

Thursday, June 1, 2023

**Denver Health receives largest-ever single gift commitment**

This week got off to an exciting start as **CEO Donna Lynne** was joined by representatives from Kaiser Permanente to receive what will ultimately be the single largest donation ever made to our hospital system.



At a news conference on Tuesday, **Kaiser Permanente Colorado President Mike Ramseyer** (pictured, far right) shared that local nonprofit health plan is giving \$5 million to Denver Health while challenging others in the community to match an additional \$5 million that Kaiser Permanente will donate to assist with vital health care services for the community, including continued access to primary and specialty care.

"Denver Health plays an essential role in taking care of patients in our state with significant medical needs," Ramseyer said. "A strong health care safety net benefits our entire community. It is imperative for us to come together now to support Denver Health."

The gift is part of the Kaiser Permanente Community Health Fund, which will build as others in the community meet Kaiser Permanente's challenge.

"We are immensely grateful to Kaiser Permanente for their commitment to serving Colorado with this generous financial support," Lynne said. "None of us can imagine a city or a state without Denver Health. This community relies on us, and we need a coordinated community-wide effort to ensure we are sustainable now and into the future."

**Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) Kim Bimstefer** (pictured, center) also spoke at the event and added, "I applaud the leadership of health care organizations who are stepping up financially to support Denver Health, and I encourage communities and hospitals across the greater Denver area to do the same in support of Denver Health as a pillar of our state's healthcare system."

The additional financial support helps ensure that underserved communities have access to a strong safety net that equitably meets patients' needs and improves health outcomes.

Many who saw the news are asking how we will use this gift. While a significant amount of money, it's important to have some context into our finances. It costs Denver Health about \$3.5 million per year to provide care across our health system. Our current operating revenue is short of expenses, and year-to-date, we are seeing a \$12 million loss. This gift and the matching challenge will strengthen our bottom line and help us with our goal to have a "break even" year, but we need to remain disciplined in its use so that we deliver on our mission.

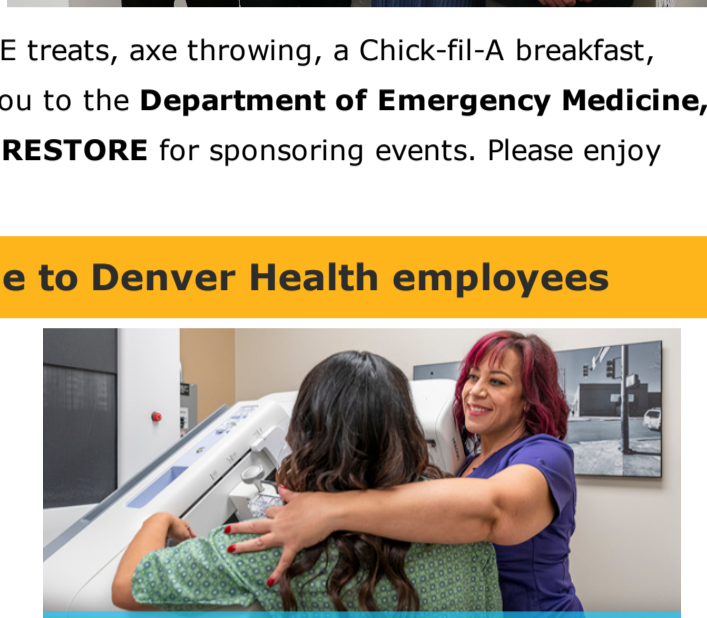
**DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT**  
Celebrating the Paramedic Division during EMS Week

Denver Health celebrated our emergency medical services staff last week in the **Denver Health Paramedic Division** during EMS Week. The festivities included a pancake breakfast, a proclamation from Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock (proclamation pictured right with **Denver Health CEO Donna Lynne, Chief Paramedic Gary Bryskiewicz, Chief of Government and Community Affairs Steve Federico, MD, and Chief Operating Officer Kris Gaw**), the annual Paramedic Awards luncheon, a taco cookout, RESTORE treats, axe throwing, a Chick-fil-A breakfast, fancy coffee and a dedicated hot dog vendor. Thank you to the **Department of Emergency Medicine, Trauma Services, Denver Health Foundation** and **RESTORE** for sponsoring events. Please enjoy photos from the week in [this gallery](#).



