

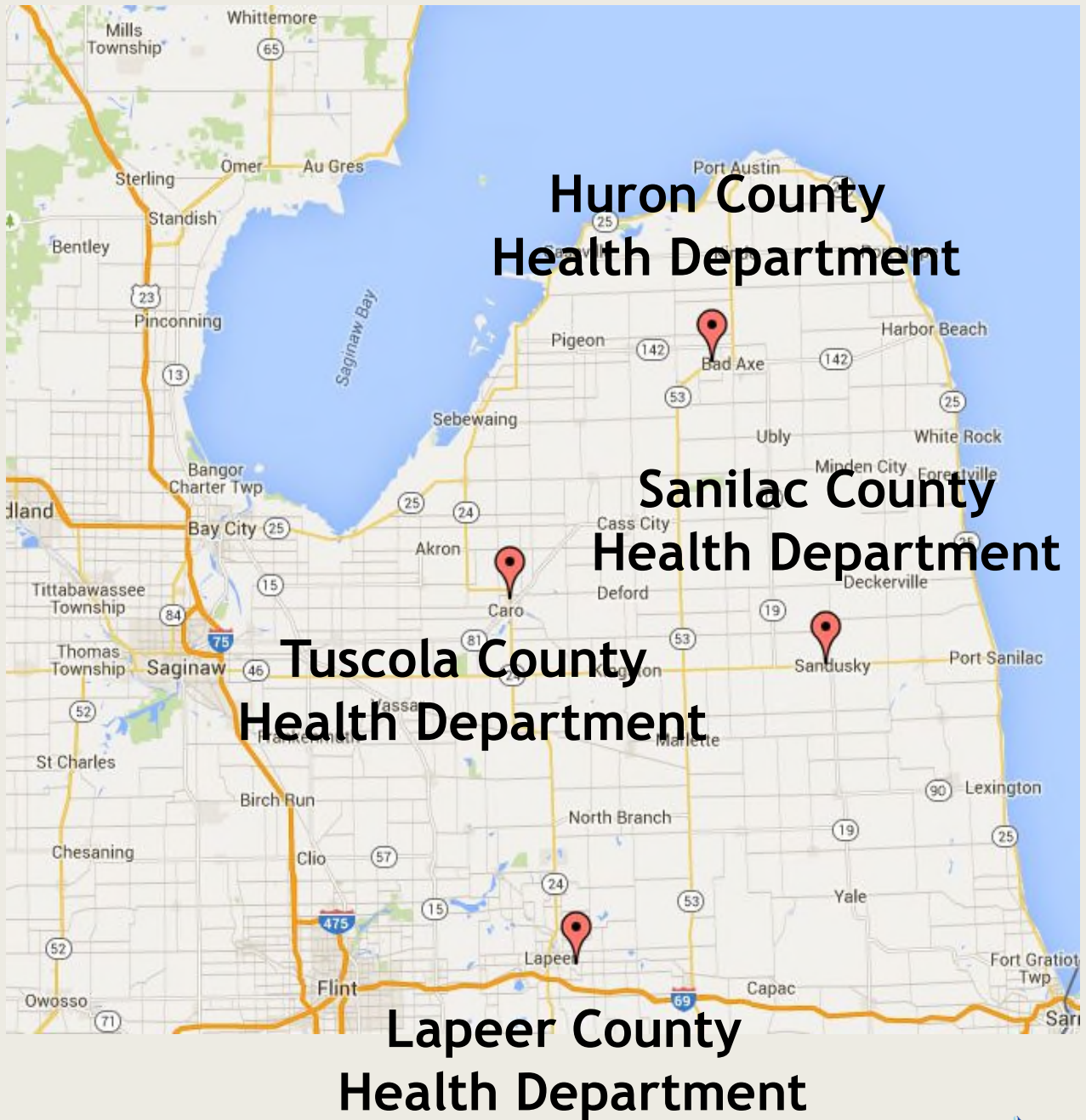


# Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance

**2016-2017 Annual Report**



# Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance Members



[www.mithumbpha.org](http://www.mithumbpha.org)





