

Thursday, April 25, 2024

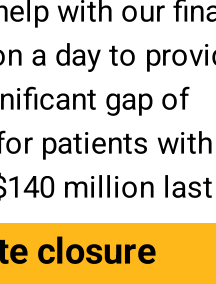
## Peña clinic physicians awarded grant for community garden program



The community garden at the Federico F. Peña Southwest (Peña) Family Health Center is receiving some much-deserved recognition. In 2022, **Julie Venci, MD, internal medicine physician** and **Carolina Gutierrez, MD internal medicine physician**, partnered with patient navigators **Joseph Dang** and **Sofia Chavez** to establish the Peña Community Engagement Committee and developed partnerships within the southwest Denver community. In collaboration with nonprofit Re:Vision, they designed the Community Champion Garden, a project aimed at creating community connection through gardening. The garden provides a space where patients and local residents can engage and learn the art of planting and harvesting fruits and vegetables.

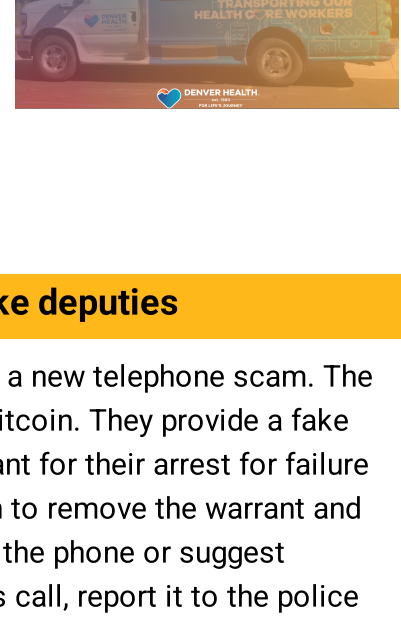
[Read more](#)

## DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT



Celebrating Earth Day and our Sustainability Committee

Monday was Earth Day and one year since Denver Health committed to the White House/HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. The Denver Health Sustainability Committee (pictured with some of its members in the greenhouse on the main campus) has goals for 2024 that include: reducing energy use and increasing sustainable energy used; optimizing pharmaceutical and chemical use; reducing transportation emissions; and improving waste management practices. [Read more about the committee](#) in our latest edition of [Denver Health Journeys](#), and look for sustainability updates in future editions of the 411.



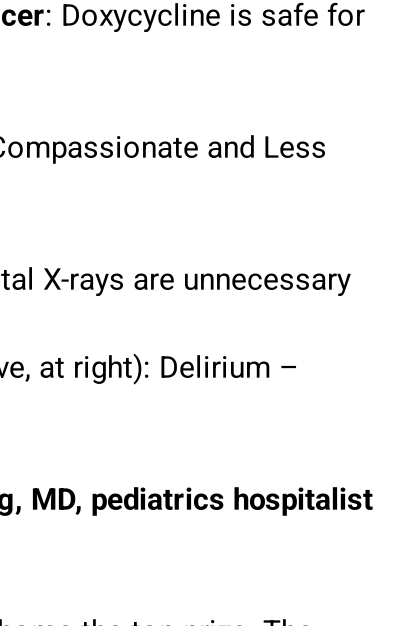
## STAY INFORMED

A boost for Denver Health amid funding challenges

On April 18, Gov. Jared Polis signed a number of budget bills into law, including a \$5 million state payment to Denver Health. We were hopeful that number was going to be higher to include money for uncompensated care for newcomers and renovations for Pavilion A, but those were not approved. We are grateful for the Colorado Legislature's support for Denver Health and will continue to advocate for more consistent funding to help with our financial sustainability needs. As a reminder, it costs Denver Health \$3.5 million a day to provide care for our patients. This funding is important as it helps to close the significant gap for uncompensated care, which is made up of the shortfall of payments for patients with Medicaid, Medicare, CICP or self-pay, which collectively added up to \$140 million last year.

## Shuttle ridership update: 10th and Osage route closure

Denver Health's employee shuttle route to and from the 10th and Osage light rail station will no longer be available after this **Friday, April 26**. We are evaluating the future of the service and would love to hear from you if you use it. [Please complete this survey](#). An interim option is to catch a bus along Broadway that will take you to the Broadway light rail station. We apologize for the inconvenience and will share updates if there is another change in service.