**Walk-in mammograms available to Denver Health employees**

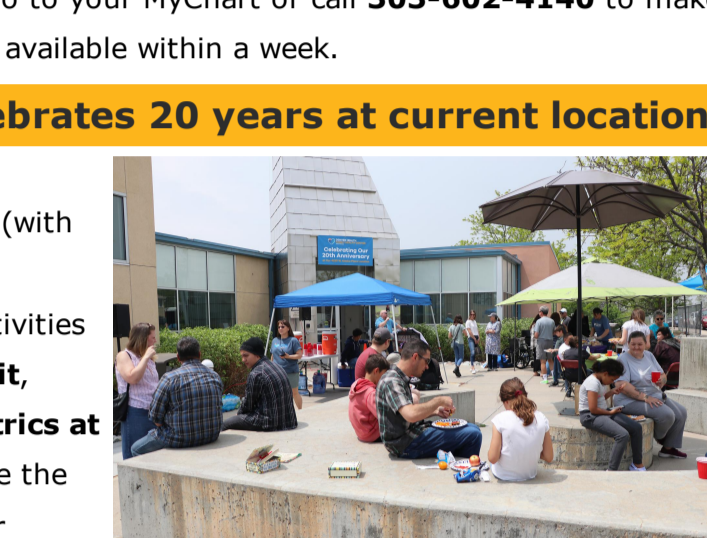
As part of Denver Health Breast Imaging's "Screening Fridays" – when we dedicate our clinic on the fifth floor of the Outpatient Medical Center to mammograms – the department is offering blocks of appointments just for employees from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on two upcoming **Fridays: June 23 and July 7**. The new employee screening Friday events will be limited to 50 patients each day. Patients must register for one of the days by answering a few simple [questions in this form](#) and once accepted, you can walk in anytime within the 8 a.m.-2 p.m. window on the date you sign up for. You can always go to your MyChart or call **303-602-4140** to make an appointment anytime; appointments are currently available within a week.



**Employee Mammography Screening Fridays: June 23 & July 7**

**Westwood Family Health Center celebrates 20 years at current location**

Denver Health's **Westwood Family Health Center** celebrated its 20th anniversary at its current location (with nearly 60 years serving the community) in May with a community celebration that featured food and fun activities for families. The **Denver Health Mobile Vaccine Unit, Denver Health Paramedics, Denver Health Pediatrics at Denver Public Schools** and other organizations were the show support and educate the community about their services. Denver Health **CEO Donna Lynne** showed up on her bicycle and got a COVID-19 booster shot.



Congratulations to the entire staff at Westwood, who recently received Ricardo the giraffe, recognizing the team with the Denver Health Patient Experience Award for the first quarter of 2023. They achieved the highest Press Ganey score for all primary care clinics for "Likelihood to Recommend."

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**  
Any plans for Friday night? Join the Pride Kick-off Party

Meet **Richard Zavala**, a Denver Health employee for the past three years who enjoys bringing his whole self to work every day. Richard is a professional drag entertainer who is going to host Denver Health PRIDE Bingo and the Pride Month Kick-off Party at **5 p.m. Friday, June 2, at Raices Brewing Co., 2060 W. Colfax Ave.**



The party will feature two more drag entertainers, food provided by **La Catrina Grill**, cupcakes and a dance class featuring iconic pop artists led by the administrative chair of Denver Health's employee resource group PRIDE, **Julio Martinez Coronado**.

