



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 04-11-07**

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## **Mid-Michigan District Health Department's community based dental clinic now accepting patients**

ITHACA/ST.JOHNS- Clinton and Gratiot County adult residents currently receiving Medicaid will soon have another reason to smile.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD), which serves the counties of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm, is pleased to announce the opening of its new Community Based Dental Clinic on April 12. The clinic will be open two days a week and will serve Medicaid-eligible adults who currently have limited access to dental care.

The project was a collaborative partnership between the Mid-Michigan District Health Department and the Delivering Smiles Coalition for Clinton and Gratiot Counties. The coalition is comprised of member from the following partners: Department of Human Services, Clinton Memorial Hospital, Gratiot Medical Center, Commission on Aging, Community Mental Health, Mid-Michigan District Health Department and local area dental professionals. 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 the community. MMDHD led the implementation 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 clinic will be staffed by both paid employees and volunteers. While there have been eight dentists and two dental hygienists who have already committed to volunteering in the clinic, more help is needed to meet client demand. Other dental professionals interested in volunteering are urged to contact the clinic.

"If financial resources are available through Medicaid and community support, the number of days the clinic is in operation each week will be increased in order to more effectively meet the demand for services," said Andrea Tabor, MMDHD's Community Health and Education Division Director.

MMDHD's new Community Based Dental Clinic is located at 1307 East Townsend Road in St. Johns. Those who qualify and are interested in receiving treatment are asked to call 989-227-3131 to make an appointment.

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