## Beware of telephone Bitcoin scam by fake deputies

The Denver Sheriff Department (DSD) has issued a warning about a new telephone scam. The scammer pretends to be a DSD deputy and asks for payment in Bitcoin. They provide a fake badge number and threaten the victim by saying they have a warrant for their arrest for failure to appear and that they must pay the requested amount in Bitcoin to remove the warrant and avoid going to jail. A DSD official will never ask for payment over the phone or suggest meeting in person for a cash payment. If you receive a suspicious call, report it to the police and notify the Colorado attorney general's office [via its website](#). You can also call the Denver district attorney's office Fraud Hotline at 720-913-9179.

## Enhance your well-being with workplace resources

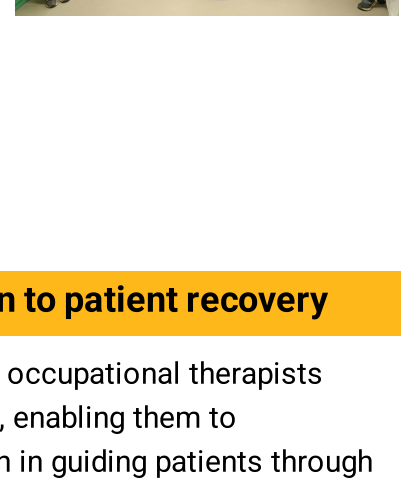
May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Join Workplace Well-being for a month of awareness and focus on our mental and emotional well-being.



[Learn more](#)

## Unveiling innovation at 2nd annual Medical Staff teaching competition

Last Thursday night, the Medical Staff Office held its second annual teaching competition at the Medical Staff Commons. The competition featured eight contestants delivering an eight-minute presentation on "Do...Now Do Not" to a large audience and a panel of five judges. Participants were evaluated based on their style, substance and presentation sequence. The presentations included original artwork, original lyrics, a Druid wizard, Betty White, a dramatic exit of a lead apron and references to Princess Elsa, "The Sound of Music," Hippocrates and more.



Presenters and their teaching topics included:

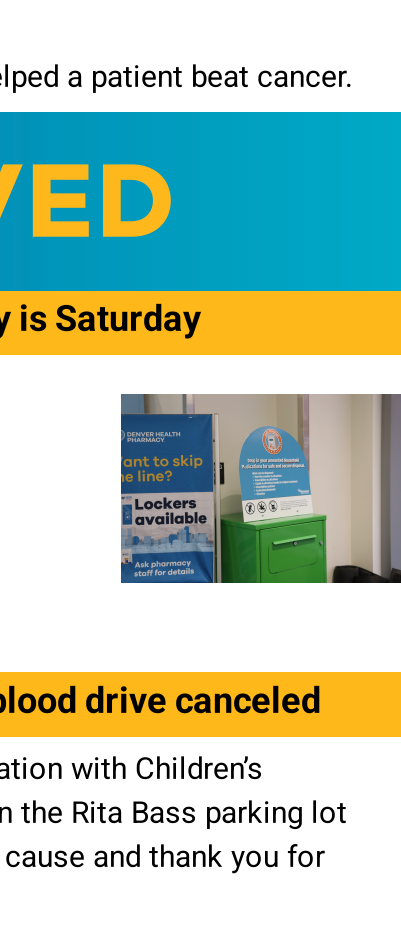
- **Spencer McClelland, MD, OB/GYN general physician:** How do you solve a problem like Makena?
- **Sarah Rowan, MD, infectious disease physician:** Hepatitis C can be cured!
- **Cory Hussain, MD, associate chief medical information officer:** Doxycycline is safe for children and pregnant women
- **Allison Dart, PsyD, psychologist:** Weight Stigma Drools ... Compassionate and Less Biased Care RULES
- **Scott Hamilton, DDS, pediatric dentist:** Lead aprons for dental X-rays are unnecessary
- **Katherine Stafford, MD, hospitalist physician** (Pictured above, at right): Delirium – antipsychotics most often treat the provider
- **Alia Broman, MD, pediatric care physician** and **Daniel Young, MD, pediatrics hospitalist physician:** Colace is not for constipation

Congratulations to Dr. Stafford and Hospital Medicine, who took home the top prize. The Medical Staff leaders would like to thank the contestants, judges, host and organizing committee for making this event a success. Special thanks to **Sahar Taghvai, MD, hospitalist physician**, **Leah Miller, medical staff credentialing specialist** and **Aleka Trujillo, medical staff services manager**, for their hard work in supporting this event.

