

**Thursday, July 13, 2023**  
**Paramedic commended for saving child choking in restaurant**

For new Denver Health Paramedic **Kayla Dunahue**, completing the **Paramedic Division** badging ceremony, having a celebratory dinner with her parents, saving a small child from choking during that dinner, and then going to work the same night are all in a day's work.



Dunahue took part in the badging ceremony on the afternoon of May 19 at the Rita Bass auditorium, where her father, Daniel Dunahue, placed the Denver Health Paramedics badge on her uniform.

After the ceremony, Dunahue, her father and mother (pictured), Michelle Dunahue, went to dinner at Woody's Wood Fired Pizza in Golden to celebrate the occasion before Dunahue would need to be back at Denver Health for her 9 p.m. shift.

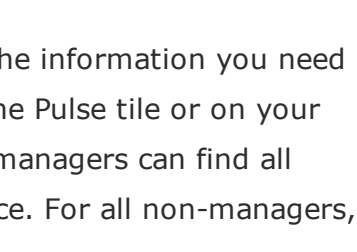
While they were eating, a small child started choking and the parents frantically tried doing back thrusts to dislodge the piece of food, but were unsuccessful. Dunahue became aware of what was happening and rushed over to help the child, who by that time was unconscious and not breathing. She quickly took the correct steps – checking in the patient's mouth, placing the child in position on her forearm, and performing back thrusts – to dislodge the food, and she had the child breathing again before emergency medical services arrived. The parents were incredibly thankful for Dunahue's quick thinking and life-saving actions.

"Paramedics help people every day, whether it be just being there for someone to talk to or helping in a life-threatening situation," Dunahue said. "That is what we're trained to do. More specifically we're trained to react fast in life-threatening situations. It's an incredible feeling to know that you helped save someone's life, and it's an experience I'll never forget."

Dunahue recently received a commendation from her former field training officer, **Paramedic Nicole Baxter**. Dunahue's actions are a credit to the exceptional training given by our Paramedic Division. Thanks to Dunahue and all of our incredible paramedics at Denver Health who, like thousands of staff across our health care system, help save lives every day.

**Performance, development goals target date for entry is Friday**

To help create a culture of learning and development, Denver Health is asking staff to enter Performance Goals and/or Development Items in Workday by **Friday, July 14**. Managers (excluding physician-managers) are required to enter Performance Goals and are encouraged to have Development Items, but Development Items are not required. Non-managers (excluding physicians) are required to enter Development Items and may have a Performance Goal if the goal is relevant to their role, but it is not required. From the [Workday homepage](#), navigate to the menu in the top left of your browser and select Talent and Performance. From there you can select Development Items or My Individual Goals.



Please visit the [Workday Resource Hub](#) for how-to guides, short videos and all the information you need to enter your goals and items. You can also access the Resource Hub through the Pulse tile or on your [Workday homepage](#) in the announcements section. Once in the Resource Hub, managers can find all performance goal-setting resources under For Managers, then Talent-Performance. For all non-managers, select For All Employees, then Talent-Performance.

Denver Health believes that goal setting and individual development are important conversations to have with staff, and that development goals and feedback on them should be ongoing. Departments and teams are encouraged to work with team members to get their goals entered. Denver Health thanks all employees for working together as we learn and grow through this goal-setting process in Workday. Finally, while Friday is our targeted date for entry in Workday, please take more time if needed.

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

**Denver Health staff invited to sign Pronoun Pledge**

The Denver Health Employee Resource Group (ERG) **PRIDE** would like to remind everyone that creating inclusivity doesn't end in June with Pride Month. In June, PRIDE launched a Leadership Pronoun Pledge initiative that was presented to Denver Health's executive team, directors of service (DOS) and at a Leadership Huddle to invite all leaders across our health care system to pledge to use their pronouns in a variety of ways to create a safe and inclusive space for staff and patients. More than 100 Denver Health leaders pledged to share their pronouns in one of the following ways: via Workday; Webex; email signature; Acknowledge, Introduce, Duration, Explain, Thank (AIDET); and by encouraging others to use pronouns in AIDET.



All staff are now invited to show support for our LGBTQ+ colleagues and community by signing our **Pronoun Pledge**. While swag lasts, PRIDE will provide a pronoun pen to those who pledge to do one to three actions, or a pronoun pen and mousepad to those who pledge to do four or more actions. Visit the [PRIDE sub-site](#) on the Pulse more information about this initiative and a how-to guide that provides steps for setting up your pronouns in each of the recommended ways. Email questions to [PRIDE@dhha.org](mailto:PRIDE@dhha.org), and thanks for considering joining the Pronoun Pledge community.