All are welcome to attend. [Click here to RSVP](#). Learn more about all Pride Month celebrations and [see the event calendar here](#).

**STAY INFORMED**  
Medical, dental services available for students, siblings over summer

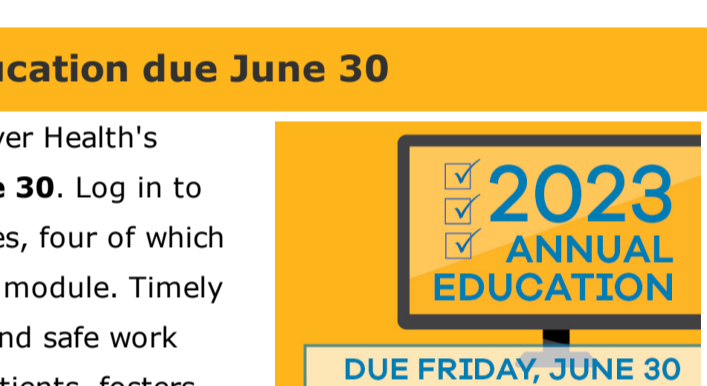
**Denver Health Pediatrics at Denver Public Schools** will be open on a reduced schedule at select locations during summer break. All services are provided at no cost to any Denver Public Schools students and their siblings up to age 21.



**George Washington** and **Abraham Lincoln** high schools offer medical and dental services, while the **Evie Dennis Campus** offers only dental services. Hours vary by location; call **303-602-8958** to schedule an appointment. Click on the flyers above (in English and Spanish) for more information. All other locations will reopen prior to the start of the school year.

**Required annual education due June 30**

The window for employees to complete required Denver Health's annual Cornerstone education closes on **Friday, June 30**. Log in to Cornerstone to access and complete the eight modules, four of which have a pre-test option if you don't wish to retake the module. Timely completion of annual education promotes a healthy and safe work environment, allows us to provide the best care to patients, fosters an ethical, compliant culture of respect and excellence and keeps Denver Health in compliance with federal and state regulations. If you have questions regarding annual education, please reach out to the Compliance team at [Compliance@dhha.org](mailto:Compliance@dhha.org) or call **303-602-0137**.

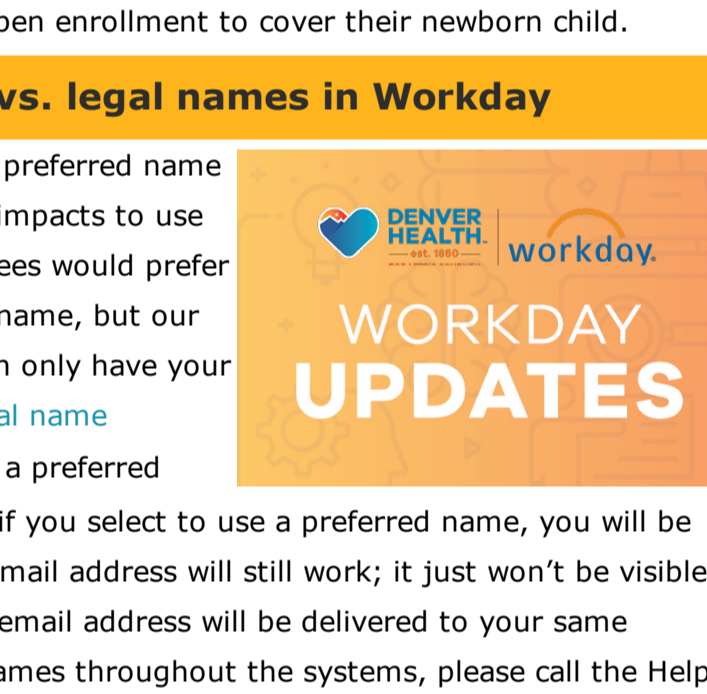


**Reminder: Benefits enrollment for qualifying life events**

HR is reminding all staff that parents of newborn children on Denver Health Medical Plans have 30 days from the birth of their child to enroll them as a dependent on their plans. While newborn children are automatically covered by their parents' medical plan for the first 30 days, supporting documents must be submitted within the first 30 days following birth for coverage to continue. Alternatively, employees must enroll in other medical insurance or wait until open enrollment to cover their newborn child.