[See more photos](#)

## Denver Health executives meet with leaders from the Latino community

**CEO Donna Lynne, Chief of Government and Community Affairs Steve Federico, MD, and Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Officer Jorge Avendaño-Curiel** this week hosted a reception for more than 50 Latino community leaders. The goal was to educate on the work Denver Health does, to introduce our chief DEIB officer to talk about the Equity Blueprint, DEIB Council and Employee Resource Groups and to share the work that came out of the Denver Health Sustainable Funding Task Force. This is the last of planned community receptions giving Denver Health the opportunity to engage with partners and stakeholder groups and to hear from the community about what they have experienced, heard and seen regarding Denver Health.



## RECOGNIZING YOU

DHEMy Award presented to Emergency Department staff

A 2023 Denver Health Excellence Matters Award, representing outstanding performance in patient experience, was presented to the Emergency Department staff on Tuesday. **Chief Experience Officer Amy Friedman** and **Senior Director of Patient Experience and Language Services Sharif Abdelhamid** presented the "DHEMy" and thanked the ER team, which achieved all of its patient experience survey stretch goals last year. Other DHEMy winners for 2023 include the Comprehensive Care Unit, Urology Clinic, Primary Care Clinic at the OMC and Labor and Delivery/Mom-Baby.

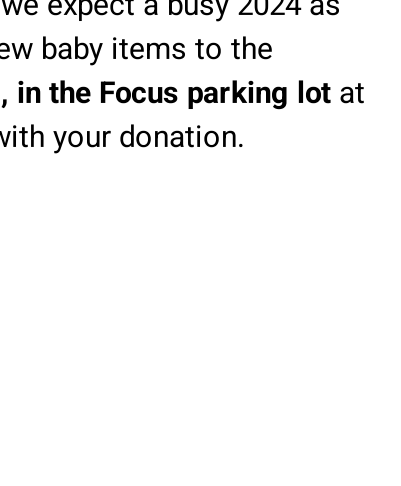


## Celebrating occupational therapists for dedication to patient recovery

April is Occupational Therapy Month, which honors the dedicated occupational therapists who help individuals overcome physical and cognitive challenges, enabling them to participate fully in life's activities. Their expertise and compassion in guiding patients through recovery and rehabilitation after an accident, injury or illness are invaluable. Occupational therapists empower patients to regain independence, enhancing their quality of life and facilitating safe and timely discharges. This month, we extend our deepest gratitude to all occupational therapists for their unwavering commitment, remarkable resilience and the profound difference they make in the lives of our patients and community.

## Honoring Denver Health's LPCs for Counseling Awareness Month

In honor of Counseling Awareness Month in April, Denver Health would like to pay tribute to our licensed professional counselors (LPCs) for the vital services they provide to patients. LPCs, as integral advanced practice providers and members of the medical staff, assist individuals in gaining insights, developing strategies and devising practical solutions to the issues and obstacles they face in all areas of life.

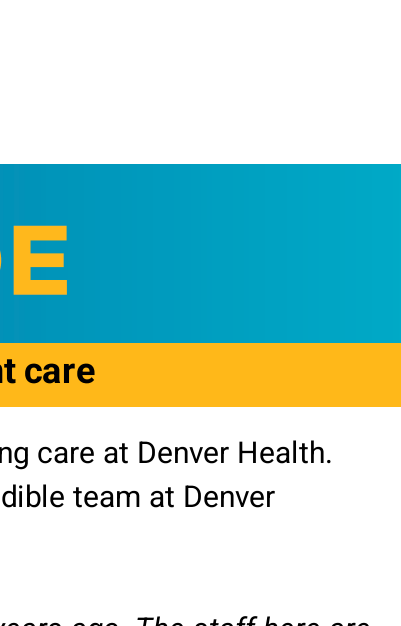


On April 12, Teal Day was also recognized to raise awareness about the importance of counseling and self-care for LPCs as they enlighten their clients, colleagues and the broader public about the same. The day acknowledges the role of LPCs in the national mental health conversation and seeks to challenge stigma surrounding mental illness. It also encourages people to broaden their understanding of counseling in the prevention and management of mental health conditions. We thank our LPCs for helping our patients navigate life's most difficult situations.