**RECOGNIZING YOU**

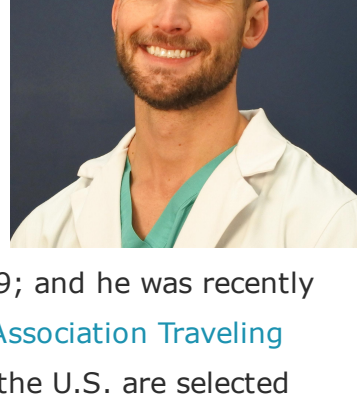
**Dental General Practice Residency program sets new milestone**

The Denver Health **Dental General Practice Residency's** (GPR) Class of 2023 had 70% of residents place in public health jobs following graduation from the program – the highest percentage since the program started more than 50 years ago. The Dental support team of providers, attendings, the residency coordinator, dental assistants and front office staff all contributed to this spectacular outcome. The GPR program's mission is to educate the next generation of general dentists in advanced clinical procedures, patient education and trauma care while inspiring them to provide these services for the underserved in their communities. These residents spend one year at Denver Health advancing their skills in general dentistry and learning about our mission, vision and values. Three are even staying with Denver Health, at the Outpatient Medical Center, the Lowry Family Health Center and the Pediatric Dental Clinic at the Webb Center for Primary Care. Congratulations, Class of 2023 (pictured are seven of 10 graduates who attended the June 30 certificate ceremony). We are proud of you and wish you the best of luck in your dental careers and hope you all continue spreading the values of Denver Health far and wide!



**Director of Orthopedic Trauma receives Pinnacle Achievement Award**

Denver Health **Director of Orthopedic Trauma Joshua Parry, MD, MSc**, recently received the Pinnacle Achievement Award from the University of Colorado School of Medicine's Department of Orthopedic Surgery. The Pinnacle Achievement Award is the highest academic achievement award in the department. Dr. Parry, an associate professor for the School of Medicine, is an internationally recognized expert in the management of pelvic ring fractures; he published 48 papers in 2022; he was awarded the Clinician Scholar Career



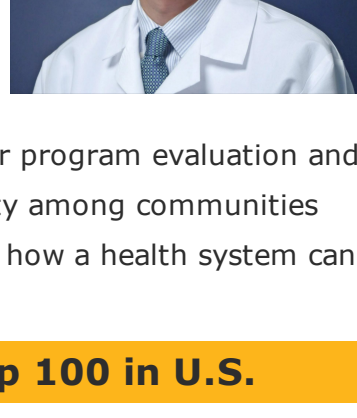
Development Award by the [American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons](#) in 2019; and he was recently selected by the [American Orthopedic Association's 2024 Japanese Orthopaedic Association Traveling Fellowship](#) – an incredible accomplishment, as only two orthopedic surgeons in the U.S. are selected annually.

"Dr. Parry is the definition of a clinician scientist, demonstrating exceptional productivity in science and in his clinical practice," said **Cyril Mauffrey, MD, director of Orthopedics at Denver Health**. He is the perfect partner and mentor to future clinician scientists. He is extremely well respected in the department."

Congratulations, Dr. Parry, and thank you for all the work you do that contributes to Denver Health having an internationally recognized orthopedic department.

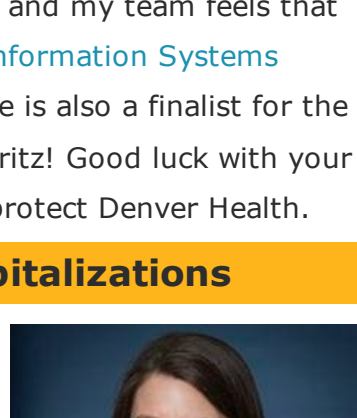
**Denver Health research published in American Journal of Public Health**

A new [research publication](#) by **Scott Simpson, MD MPH**, and researchers in **Behavioral Health Services** and the **Public Health Institute** at Denver Health describes a collaboration between Denver Health and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Denver Health and CDPHE developed a public health surveillance system to describe mortality among Denver Health patients. This effort allows Denver Health to understand and address the biggest risks facing Denver's in-need communities. Denver Health physicians and public health professionals can use these data not only for program evaluation and quality improvement, but also ensure resources are directed to address mortality among communities who are underrepresented in traditional research. "We're setting up a model for how a health system can be an active collaborator with a public health department," Dr. Simpson said.



