health Agency for nearly 30 years.

## Private and Public Water Supply

These programs are designed to assure both the proper installation of residential water wells and the monitoring and regulating of Type II public water supplies to assure safe usable groundwater.

|  | 2016        | 2017        |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Well Construction Permits Issued       | 436         | 539         |
| Well permits Inspected                 | 346         | 351         |
| New Water Supplies Approved            | 328         | 302         |
| Non-Community Water Supply Inspections | 96          | 48          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>1206</b> | <b>1240</b> |

## On-Site Sewage

Reviews site proposed for sewage disposal, issuance and/or denial of permits, sewage disposal evaluation, inspection, investigation and enforcement.

|                          | 2016       | 2017       |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Well/Septic Evaluations  | 36         | 31         |
| Construction Permits     | 387        | 442        |
| Septic Systems Inspected | 291        | 352        |
| Vacant Land Evaluations  | 22         | 32         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>736</b> | <b>857</b> |

**Three River Staff:** Cody Johnson, Hannah Warner, David Wagoner, Lee Zimmerman, Stephanie Hough, Stephanie Wolgast

**Hillsdale Staff (top):** Brandie Lennox, Paul Andriacchi, James Young, Shawn Monroe

**Branch County Staff:** Carrie Southern, Tony Headley, Joe Frazier, Marcia Ledyard





### Other Programs

Although the well, septic and food programs require the biggest portion of the environmental health staff focus, we do have responsibilities in other programs.

|  | 2016       | 2017       |
|--|------------|------------|
| Medical Waste Inspections                    | 50         | 50         |
| Swimming Pool Inspections                    | 65         | 58         |
| Campground Inspections                       | 66         | 67         |
| Body Art Facility Inspections                | 9          | 9          |
| DHS Inspections (daycare, foster care, etc.) | 105        | 105        |
| Septic Hauler Inspections                    | 44         | 49         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>339</b> | <b>338</b> |

### Food Protection

This program provides a systematic approach to minimize the risk of food-borne illness and to ensure that food meets consumer's expectations through application of statewide standards for all establishments where food is prepared and/or served to the public.

|   | 2016        | 2017        |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Establishment Inspections                           | 964         | 957         |
| Plans Reviewed                                      | 19          | 19          |
| Temporary Food Establishment Inspections            | 221         | 214         |
| Food Manager Certification Classes (# of attendees) | 148         | 129         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>1352</b> | <b>1319</b> |



Above, Carrie Southern teaches a food safety course in Branch County.



Ensuring a safe and healthy environment for Branch, Hillsdale, and St. Joseph residents and visitors is the Environmental Health department's primary objective.

# Area Agency on Aging (IIIC)



Laura Sutter,  
Coordinator

| Services   | Totals    | Units   |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| Operations | \$76,291  | N/A     |
| Nutrition  | \$766,170 | 171,475 |
| In-Home    | \$293,102 | 35,688  |
| Community  | \$108,451 | 5,148   |
| Access     | \$300,222 | 23,242  |
| Legal      | \$10,930  | 303     |

*\*\*Population data based on self-reported numbers by participants, choosing to identify race/ethnicity is not required.*

| Population Served        |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Total Population 18+     | 3,408 |
| White (non-Hispanic)     | 3,118 |
| African American         | 47    |
| Asian/Pacific Islander   | 9     |
| American Indian/ Alaskan | 12    |
| Hispanic (of any race)   | 25    |
| Below Poverty            | 539   |
| Rural                    | 3,334 |

Over the past year the Area Agency on Aging has actively developed programs and partnerships across the two-county planning & service area. Here are a few highlights:

## Elder Abuse Prevention & Awareness:

Our office works directly with community partners to address elder and vulnerable adult abuse, neglect and exploitation. In St. Joseph County, the Interdisciplinary Team met quarterly to discuss individual cases as well as systems-level barriers. The Branch County Elder Abuse Taskforce remained active with on-going

communication and alerts related to scams occurring in the community.

## Senior Reach® implemented:

As a special project, in collaboration with Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services of St. Joseph County, we continued our efforts to implement Senior Reach® in St. Joseph County. Senior Reach® seeks to support the well-being, independence and dignity of older adults by educating the community, providing care management and mental health services, and connecting older

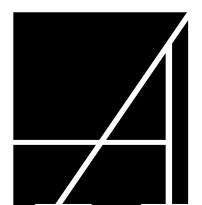
adults to community resources. In 2017, we reached nearly 50 isolated individuals through one-on-one consultations and over 700 people through community-based presentations.

## Community Living Program soars:

Since 2005 the Area Agency on Aging has served Branch and St. Joseph County older adults having complex needs through the Community Living Program. In 2017 we served over 100 individuals, many of whom have other agencies involved and are significantly at risk of needing institutional care. Our goals remain: to offer a person-centered approach, honoring preferences and strengths; and to serve those greatest in need. If you would like more information about the Community Living Program or other supports available in your community, please contact our office.



Back Row (L to R): Jennifer McDonald, Megan Bentley, Melissa Cramton  
Front Row (L to R): Deanna Himebaugh, Sarah Watson, Laura Sutter



Area  
Agency on  
Aging (IIIC)  
Branch-St. Joseph

# Health Education & Promotion

## Health Education

The Health Education and Promotion Division of the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency is responsible for a broad range of services offered to schools, communities, professional groups and individuals on a variety of health topics.

|                               | FY 2017    |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Community Events              | 86         |
| Educational Presentations     | 60         |
| Child Passenger Safety Checks | 305        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>451</b> |

The Health Education and Promotion staff attend community events in all three counties to give area residents information on agency services that include WIC, Immunizations, Environmental Health services, Breastfeeding, Child Passenger Safety, Tobacco Cessation, and much more. Shown below is an Agency table at a local Branch County event.



Our Health Educators work with youth from our area schools to promote healthy lifestyles, including healthy relationships, drug and alcohol prevention, tobacco cessation, safe driving habits, etc. Below, students from Coldwater High School, Jonesville High School, and Reading High School joined together on the State Capitol steps in Lansing on Kick Butts Day 2017 to show their support for the Tobacco 21 Law.



Above, Outreach Worker, Mary Proctor attends the Reading Christmas Festival.



**Branch County Office**  
570 N. Marshall Rd.  
Coldwater, MI 49036  
(517) 279-9561

**Hillsdale County Office**  
20 Care Dr.  
Hillsdale, MI 49242  
(517) 437-7395

**St. Joseph County Office**  
1110 Hill St.  
Three Rivers, MI 49093  
(269) 273-2161

**St. Joseph County Off-Site Clinic**  
**Medical Commons II**  
1555 E. Chicago Rd.  
Suite C  
Sturgis, MI 49091  
Open Thursday & Friday  
(269) 273-2161