(Pictured above, from left: **Jamela Snow, LPC behavioral health consultant**; **Matt Hoag, LPC, LAC, director of integrated behavioral health**; **Justin R Upwell, LPC, LAC, behavioral health consultant**; **Abbey Gesing, LPC behavioral health consultant**; **Audrey Roberts, LPC, LAC, substance treatment counselor**; **Danielle A. S. Roman, LPC, LAC, substance treatment counselor**; **Ashley Haines, LPC, behavioral health consultant**; **Madison Bozik, LPCC, behavioral health consultant fellow** and **Courtney Crotty, LPC, IMH-E, behavioral health consultant**.)

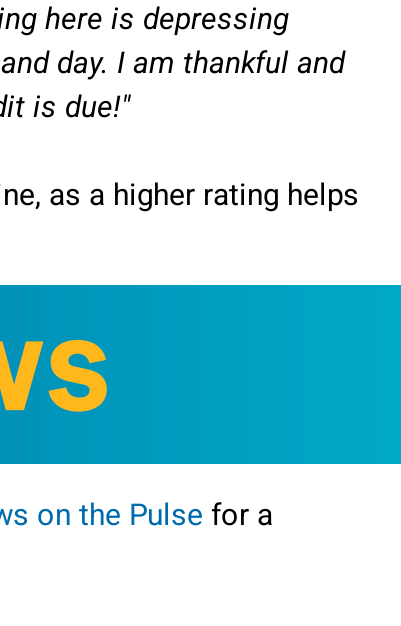
## Psychology Week honors impact of clinical psychologists

This week, we commemorate Psychology Week, a time dedicated to appreciating the profound impact psychologists have on our lives. Clinical psychology professionals offer invaluable insights that lead to better mental health, enhanced well-being and a deeper understanding of ourselves and others. Their dedication to research, therapy and education helps us navigate life's challenges with resilience and compassion. Clinical psychologists are an essential part of Denver Health's integrated system of health and can be found in almost every area of behavioral health services. As both advanced practice providers and members of the medical staff, they play a pivotal role in the interdisciplinary teams that provide comprehensive care to patients.



## 2024 Komen Stars in Pink celebration

Members of Denver Health's breast care, administrative, marketing and community events teams attended the Komen Stars in Pink celebration April 11 at DaVita Denver. The annual event celebrates the achievements of the Susan G. Komen Foundation and its partners, including Denver Health, in the fight to end breast cancer. Denver Health was recognized for having the most team members who participated in the 2023 Komen More Than Pink Walk – 98! We hope to break that record as we co-sponsor the 2024 More Than Pink Walk, set for Saturday, Oct. 12, at Civic Center Park. [Sign up here](#) and help get us to reach at least 100 walkers this year.



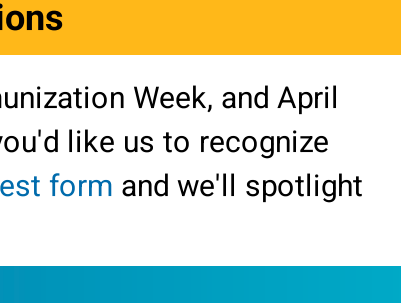
Pictured from left: **Radiology Administrative Director Anna Davis**; **Mammography Technologists Ingrid Lee, Motoko Strom, Kennedy Brown**; **Community Events Specialist Zander Oklar**; **Mammography Technologist Shannon Ausfahl**; and **Marketing Campaigns and Project Manager Alan Singer**.

[Click here](#) to read about how Denver Health's breast care team helped a patient beat cancer.

## GET INVOLVED

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday

Mark your calendar for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on **Saturday, April 27**, when you can safely dispose of expired or unused medications and contribute to a healthier community.



