

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 27, 2019

DATE: 02/25/19

CONTACT: Christina Harrington, MPH
TITLE: Health Officer
PHONE: (989) 758-3813
EMAIL: charrington@saginawcounty.com

SAGINAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT REBRANDS AND RETOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

(SAGINAW) -- With the constantly changing health care landscape, Saginaw County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) is rebranding and retooling to better meet the needs of the community.

"First, the name of our organization is changing to the 'Saginaw County Health Department' to help partners, patients and the public better understand our purpose and passion to protect and promote the health and well-being of all people who live, work, and play in Saginaw County," explains Christina Harrington, director and health officer.



Harrington says a new logo better reflects the department's diverse services – all vital health-related programs that her team delivers either directly or through referrals and partnerships.

"Many people don't realize the impact and value of public health," she says. Since 1900, the average American lifespan has lengthened by 30 years – 25 of which are attributed to advancements in public health such as vaccinations, improved sanitation, clean drinking water, and health screening, she explains.



In addition to the rebrand, the health department has formed a unique partnership with Central Michigan University (CMU) Health to share medical director Najibah K. Rehman, M.D., M.P.H.

"We are so very fortunate to have Dr. Rehman as our medical director," Harrington adds. "Her leadership will help us execute public health in the best way possible for better health for everyone in Saginaw County."

The partnership will also give CMU medical students and residents valuable experience in public health. "It is a win-win for this community," Harrington says, "because it will shine a much-needed light on the value of public health and link it more effectively with hospitals, providers and medical educators. We can accomplish so much more to protect our community by working together."

MORE

Dr. Rehman earned her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine. She also holds a master's of public health from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and a bachelor's in human biology from Michigan State University. She completed a residency in preventative medicine at the University of Michigan and did a research fellowship at the Karmanos Cancer Institute Division of Hematology/Oncology.

As medical director of the new Saginaw County Health Department, she will develop and evaluate standards of medical care throughout the department, provide medical direction to clinical staff, and advise the department on matters of medical policy.

She will also see patients at CMU Health while working on quality improvement initiatives with health care providers to improve patient care and screening for preventable diseases.

"My dual role at CMU Health and the Saginaw County Health Department is the best-case scenario for Saginaw County," says Dr. Rehman. "I am seeing the needs of patients firsthand, which can then be applied to the unique needs of the county as a whole."

The Saginaw County Health Department works to reduce infant mortality by educating, empowering and providing care for new moms and families. The county's health team vaccinates against diseases and continuously monitors contagious illnesses that can impact the health and well-being of communities.

Protecting clean water, air and soil fall under its umbrella, and the department tests water quality for several surrounding counties as well as Saginaw County, while also issuing permits for wells and septic fields.

Among a large list of services, the department also ensures everyone eats safe food in restaurants and gets safe body art in tattoo parlors. The county's health team also screens school-age children for hearing and vision to make sure they can develop normally.

###