



DENVER HEALTH'S WEEKLY 411

The week's most critical information delivered to your inbox.

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Child Life team helps bring comforts of home to hospital

Denver Health's **Child Life team** brought smiles to inpatient pediatric patients on Saturday by helping decorate the rooms of three children, clockwise from right: **Nyla, Alexis and Angel**. Denver Health is the first hospital in the state to partner with the nonprofit **Once Upon a Room** to provide personalized hospital room makeovers that promote happiness and healing in pediatric patients. Best of all, they get to take home the toys, bedding and decorations. Watch the stories that aired on **CBS4** and **9News**. Each station highlighted a different pediatric patient. Denver Health volunteers will work with Child Life specialists to continue decorating pediatric inpatient rooms on a regular basis. Jenny Hull of Once Upon a Room said, "These are the cleanest rooms we've ever seen." Denver Health is the 29th hospital visited by the nonprofit.



RECOGNIZING YOU

Denver Health paramedics provide life-saving initial care

Sometimes long before a patient arrives at the hospital, they, a family member or a bystander have been in contact with members of the Denver Health Paramedic Division. This week's CEO Communication email called out the care and coordination taking place at the hospital following two shootings on Monday. Today's 411 spotlights the impressive group of health care professionals who are often the first contact our patients have with Denver Health.



The nature of calls is changing as trauma-involved incidents increasingly involve youth. Prehospital providers, who experience the immediate visceral trauma of the scene and provide initial care, are vital to the patient's recovery. Our world-class prehospital care gives these patients the best possible chance of a favorable outcome.

Reflecting on the collaboration between those on the scene and those in care settings, **Chief Paramedic Gary Bryskewicz** said, "I am proud of our team approach to patient care here at Denver Health, and I am proud of the role the Paramedic Division contributes to the excellent prehospital care we provide our community."

Directly witnessing a traumatic event can be extremely stressful, especially when our community's children are involved. While we work to reduce systemic causes of stress and trauma, we can also strengthen our resilience skills as individuals and communities. We, as a health care organization, can also work to strengthen our resilience by tapping into healing initiatives and resources like Denver Health's RESTORE Peer Support. The 24/7 resource line is just a call away at 303-436-7473.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Virtual lecture: 'Health Equity in Public Health: Now What?'

Black History Month is a time to recognize, celebrate and honor the amazing contributions and tremendous sacrifices of African Americans. Racism remains a public health crisis, and advancing racial equity is a priority for Denver Health. Melva Thompson-Robinson, DrPH, a professor in the School of Nursing and executive director of the Center for Health Disparities Research at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is hosting a virtual lecture, "Health Equity in Public Health: Now What?" from noon-1 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 22**. [Click here](#) to join the webinar. A special thanks to the Public Health Institute at Denver Health, the Denver Prevention Training Center and the DEI Council for coordinating the lecture.



GET INVOLVED

Human Rights Clinic seeks provider volunteers for forensic exams

Did you know Denver Health has a program that supports asylum seekers? The **Human Rights Clinic (HRC)** provides medical and mental health forensic exams for individuals applying for asylum and other legal statuses in Colorado and surrounding states. The HRC at Denver Health is the only asylum clinic in the Rocky Mountain region. Legal partners refer clients to the HRC, and volunteer medical and mental health providers conduct the forensic exams at Denver Health or at the immigration detention facility in Aurora.

The clinic has helped more than 160 people seeking asylum from 37 countries. One volunteer evaluator, Dr. **Rehaan Shaffie**, said: "You helped me get started in this work and it's been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling endeavors I've done at DH. It's helped to protect me against (or at least lessen) my burnout."

Any providers interested in volunteering must [fill out this form](#) and complete an asylum training before taking part in an evaluation. View [this PDF](#) or check out the [HRC website](#) to learn more about the clinic. Further questions can be sent to humanrightsclinic@dhha.org. A huge thanks to the several providers who regularly donate their time to help.

Employee Benefits Survey open Feb. 20-March 3

Human Resources will be administering a benefits survey to all staff from **Feb. 20 through March 3**. The information gathered from the survey, in addition to data from external survey benchmarking, will help inform any benefit and time-off policies moving forward. All staff are encouraged to participate so we can best understand what people value most in our benefit and time-off policies. The survey link and instructions will be communicated in the 411 and on the Pulse next week.

