For Immediate Release

MCHD offers Occupational Health Clinic with aviation, DOT exams

MORGANTOWN, WV (Oct. 11, 2018) — Monongalia County is back in the aviation exam game as Carl Werntz, DO, MPH, has established the Occupational Health Clinic at Monongalia County Health Department.

Dr. Werntz is one of about 10 physicians in the state of West Virginia who performs the aviation medical exam, which is sanctioned through the Federal Aviation Administration. He had conducted FAA aviation medical exams through West Virginia University and is now back at it after a four-month hiatus.

“I’m very happy that we are offering the FAA medical exams in Monongalia County again,” Werntz said. “I’m looking forward to expanding the Occupational Health Clinic to provide other necessary occupational exams to the area.”

Next up at the clinic will be Department of Transportation exams for commercial drivers. Dr. Werntz also performs black lung exams in southern West Virginia and eventually might do those through Monongalia County Health Department as well.

A native of the Philadelphia area, Dr. Werntz has been conducting aviation medical exams for about 10 years now. He graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Missouri, and he also has a Master’s of Public Health degree from West Virginia University. Dr. Werntz completed residencies in internal medicine and occupational medicine at WVU.

The Occupational Health Clinics will be held by appointment from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. Dr. Werntz is also taking appointments on Tuesdays for now.

Dr. Werntz has already performed several aviation medical exams since opening the clinic on August 1. Some of those pilots have been from out of state and have taken advantage...
of the service during a Morgantown stopover. “Pilots are very mobile,” he said. In West Virginia, the next closest physician who conducts the test is in Braxton County, he added.

Pilots are required to have examinations at various times in their career depending on what class of pilot they are as well as their age. Dr. Werntz can perform exams for all three classes of pilots: Class 1, commercial airline pilots; Class 2, all other who fly for a living, such as crop dusters, medical or touring helicopters, etc.; and Class 3, private pilots.

The MCHD Occupational Health Clinic has procured the necessary equipment to conduct the aviation medical exams. This includes an FAA-approved vision tester and an electrocardiograph (EKG).

“I’m basically the eyes and hands of the FAA so it’s a very regimented exam, using equipment that they approve.”

Dr. Werntz is also adding the DOT Commercial Driver medical exams to his roster of services soon, he said. “People can schedule those now,” he said. “We have all the equipment.”

Dr. Werntz’s interest in occupational health came from his undergraduate degree of Commerce and Engineering from Drexel University in Philadelphia, he said. “Occupational medicine is the field of medicine where a knowledge of engineering and business is most helpful,” he said. “You have to think, ‘How does the person’s medical condition impact their ability to work?’”

Anyone who wants to make an appointment for MCHD’s Occupational Health Clinic can call 304-598-5123.

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