**Update on preferred names vs. legal names in Workday**

You may still be seeing some inconsistency with your preferred name and your legal name. IT is investigating downstream impacts to use of a preferred name. We recognize that some employees would prefer options as to when to use a preferred name vs. legal name, but our systems cannot be configured in that manner. You can only have your **preferred name** (if populated in Workday) or your **legal name** displayed across all systems. If you have not selected a preferred name, your legal name will be used. Please note that if you select to use a preferred name, you will be assigned an additional email address. Your previous email address will still work; it just won't be visible. Any internal or external emails sent to your previous email address will be delivered to your same Outlook inbox. If you are experiencing inconsistent names throughout the systems, please call the Help Desk at 303-436-3777 and open a ticket.



**Reminder of nonsmoking policy, which includes parking garages**

Denver Health reminds everyone that in order to promote the health, well-being and safety of patients, visitors and employees, **Denver Health is a smoke-free environment**, including parking lots, parking structures and sidewalks within property boundaries. A complaint was made recently that employees parking in the 550 Acoma St. garage were seen smoking and putting out their cigarettes on private property. Please properly dispose of trash and let's all do our part to be good neighbors.

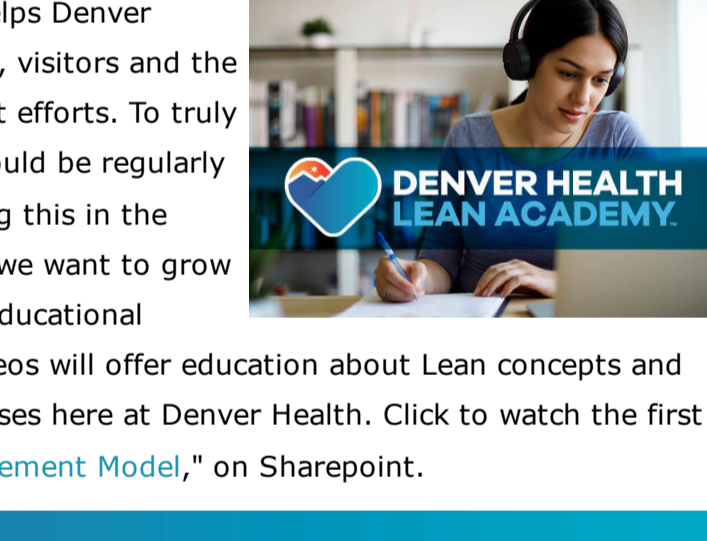


**Appointment Center's liaison team is now Patient Referral Management**

The Appointment Center's Private Patient Liaison team (PPL) is now the **Patient Referral Management (PRM) team**. The team's scope of work has evolved over time, and the new name better reflects the current work they are performing. The point of contact for referrals and the email address is being updated from [PPL@dhha.org](mailto:PPL@dhha.org) to [PRM@dhha.org](mailto:PRM@dhha.org), though the current email address will continue to work for the time being.

**Watch QuickLean video on "Improvement Engagement Model"**

The Lean Systems Improvement (LSI) department helps Denver Health become a better place for employees, patients, visitors and the community by continuously engaging in improvement efforts. To truly become a Lean organization, small improvements should be regularly made by everyone at all levels. We have been teaching this in the Denver Health Lean Academy since its inception, but we want to grow our reach to Denver Health employees by providing educational videos that can be watched at your leisure. These videos will offer education about Lean concepts and tools and show Lean in practice by showing its successes here at Denver Health. Click to watch the first QuickLean video, "[Lean Systems Improvement Engagement Model](#)," on Sharepoint.