**Chief information security officer named among top 100 in U.S.**

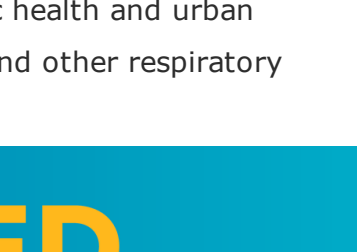
**Enterprise Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Randall "Fritz" Fritzsche** from the Department of Information Technology at Denver Health has been recognized for the third straight year as one of the **top 100 CISOs in the U.S. by CISOs Connect**. CISOs work to safeguard organizations and protect them from cyberattacks. "I am so honored and humbled to be recognized as part of this group of phenomenal cyber leaders," Fritzsche said.



"It is an honor to work at Denver Health. Part of the recognition if due to my mission of protecting our organization, our patients and employees. We have such a special passion in IT, and my team feels that deeply in our quest to protect Denver Health." Fritzsche has been part of the [Information Systems Security Association \(ISSA\)](#) for 20 years and is an ISSA Distinguished Fellow. He is also a finalist for the ISSA Hall of Fame, which will announce inductees in August. Congratulations, Fritz! Good luck with your Hall of Fame bid, and a huge thanks to you and the entire IT team for helping protect Denver Health.

**Study shows geographic link with COVID-19 hospitalizations**

In a [recently published study](#) in *PLOS ONE* that controlled for individuals' biological factors, senior author **Sarah Rowan, MD, a public health and infectious disease expert** at Denver Health, found that people who lived in multifamily housing, or in areas with higher levels of air pollution, were at a higher risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 in the Denver metro area in 2020. "So many health disparities track along geographic lines," Dr. Rowan said. "We've long suspected that more than just preexisting medical conditions were to blame for the disparities. ... This will help public health leaders continue to advocate for healthier cities, and it helps inform outreach efforts to address

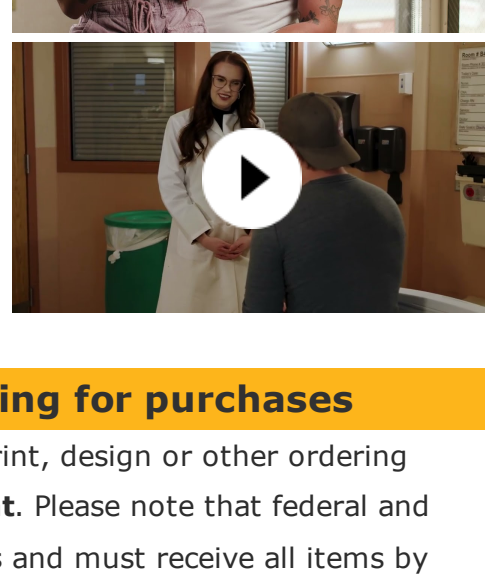


COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses." The findings could help inform public health and urban planning initiatives in lowering the risk of hospitalizations linked to COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. [Click here](#) to read more about the study.

**STAY INFORMED**

**Center for Addiction Medicine shares Annual Report, new videos**

Denver Health is excited to share the **Center for Addiction Medicine's (CAM) 2022 Annual Report**. This report highlights CAM's fourth year of achievements in coordinating a broad range of addiction services, research and evaluation, education and promotional efforts across the Denver Health system and in the community. In addition, CAM is pleased to share two new promotional videos that highlight these efforts through voices from our **patients** and **staff**. Thank you to everyone at Denver Health that contributes to CAM efforts. Our community benefits daily from the inclusive and compassionate services you provide to this important patient population. Visit the [CAM website](#) for more information or email [CAM@dhha.org](mailto:CAM@dhha.org).

