

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

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New Public Health Dental Clinic in Coldwater!

Coldwater, MI — Coldwater will soon be the new home of a public health dental center operated by My Community Dental Centers, Inc. (MCDC) on behalf of the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency. The center will serve children and adults enrolled in Medicaid, including Delta Dental Healthy Kids, MiChild and the Healthy Michigan Plan, as well as low income, uninsured persons. The center will also serve persons with private insurance.

To date, MCDC operates 29 public dental centers on behalf of local health departments throughout the state. The organization focuses on quality care that is patient-centered and patient-friendly.

In August, Dr. Jacquelyn Merriman D.D.S. and her staff joined the network of MCDC offices. Dr. Merriman's dental office, currently located at 25 W. Chicago Street in Coldwater, is now accepting new patients as a MCDC provider. "MCDC looks forward to providing a dental home for Branch County residents who have previously been unable to find a dentist," says Dr. Merriman, D.D.S. She adds "We love this community and we look forward to continuing to provide many more years of quality care." The growing office will be relocating to a brand new dental center at 384 East Chicago Street in November. The new, state-of-the-art dental center will be located on the Community Health Center campus and will feature electronic medical records, e-scribing and digital radiography. It is anticipated that an additional dentist and support staff will join the center at that time.

New patients interested in making an appointment can call **877-313-6232**. The center provides comprehensive dental services including oral exam/cleanings, fillings,

tooth removal, partials, dentures, and other dental procedures. A sliding fee schedule based on household income is available for those that lack dental insurance.

A lack of access to dental care negatively affects the community's health and well-being. "This new center, focused on serving the underserved, will be a much needed asset in the community" stated Rebecca Burns, Health Officer. "We look forward to having this resource available locally, so residents no longer have to travel considerable distances for care." The health department is associated with two other dental centers – one in Hillsdale and one in Three Rivers. A fourth center in Sturgis will be opening later this fall. To learn more about the health department's commitment to oral health needs, visit our website at www.bhsj.org. To learn more about the dental centers, including more about the services they provide, visit the MCDC website at mydental.org.

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