[Learn more](#)

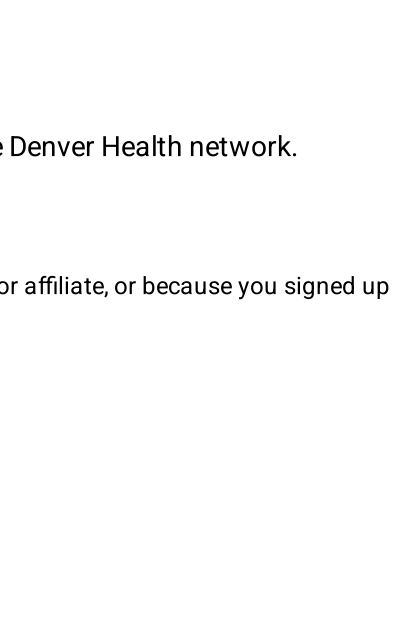
## Denver Health and Children's Hospital Colorado blood drive canceled

The blood drive originally scheduled by Denver Health in collaboration with Children's Hospital Colorado from **8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Thursday, May 2**, in the Rita Bass parking lot has been canceled. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your willingness to support our patients through blood donation.

Blood donations can still be made at our first blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross from **10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, May 13** in the **Nightingale and Osler Classrooms in the basement of Pavilion C**. You can schedule your donation [here](#).

## Join us and find inspiration at Trauma Survivors Fun Run

Denver Health Trauma and Orthopedics teams invite you to join the Denver Health Trauma Survivors Fun Run, a free 5K or 1-mile walk, run or wheel event on **Saturday, May 11, at Berkeley Lake Park**. The run, walk or wheel will start at **9 a.m.**, but we encourage participants to arrive at **8 a.m.** to check in, grab swag and listen to patients' and survivors' stories. Street parking and parking lots are available around the park. This community event will bring together trauma survivors, family members and caregivers to share stories, provide support and celebrate life. [Registered participants](#) can pick up a T-shirt on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to volunteer for the event, you can sign up [here](#).



## Expert to present on cellular therapies at Denver Health Grand Rounds

Denver Health's departments of Surgery and Medicine are proud to welcome visiting professor **Shibani Pati, MD, PhD**, director of the UCSF Center for Research in Transfusion Medicine & Cell Therapies, **Monday, May 6**. Please join us for Denver Health's Grand Rounds from **noon-1 p.m.** in the **Sabin classroom in the basement of Pavilion C**, where Dr. Pati, will present "Cellular Therapies in Trauma and Critical Care Medicine." All staff are welcome to join.

## Celebrate Nurses Week with special Schwartz Rounds panels

Schwartz Rounds are a forum for all Denver Health caregivers, colleagues and staff to address the emotional and social challenges faced in taking care of patients and families.



The Schwartz Rounds mission is to promote compassionate health care and strengthen the relationship between patients and caregivers. The Schwartz Rounds committee will host two panels for Nurses Week called "Looking at Our Values through the Lens of Longevity." All staff are welcome to join from **8-9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8**, in the **Sabin classroom in the basement of Pavilion C**, where a light breakfast will be served, or virtually using this [Webex link](#). An additional session is available from **10:30-11:30 p.m.** using this [Webex link](#). You can learn more [here](#).

## Join Team Denver Health for this year's Heart Walk

Join in the fun and participate in Team Denver Health at this year's American Heart Association Heart Walk on **June 1** at Sloan's Lake. Check-in is at **7:30 a.m.**, and the walk begins at **9 a.m.** There is no cost to participate, but teams are encouraged to fundraise in support of the AHA's fight against heart disease and stroke. Register for our team [here](#).



## Denver Health throws a baby shower

More than 3,800 babies were born at Denver Health last year, and we expect a busy 2024 as well. Support Denver's tiniest community members by donating new baby items to the Newborns in Need program from **10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 4**, in the **Focus parking lot at 637 Delaware St**. You can pull into the parking lot and we'll help with your donation.

Suggested items include:

- Bibs and burp cloths
- Receiving blankets
- Warm blankets (24" x 36" minimum)
- Hooded towels
- Onesies and sleepers (3-month size)

Cash donations are always welcome and can be made through [Denver Health Foundation](#). For additional questions, email [Sharon.Mushkin@dhha.org](mailto:Sharon.Mushkin@dhha.org).

Please note that the location previously mentioned in last week's 411 for the Newborns in Need program donation event was incorrect. The correct location for the event is the **Focus parking lot, 637 Delaware St.**, not the Pavilion M parking lot. We apologize for any confusion and look forward to your support.