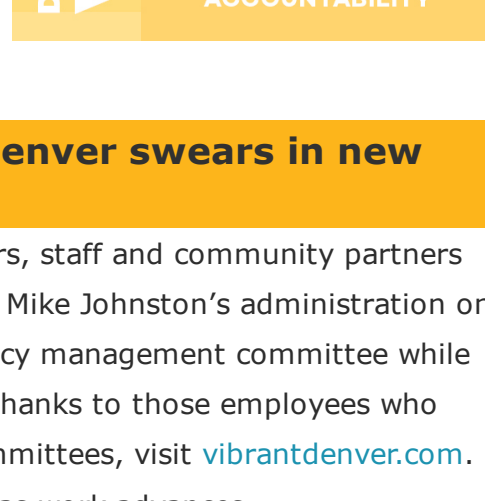


**Notice to grant recipients using grant funding for purchases**

At Denver Health, many departments receive grant funding used for print, design or other ordering purchases through the **Marketing and Communications Department**. Please note that federal and state guidelines show that we cannot use pro-forma invoices for grants and must receive all items by grant deadlines – meaning orders cannot be purchased or billed outside of the grant timeline. We understand and recognize that teams and individuals often have to use these funds with limited time, but **please be aware that the timeline for printing and ordering purchases to can take as long as six weeks**. We ask that all Denver Health staff be aware of this timeline when submitting requests for grant-related orders through the [Marketing request form](#) (found on the Pulse homepage). Due to the amount of print and design requests received daily from across our health care system, "rush orders" are no longer able to be met. When submitting requests, please ensure you have final approved copy, budgets, quantities and approvals (if applicable) before submitting a request. This will help with processing asks more efficiently.

**Clear your browser's cache to see new Denver Health values on Pulse**

Denver Health is aware that some employees are still seeing an outdated values tile at the bottom of the [Pulse homepage](#). While a new tile – featuring our new values of respect, belonging, transparency and accountability – has been uploaded to replace the old tile, some employees may not be able to see the new tile until they clear the cache in their web browsers. Guides for clearing your cache are available on the Pulse. Click for an explainer on [Microsoft Edge](#) or [Google Chrome](#).



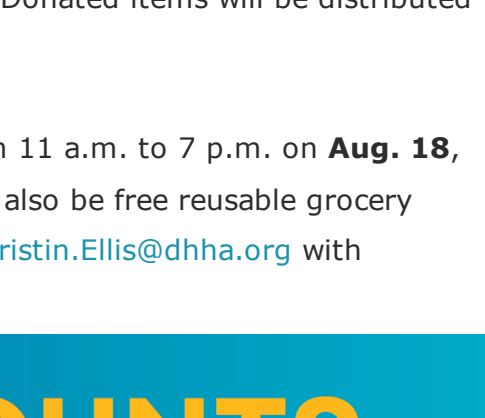
**Denver Health leaders assist in transition as Denver swears in new mayor**

Denver Health is proud to have a number of executives, board members, staff and community partners involved in the 28 transition committees helping to advise Mayor-elect Mike Johnston's administration on its first 100 days. Our **CEO, Donna Lynne**, is co-chairing the emergency management committee while 12 others are participating as official transition committee members. Thanks to those employees who attended community meetings. To learn more about the transition committees, visit [vibrant.denver.com](http://vibrant.denver.com). We will share updates on our engagement with the new mayoral team as work advances.

**GET INVOLVED**

**Donate food to help Denver Health community for National Wellness Month**

This year, Workplace Well-being, Volunteer Services, RESTORE and WorkLife Partnership are teaming up for wellness initiatives during **National Wellness Month in August**. A **Wellness Month** food drive will run from **Friday, July 14 to Aug. 14**. Those who are able to donate may drop off food from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Volunteer Zone on the first floor of Pavilion C. Food items must be nonperishable, must not require refrigeration or freezing, must not be expired, must not be homemade and must be unopened. Donated items will be distributed in August to Denver Health employees and others in our community.



Employees can stop by the Volunteer Zone for the **Wellness Fair** from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on **Aug. 18**, to collect up to five nonperishable food items to take home. There will also be free reusable grocery totes, recipes, information on community resources and swag. Email [Kristin.Ellis@dhha.org](mailto:Kristin.Ellis@dhha.org) with questions.

