



## MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Your public health team, connecting with our communities to achieve healthier outcomes

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### **MMDHD awarded national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board**



#### **Clinton County Branch Office Staff**

Back row, left to right: Sara Thelen, Peggy Fox, Courtney Beagle, Duane Schneider, Hazel Hall, Kim Monahan and Tracy Hartman. Middle row, left to right: Janea Near, Gayle Hood, Laureen Simon, Sarah Doak, Charity Little and Becky Stoddard.

Front row, left to right: Nicole Montgomery, Shelly McPherson, Mary Wallen and Lisa Smith.

St. Johns- The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

The national accreditation program, supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's 3,000 health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance.

Achieving national accreditation was not an easy task. To do so, MMDHD had to undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it met or exceeded PHABs quality standards and measures. From start to finish, the entire process took four years and a lot of hard work.

“We are pleased and excited to be recognized for achieving national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement,” said Marcus Cheatham, MMDHD Health Officer. “The accreditation process helps to ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community. It also allows us to demonstrate increased accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work.”

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. They provide a broad range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

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## 2- National Accreditation

Michigan health departments are required to be accredited by the State to ensure that they provide these services in compliance with State law. But State accreditation doesn't measure the extent to which health departments function like a strong, integrated system, which national accreditation does. While applying for national accreditation was not required, to MMDHD's Board of Health, it seemed like the right thing to do.

"Local health departments must transform themselves into more efficient and effective organizations in order to serve the public in these times of fiscal turmoil. Going through the PHAB process forced us to make many of those needed changes," Cheatham said.

Only 96 out of 2,800 local health departments --less than four percent--are nationally accredited, which means MMDHD is in elite company! Residents served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that it has gone above and beyond to demonstrate the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community.

MMDHD is part of the Mid-Central Coordinating Committee, together with District Health Department #10 and the Central Michigan District Health Department. The three departments share personnel and collaborate on a number of activities. Importantly, all three are PHAB accredited. "Together we form a strong public health network protecting the health of people throughout the middle of the mitten," Said Cheatham.

MMDHD has proudly served the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm counties since 1966. For more information on the agency or its services, visit [www.mmdhd.org](http://www.mmdhd.org) or call 989-224-2195 in Clinton County, 989-875-3681 in Gratiot County, or 989-831-5237 in Montcalm County.

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.*

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