News from Stickney Township

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 4, 2016

Event Showcases Area Public Health Departments' Focus On Beating Diabetes

On Thursday, April 7 Cook County's 6 certified local health departments (Chicago Department of Public Health, Cook County Department of Public Health, Evanston Health Department, Oak Park Health Department, Skokie Health Department, and Stickney Public Health District) will come together to host BEAT DIABETES, an event showcasing the important role of public health in preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health. The event will be held at the Stickney Township Public Health District's South Clinic, 5635 State Road, Burbank, IL and will begin at 11 a.m.

The event is open to the public and media is encouraged to attend.

The event coincides with the American Public Health Association's National Public Health Week as a time to recognize the contributions of public health services and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation.

The event will focus on the efforts by each of the organizations to contribute to offsetting Diabetes in area populations.

- The Stickney Public Health District will present on its work in the clinical management of diabetes and its sponsorship of a Farmers Market and community walking to improve the health of the community.
 - While focusing on diabetes the Cook County Department of Public Health will demonstrate the role of diet in the development of chronic diseases including the number 1 and 2 causes of death nationally and locally, heart disease and cancer.
 - The Evanston and Skokie Health Departments will discuss their collaboration to reduce the consumption of unhealthy food and beverages that have minimal nutritional value. This partnership includes the support of the NorthShore Health System.
- The Oak Park Health Department will discuss its Farmers' Market Healthy Nutrition Incentives Program which incentivizes Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants from Oak Park and areas surrounding Oak Park to purchase farm-fresh and nutritious specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc) at the Oak Park Farmer's Market.
- The Chicago Department of Public Health will discuss its recently released Healthy Chicago 2.0 which looks at health through an equity lens and outlines strategies focused on closing or eliminating health inequities still facing its residents and neighborhoods.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control (http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/statistics/prevalence_national.htm) diabetes is becoming more common in the United States. From 1980 through 2014, the number of Americans with diagnosed diabetes has increased fourfold (from 5.5 million to 22.0 million). According to its 2014 Diabetes Report Card (http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pdfs/library/diabetesreportcard2014.pdf) each year, more than 200,000 deaths occur among people with diabetes in the United States. In 2013, diabetes was the country's seventh leading cause of death. More than 29 million people—or 9.3% of the US population—are estimated to have diagnosed or undiagnosed diabetes. Over the past 32 years, from 1980 through 2012, the number of adults with diagnosed diabetes in the United States nearly quadrupled, from 5.5 million to 21.3 million. Among adults, about 1.7 million new cases of diabetes are diagnosed each year. If this trend continues, as many as 1 out of every 3 adults in the United States could have diabetes by 2050.

The World Health Organization has declared the theme Beat Diabetes as the theme for this year's World Health Day, also April 7.

LOUIS S. VIVERITO *Township Supervisor*

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