STAY INFORMED

Webinar to focus on adopting trauma-informed practices

Denver Health **Chief Operating Officer Kris Gaw** and Denver Health **RESTORE Director Maria Gonsalves Schimpf** will be part of a panel for a **Feb. 28** webinar, "Advancing Trauma- and Resilience-Informed Health Care Systems: Early Lessons from Denver Health." The webinar, set for noon-1:30 p.m., will highlight how our health care system is implementing a trauma-informed approach to care. [Click here](#) for more information or to register. The original Center for Health Care Strategies webinar was postponed from Jan. 18. Those who previously registered do not need to reregister. An updated calendar invite is available ([Google](#) and [Outlook/other](#)).

2023 State of Research at Denver Health presentation available

Denver Health's chief of academic affairs and public health, **Romana Hasnain-Wynia, Ph.D.**, gave a seminar this month about the state of research at our health care system. Hasnain-Wynia talked about Denver Health as a learning health system where internal data are integrated with external evidence to advance knowledge in practice. The [presentation slide deck](#) and [video recording](#) from the Feb. 3 seminar in the Sabin classroom in Pavilion B are available on the [Research Methods Core SharePoint](#) page under the "past research seminars and associated materials" section.



Upcoming RESTORE message, group-support opportunities

The Denver Health **RESTORE Support Center** will offer 15-minute massages to employees on a first-come, first-served basis from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **Monday, Feb. 20**. The Support Center is on the first floor of Pavilion B. Employees can [click here](#) to enter a lottery for the next employee massage event, set for 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **March 13**.



A reminder that "RESTORE Group Support: Cumulative Distress & Burnout" is set for 1 p.m. **Friday, Feb. 17** — and every third Friday of the month. This group provides support navigating ongoing personal, professional, systemic and social distress. [This link includes](#) all of the third Friday group registrations.

RESTORE also sends monthly newsletter emails. To get the latest updates and information from RESTORE, email RESTORE@dhha.org and ask to be added to the newsletter list.

Denver Health in the media

— Feb. 9 and 10, **Fox31 and KOA**

Colorado lawmakers propose \$5 million for Denver Health

Chief of Government and Community Affairs, Dr. **Steve Federico**, did interviews with **Fox31** and **KOA** on how a \$5 million proposal from state lawmakers will help Denver Health backfill its deficit.

— Feb. 14, **CBS Colorado**

Denver Health nurses give NICU babies a Valentine's Day makeover

A few of Denver Health's NICU babies melted people's hearts for Valentine's Day. The **NICU nurses** dressed them up as little cupids to [show the families some love for the holiday!](#) The photos were taken by **Jacqueline Dicharry, RN**, with assistance from **Heather Cortez, RN**, and **Suliane Plotard, RN**, who also organized the event. Visit [Denver Health's Facebook page](#) to see more photos.

— Feb. 15, **Fox31**

Cavities rising among kids; here's how to prevent them

Dr. **Jeff Kahl**, **program director for pediatric dentistry**, appeared on Denver Health's weekly **Fox31** segment to [discuss common dental problems](#) among children and stressed the importance of taking your child to the dentist.

National awareness and recognitions

Feb. 20 is Presidents Day and World Day of Social Justice, and **Feb. 22** is Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day.

Is there a department that you'd like us to spotlight during a month? Let us know in an [Employee Outreach Request form](#) and we'll spotlight them in the 411.

February | March

Feb. 17: RESTORE virtual session "Distress & Burnout"
Feb. 17: Fidelity retirement planning appointment
Feb. 20: RESTORE Support Center massages
Feb. 22: "Health Equity in Public Health" webinar
Feb. 23: "Black History Highlights" webinar
Feb. 28: CollegeInvest Lunch and Learn session

Feb. 28: "Health Equity Progress" webinar
Feb. 28: Trauma-informed practices webinar
March 8: Fidelity retirement planning appointment
March 13: RESTORE Support Center massages
March 31: Fidelity retirement planning appointment

CLICK HERE FOR A PDF VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE **WEEKLY 411**

Submit content for consideration in the Weekly 411 through the employee outreach 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.