## PERKS & DISCOUNTS

Enter drawing to win free massage from RESTORE on May 7

The Denver Health RESTORE Support Center, on the **first floor of Pavilion B**, will offer Denver Health staff free 15-minute chair massages with a Zeel massage therapist from **noon-4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7**. Click [here](#) to enter a drawing for your chance to win a massage. Winners will be contacted by email on **Sunday, May 5**, and offered time slots. Names on the sign-up list and the winners will be kept confidential. Email questions to [RESTORE@dhha.org](mailto:RESTORE@dhha.org). Additionally, if you would like to receive our monthly newsletter and kept in the know about Center programming, including chair massages, email [RESTOREcenter@dhha.org](mailto:RESTOREcenter@dhha.org).



## GRATITUDE

Denver CARES praised for excellent care

It is rewarding to hear from patients who have received outstanding care at Denver Health. This week, we would like to highlight a patient review of our incredible team at Denver CARES!

*"This place has been unrecognizable from when I was here three years ago. The staff here are courteous and generous. I've been asked, 'How are you doing? Do you need meds?' The nurses and the behavioral health therapists' are amazing! Justin, Samantha, Beatrice and Anabelle have been great! Anabelle helped me break down information on a program, she's been wonderful! Christy taking clients to the gym, this is unheard of. Being here is depressing sometimes. Going to the gym helped. The changes here are night and day. I am thankful and grateful for the experience here. I have to give credit to where credit is due!"*

We encourage staff to ask patients to leave a positive review online, as a higher rating helps build trust in our community. Every star counts!

## IN THE NEWS

The 411 highlights top stories of the week. Please visit [In the News on the Pulse](#) for a rundown of all recent stories featuring Denver Health.

**Denver Health launches campaign around language used when treating substance use disorder**  
*April 24, Fox31*

**Judy Shlay, MD, medical director for the Center for Addiction Medicine at Denver Health**, explained CAM Academy's Words Matter campaign and shared how person-first language used in medical treatment for substance use disorder can help patients feel less stigmatized.

**Opinion: Rural Coloradans need greater access to opioid addiction treatment and a new federal bill would help**  
*April 22, The Colorado Sun*

**Paul Christine, MD, and Jarratt Pytelf, MD, addiction medicine specialists and primary care physicians at Denver Health**, co-authored an opinion article in The Colorado Sun highlighting the importance of legislation that could expand access to methadone treatment for opioid use disorder in primary care settings and across the state.

**Denver Health expands syphilis testing**  
*April 24, Denver Gazette*

**Sarah Rowan, MD, a Denver Health infectious disease doctor**, warns sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise, but the "dramatic" increase in syphilis cases means testing should be offered to anyone sexually active between the ages of 14 and 44. "If syphilis is diagnosed in pregnancy and adequately treated, that can prevent congenital syphilis," Rowan said.

## National awareness and recognitions

April 30 is National Therapy Animal Day. April 24-30 is World Immunization Week, and April 29-May 3 is Patient Experience Week. Is there a department that you'd like us to recognize during a special week or month? Let us know in a [Marketing request form](#) and we'll spotlight them in the 411.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April | May

**April 26:** Superhero Day

**April 26:** Last day for 10th and Osage shuttle route

**April 27:** National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

**May 4:** Nurses Week kickball tournament

**May 4:** Newborns in Need baby shower

**May 4-10:** National Nurse Week events

**May 6:** Creative Arts Session: Button Making

**May 6:** Grand Rounds: Cellular Therapies in Trauma and Critical Care Medicine

**May 7:** RESTORE free massage

**May 7:** RESTORE Group Support: Grief & Loss

**May 8:** Schwartz Rounds: 8 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.

**May 8:** Fidelity retirement planner on campus

**May 10:** Creative Arts Session: Button Making

**May 11:** Trauma Survivors Fun Run

**May 13:** American Red Cross blood drive

**May 16:** Trauma-Responsive Care Workshop

**May 30:** Fidelity retirement planner on campus

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**Denver Health VALUES**  
how we do it.

RESPECT

BELONGING

TRANSPARENCY

ACCOUNTABILITY

SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE WEEKLY 411

Submit content for consideration in the Weekly 411 through the employee outreach request form [here](#). Accuracy and quality matter, so please provide all material as early as possible. Your submission should detail who, what, when, where, why and how, with correct spelling and explanation of acronyms. We encourage you to include photos and any links or attachments that may help to communicate your message. Content received after noon on Tuesday will be considered for the following week's edition.

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