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CONTACT: Leslie Kinnee

989-831-3669, kinnee@mmdhd.org

Mid-Michigan District Health Department

615 N. State St., Stanton, MI 48888-9702, www.mmdhd.org

Community-Based Dental Clinic relies on volunteer dental professionals

St. Johns~ The St. Johns Community-Based Dental Clinic (CBDC) has been serving Medicaid-eligible adults residing in Clinton and Gratiot counties for just over a year. In that time the clinic has provided high quality dental services to 566 patients who otherwise would not have had access to quality dental care.

The Dental Clinic went from vision to reality as a result of a collaborative partnership between the Mid-Michigan District Health Department and the Delivering Smiles Coalition for Clinton and Gratiot Counties. The coalition began meeting in 2003 to determine ways to improve access to dental care for low-income, Medicaid-eligible adults in Clinton and Gratiot Counties and saw the need for a community based dental clinic to meet the growing needs of this population. MMDHD led the formation of the clinic and obtained over \$103,000 in grant funds to purchase the majority of equipment and supplies needed to get the dental clinic up and running.

The Dental Clinic is staffed by one part-time dentist, one part-time hygienist and one part-time dental assistant, and hopes it can rely on services by volunteer dentists like Dr. Henry Burkhardt, an original member of the Delivering Smiles Coalition and Dr. Kenneth J. Pero, one of the first dentists to give of his time and expertise.

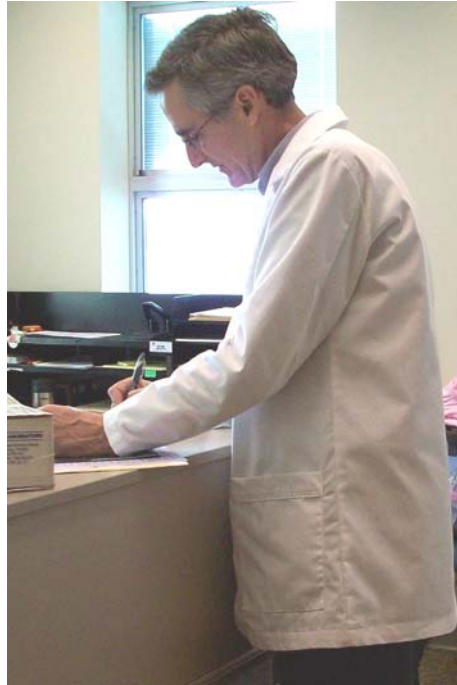
“We are relying on volunteer dentists like Dr. Burkhardt and Dr. Pero to help enhance our ability to serve more clients since Medicaid reimbursement is so low,” said Andrea Tabor, Health and Education Division Director for the Mid-Michigan District Health Department. “We can’t thank Dr. Pero enough and hope other dentists in the area will follow his lead.”

MMDHD’s Community Based Dental Clinic is located at 1307 East Townsend Road in St. Johns. Low-income Medicaid-eligible adults of Clinton and Gratiot counties interested in receiving treatment are asked to call 989-227-3131 to make an appointment.

Dental professionals interested in volunteering are asked to contact Robin Barrus at 989-227-3106.

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

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Dr. Kenneth J. Pero, DDS
St. Johns Community-Based Dental Clinic's first volunteer dentist