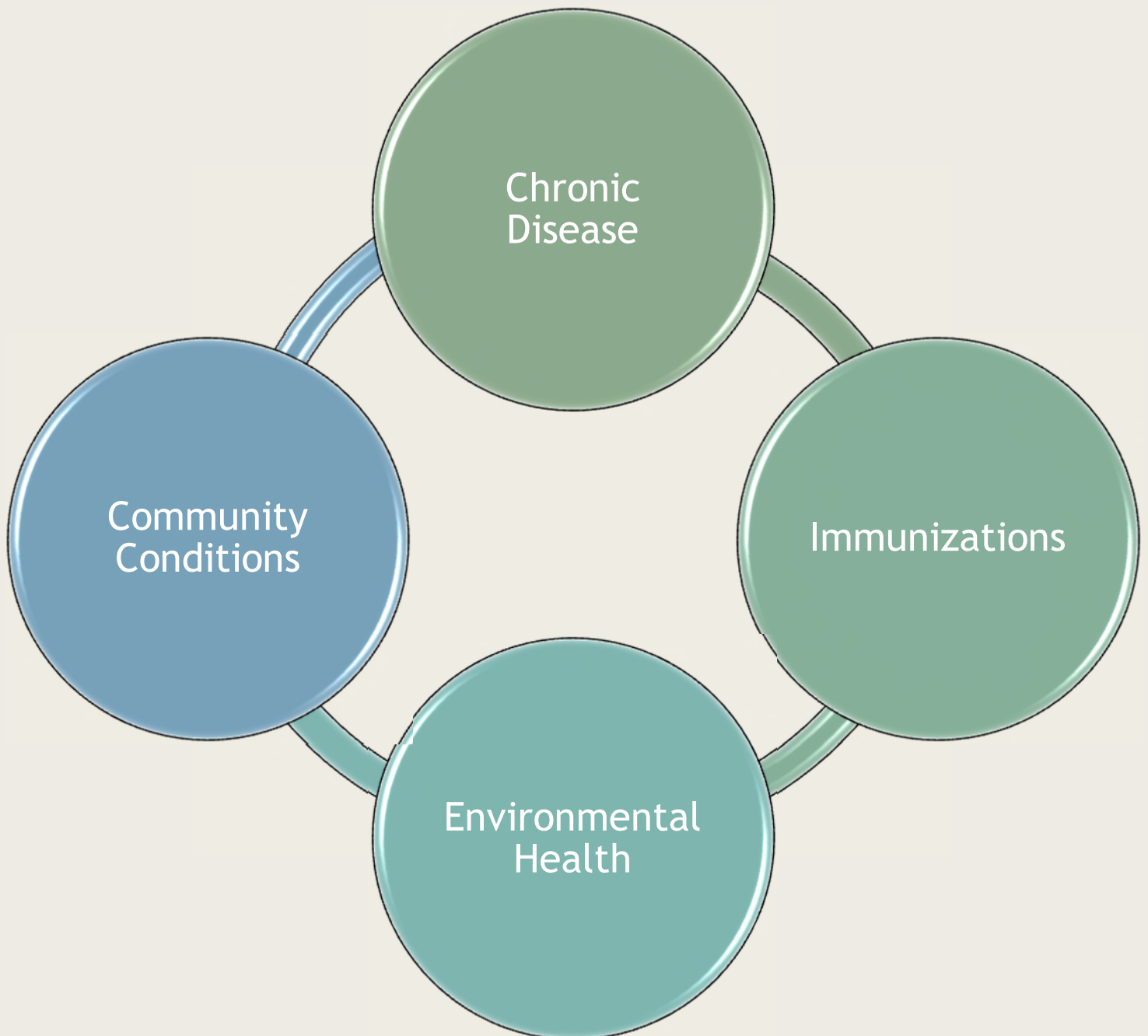
# Vision

Improved health and wellness of residents of the Thumb of Michigan.



# Healthy Communities

## Four Priority Community Health Needs



## **Mission**

To develop, implement, and sustain models of shared public health services that increase capacity, contain costs, maximize assets, and more effectively impact health outcomes

### **SIX FOCUS AREAS**

- 1. Aligned Policies and Procedures**
- 2. Grant Seeking & Writing**
- 3. Information Technology (IT)**
- 4. Development of Workforce**
- 5. Shared Purchasing**
- 6. Outreach**

# Aligned Policies and Procedures

## Standardized Standing Orders for the Medical Director

- *(Huron & Tuscola) In Process*
- The four counties currently share a Medical Director, who is responsible for the standing orders in each of the counties. The goal of this committee is to develop standing orders under the direction of the Medical Director, Dr. Russell Bush M.D. that are consistent across the counties. This will reduce liability and also provide consistency for staff who work across county lines.