**PERKS & DISCOUNTS**

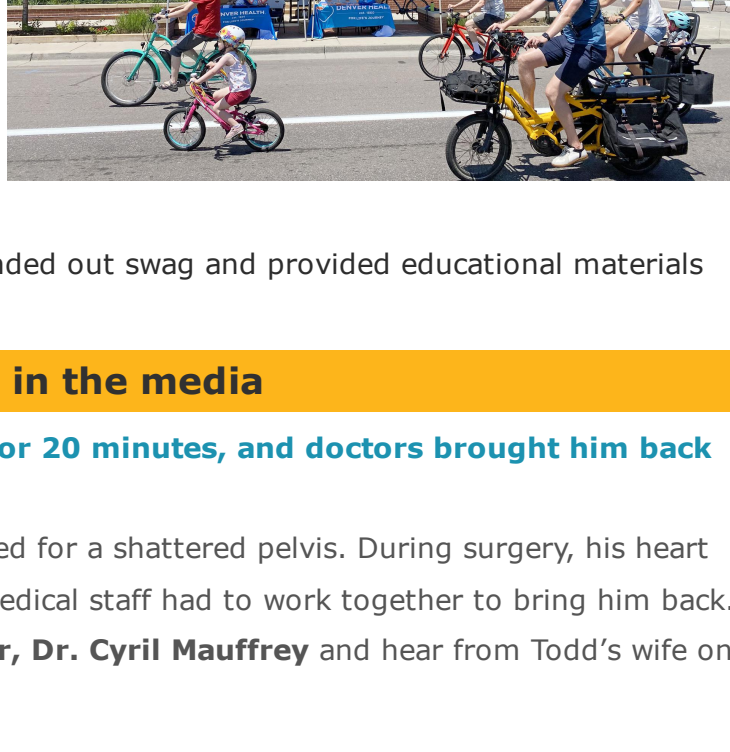
**Floyd's Barbershop offering half-price haircuts for first responders**

First responders, including paramedics and emergency medical technicians, are being offered half-price haircuts **through July 24** at participating **Floyd's Barbershops**. To redeem this offer, show your valid medical ID when you check out. The offer is valid for one haircut per person and can't be combined with other offers, according to Floyd's. In an email, Floyd's said its shops "hope you will take advantage of this limited-time offer and allow us to show our appreciation for your service. Thank you for everything you do!" Visit the [Floyd's website](#) for location information and to book an appointment.

**IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Denver Health teams represented at iViva! Streets Denver**

Denver Health volunteers from the **Trauma, Breast Imaging/Mammography, and Marketing and Communications** departments were meeting and greeting hundreds of people last Sunday during **iViva! Streets Denver**. The event, which returns for the final time this year on **Aug. 6**, celebrates Denver's neighborhood's and supports local businesses with temporary car-free streets, including on Broadway from 20th Street to Maple Avenue. Several Denver Health employees and patients even stopped by to say hello. Thanks to the volunteers who engaged with our community, handed out swag and provided educational materials on Denver Health's services.



**Denver Health in the media**

**During surgery, Todd Brainard's heart stopped for 20 minutes, and doctors brought him back July 7, 9News**

Todd Brainard was flown to Denver health to be treated for a staffed heart. During surgery, his heart unexpectedly stopped so orthopedics, vascular and medical staff had to work together to bring him back. Watch his incredible story with **Orthopedics Director, Dr. Cyril Mauffrey** and hear from Todd's wife on his recovery.

**Denver police sergeant's leg amputated in wake of injury sustained during Nuggets championship parade July 11, The Denver Post**

Sgt. Justin Dodge was in front of a fire truck carrying Denver Nuggets players during the June 15 parade, trying to protect paradegoers who had moved onto the street, when the truck rolled over his left leg. Dodge went into surgery that day, but **Denver Health emergency room chief Dr. Stephen Wolf** said during the news conference that Dodge's injuries could threaten his leg.

**New detox program helps youth with growing substance use disorders July 12, Fox31**

In Colorado, fentanyl-related deaths continue to rise. In May, Denver Health opened the state's first licensed detox facility for adolescents. Now with this new facility, Denver Health can help them withdraw and recover in a safe environment. "So often, we see teens with substance use disorders that are kind of medicating by themselves, anxiety or depression," said **Dr. Kristina Foreman, an adolescent psychiatrist** at Denver Health.

**Denver Health driving forward to keep serving the community: Q&A with CEO Donna Lynne July 12, Becker's Hospital Review**

Denver Health has faced its fair share of the common financial challenges affecting health systems. It has been supported by both good relationships with other health systems and from state legislators as it fights to recover from a \$60.7 million operating loss in 2022. "Denver Health is focused on recruitment and retention of our own employees. We have reduced our dependency on travelers, which creates stronger teams and strengthens the entire workforce," **CEO Donna Lynne** said.

**Is it heat exhaustion or heat stroke? How to tell July 12, Fox31**

**Missy Anderson, the pediatric trauma program manager** at Denver Health, explains the difference between heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

- July**
- July 14:** Center for Addiction Medicine survey closes
  - July 14:** Workday goal-setting deadline
  - July 18:** Diabetes lunch and learn
  - July 18:** Dragon Boat Festival coloring deadline
  - July 19:** Trauma Lecture Series
  - July 22:** Colorado Dragon Boat Festival
  - July 26:** Workday Wednesday
  - July 31:** Sustainability challenge deadline

**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 request form (top). 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.

