



## **KENTUCKY LEGISLATORS AND MEDICAID OFFICIALS CONVENE AT KOOL SMILES' BASHFORD OFFICE TO DISCUSS IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE**

(Louisville, KY) **Kool Smiles**, a leading general dentistry provider for kids and parents, opened the doors to its newest location in the Bashford area of Louisville, KY.

To commemorate the day, Kool Smiles held a press conference where dentists and state and local officials convened to discuss the state of children's oral health in the Louisville area and Kool Smiles' commitment to providing access to quality dental care.

In a show of support, many influential leaders attended the event, including **Senator Dan Seum**, **Senator Julie Denton**, **Representative Tom Burch** (Chair of House Health & Welfare), Kentucky's Dental Medicaid Director, **Ron Holtzman** (Metro Councilman Jim King's Chief of Staff), and **David Algood** (Amerihealth Mercy Health Plan (Passport)).

"With the oral health crisis continuing to be one of the largest challenges our state's children have to face, we're excited to have Kool Smiles open additional access to high quality oral healthcare specifically to the children and adults who need it most," said **Senator Julie Denton**, Medicaid Oversight and Advisory Committee.

Other speakers included **Dr. William K. Rich, DMD**, Kentucky's Dental Medicaid Director who offered "I welcome and appreciate people and organizations who are willing to help with the oral health of children, especially with the underserved community," **Scott Love**, Louisville's Economic Development Officer was also in attendance and presented Kool Smiles with a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Abramson, the Mayor of Louisville.

**Senator Dan "Malano" Seum**, who attended the meeting noted, "It is nice to see that dental is a priority with KCHIP, as a legislator who has voted to support KCHIP, I am happy to see the funding is available and care is getting to the people."

Following the press conference, families and friends of Kool Smiles were invited to attend a community fair where they received oral screenings, consultations and goodie bags filled with tips and tools to improve their oral health. Throughout the day, families also enjoyed games, prizes, drinks and snacks.

The opening of this office, located at **3510 Bardstown Road**, is another important step in Kool Smiles' efforts to address what the Surgeon General has called one of the greatest unmet needs in children today: oral health.

“Kool Smiles was founded with the vision of providing access to quality dental care in communities that have traditionally been underserved,” states **Dr. Polly Buckey**, the Regional Dental Director for Kool Smiles. “We are honored to provide such a valuable resource to Louisville and look forward to partnering with the local schools, daycare centers, and social service agencies to ensure that there is access to quality dental care in this community.”

About Kool Smiles

Founded in 2002, Kool Smiles is a network of local dental offices dedicated to expanding access to quality dental care for children and families in underserved communities. Kool Smiles provides preventative care, diagnostic imaging and a full range of restorative care supported with electronic health records. Kool Smiles offices, many of which are newly constructed, are designed to facilitate communications between our patients and doctors in a relaxed atmosphere. In addition to accepting most insurance plans, Kool Smiles is proud to offer services to families covered by Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP). Kool Smiles also provides oral health education programs through partnerships with community schools and organizations. To find a local Kool Smiles dentist, please visit [www.koolsmilespc.com](http://www.koolsmilespc.com)

**Photos and Captions**



Louisville children were all smiles at the grand opening of the new Kool Smiles office in Bashford.



Dr. Polly Buckey, Regional Dental Director for Kool Smiles, welcomes dentists, state and local officials and Kool Smiles' patients and parents to the grand opening celebration of the newest Kool Smiles location in the Bashford area of Louisville.



Kool Smiles' staff and community leaders welcome the community as they cut the ribbon and officially open Kool Smiles' newest location in Bashford



Senator Julia Denton discusses the importance of equal access to quality oral health care, particularly in communities that have traditionally been underserved.



Dr. William K. Rich DMD, Kentucky's Dental Medicaid Director addresses attendees at the grand opening for Kool Smiles new Bashford dental office. Kool Smiles is one of the few dental networks that welcomes Medicaid patients.