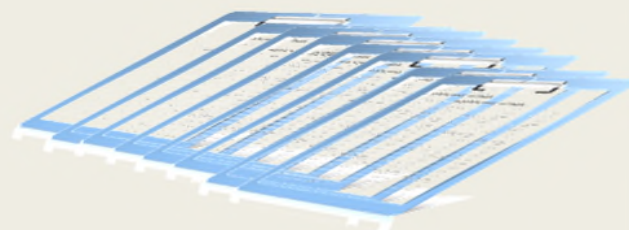


Project  
Highlight

# Information Technology

## Environmental Health Project

- *(Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, & Tuscola) COMPLETED*
- The Huron County Health Department applied for a grant on behalf of Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac and Lapeer Counties. This grant is to help enable these counties to serve the public by providing information quicker and electronically.
- The grant has two parts; the first being a scanning of all sewage/water well permits in Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac Counties. This will allow the three counties the ability to access historical information and locations of sewage disposal systems along with water wells in their counties which is used internally and is also requested under the Freedom of Information Act.
- The second part of the grant is bringing Lapeer County up to speed with information and a data system called Health Space which will allow them to issue well/sewage disposal permits. This system also has a food service module for conducting their food service inspections. With the four counties using the same system formatting and reporting can be shared and changed to adapt to changing laws and regulations.
- During the summer of 2016, Stover Imaging scanned archived records for the Environmental Health Department's in Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac counties. We use a product called DocuWare Request Scanning Services to find permits quickly on our desktops and on our laptops while in the field. This eliminated searching through file cabinets to answer FOIA requests and lets our sanitarians have access to archived documents and permits on demand. DocuWare Request is a very powerful software program. It will allow us to search on entered text criteria such as street address but we can also perform full text searches over their entire collection of documents.



# Development of Workforce

## Use of Tele-communications equipment to meet workforce needs

- *(Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac & Tuscola) In Progress*
- Huron and Tuscola counties are using tele-communications equipment to share a registered dietician. Tele-communication equipment is being used to establishing a tele-commuting procedure for the Medical Director, who is shared by all four counties. This sharing is being piloted in 2017. Policies and procedures have also been established to meeting the IBCLC (lactation consultant) staff requirement scheduled to take effect October 1, 2017.

Multi-purpose  
project





## Shared Purchasing

# Firewall Upgrade Project

- *Huron & Tuscola COMPLETED*
- A Firewall is a network security device that monitors network traffic and decides whether to allow or block traffic based on a set of security rules. Our Health Departments house important and confidential data and securing that data is a primary focus of our IT departments. As outside threats evolve and become more sophisticated, we need to maintain current threat management systems to secure our networks.
- Utilizing group purchasing through the Alliance, we were able to secure competitive pricing on Next-Generation Firewalls. Not only will these devices secure our networks but will help us stay connected to each other through private tunnels. These devices are crucial to the success of our joint Telehealth programs. The new firewalls were ordered in June 2016.



Project  
Highlight



# Outreach

## Strategic Plan, Website, and Annual Report

- After several Alliance meetings we were able to assemble the final draft of our Strategic Plan. This plan was posted to our website.
- The alliance feels it is important to have a website that allows us to show our goals, objectives, and projects on which we are currently collaborating.
- In September 2015, we were able to secure a domain name and purchase web hosting for one year using grant money. This domain was renewed in 2016.



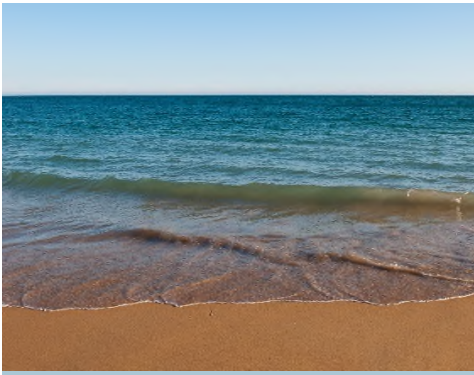
Alliance  
Development

Additional projects

**Information about additional projects is available on the Alliance website.**

[www.mithumbpha.org](http://www.mithumbpha.org)





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