For Immediate Release

MCHD Smile Express Open House to be held Friday, Oct. 5, 2018

MORGANTOWN, WV (Oct. 2, 2018) — Monongalia County Health Department Smile Express, a dental office on wheels, will be showcased during an open house at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5. The media is invited to attend.

Following a “floss-cutting,” guests will be able to tour the converted 2005 Winnebago Voyage motorhome with three slide-outs and two dental operatories as well as enjoy refreshments.

Funded through a $150,000 grant from Delta Dental, with additional support from Monongalia County Commission and Rotary Club of Cheat Lake, the mobile unit allows MCHD staff to travel to various locations to treat schoolchildren and other citizens with limited access to dental services.

MCHD Smile Express started making rounds last month, visiting all public schools in Braxton County. Staff began treating Monongalia County school students this week, starting with University High School.

Coordinated by the health department’s full-service dental practice, MCHD Smile Express will perform exams and cleanings on students who do not already have a dental home.

“Smile Express represents an innovative delivery model for oral health care,” said Dr. Dan Carrier, Smile Express director. “This initiative will have significant positive impact in our region.”

MCHD Smile Express’s staff—dentist Dr. Mike Wiener, registered dental hygienist and project coordinator Tiffany Summerlin and dental assistant Velvet Urgo will be on hand during the open house.
Services provided by MCHD Smile Express’ staff will include an exam by the dentist, an assessment by a public health dental hygienist, cleanings, X-rays, sealants, fluoride treatment, oral health education and minor restorative services.

MCHD Smile Express will primarily see patients in Monongalia County, but an opportunity arose to serve students in Harrison, Lewis and Braxton counties.

MCHD Smile Express’ staff will initially focus on schoolchildren in these counties who meet certain criteria.

“Our school services are only available to students without a dental home,” Summerlin said. “We are seeing children who have been without dental care, sometimes for years, and it feels good to make a difference for each and every student.”

In the future, visits might expand to other Monongalia County residents, such as those who live at senior centers.

“We look forward to showing our supporters this project we have been working on for the last two years that has finally come to fruition,” said Dr. Lee B. Smith, MCHD executive director and county health officer.

For more information on MCHD, check out monchd.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter @WVMCHD for up-to-date information on health and safety.