



PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

Central Michigan District Health Department
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"

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To: Local News Media

From: Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: Health Department Funding Updates

Release Date: June 8, 2009

Central Michigan District Health Department Announces Staffing Cuts & Surcharges

Due to the Governor's executive order cut in Local Public Health Operations, the Central Michigan District Health Department was forced to make staffing reductions in all areas of its operations. The agency also received a reduction in its Maternal and Child Health program funding and received notice that its Infant and Child Well-Being program in Isabella County was eliminated with no notice. In addition, other revenue sources within environmental health have not met projected targets.

In total, the agency had to reduce its budget by \$184,581.00. According to agency director Mary Kushion "we have looked at every aspect of our operation and made reductions in an attempt to maintain client services." Kushion went on to say "It is unfortunate that clients will now have delays in service and inspections. We will have less staff to do the work and our ability to respond to emerging situations will be compromised".

The agency has sent a notice to approximately 10% of its staff announcing that their hours were either being reduced or their position was being eliminated.

In an attempt to limit the reduction in the environmental health inspection programs, the department's Board of Health passed a \$10.00 surcharge on its well, septic and food service fees effective June 28, 2009. Kushion stated the surcharge will allow the agency to re-coup a portion of the reduction imposed by the executive order cut in order to maintain inspections of restaurants and septic systems.

Kushion states "Every time there is a reduction in the funding for public health, the safety net gets cut and becomes weaker as a result. As the economy worsens, more and more people come to the health department for services. This is not the time we should be eliminating immunization clinics or worrying if we have staff to handle a pandemic flu, but unfortunately we have to make the cuts in the programs where the executive order reduction was made".

Central Michigan District Health Department has served the local residents of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon Counties since 1970. Log onto www.cmdhd.org for more information about health department services.

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