**GET INVOLVED**  
Join the Denver Health Heart Walk team

Join in the fun and be a part of Team Denver Health at the American Heart Association Heart Walk on **June 3 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](#).

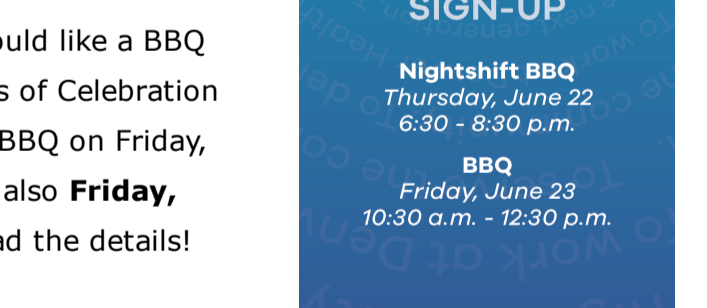


**Sign up to Volunteer or Pre-order Bulk Meals for Days of Celebration BBQ**

We are looking forward to the **2023 Days of Celebration** employee BBQ and ice cream social! The Food and Nutrition Services team **needs volunteers to help serve BBQ and ice cream** on Thursday, June 22, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-9:30 p.m., and Friday, June 23, from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Unit and department leaders are encouraged to join the Executive Team and Food Services crew in celebrating and thanking our amazing employees. Please [sign up here](#) to volunteer **by June 9**.



If your department has at least 25 employees who would like a BBQ meal, **sign up to pre-order bulk meals** for the Days of Celebration nightshift BBQ on Thursday, June 22, or the daytime BBQ on Friday, June 23. The deadline to sign up to "Skip the Line" is also **Friday, June 9, at 5 p.m.** [Sign up here](#) and make sure to read the details!



**Show your support of the Nuggets on game day**

For the first time in franchise history, the **Denver Nuggets** are in the NBA Finals! Be like the spirited staff at the Gipson Eastside Family Health Center and wear your Nuggets T-shirts or other [approved attire](#) on game days to support our home team.



**Denver Health in the media**

**This health network just gave Denver Health \$10M to stay afloat** – May 30, Denver Business Journal  
**Leaders at Denver Health say hospital's uncompensated care is costing them** – May 30, 9News  
"We are immensely grateful to Kaiser Permanente for their commitment to serving Colorado with this generous financial support," said **Denver Health CEO Donna Lynne**. "None of us can imagine a city or a state without Denver Health. This community relies on us, and we need a coordinated community-wide effort to ensure we are sustainable now and into the future." The gift is part of the Kaiser Permanente Community Health Fund which will build as others in the community meet Kaiser Permanente's challenge.

**Ambulance crews can't avoid violence but they're trying to change culture of ignoring it** – May 29, Denver Post  
**Leigh Foster, a paramedic and coordinator of Denver Health's peer assault care team**, said just knowing that someone is aware of what happened and available to offer support can be helpful. The team's volunteers act out immediately after an assault, then again two days and 10 days later, to give people time to start processing it and decide if they want to talk, she said. Some aren't ready until much later.

**Colorado's overdose rates declined in 2022 but remain near record levels** – May 27, Denver Post (subscriber only)  
Public health officials and addiction experts drew little comfort from last year's totals, which remain near record highs amid the growth of fentanyl's growing dominance of the illicit drug supply. "Overdoses" evened themselves out a little bit. We have a new normal, which is terrible," said **Josh Blum, MD, addiction medicine physician at Denver Health**. "Now we have a stable, unacceptably high death rate."

**Free doula program at Denver Health helps laboring moms** – May 31, CBS Colorado  
**Denver Health** delivers one-third of all babies in the city, and many of the laboring moms come from diverse backgrounds. After seeing a need for culturally responsive, quality support during childbirth, Denver Health created its doula program back in 2016. Denver Health doulas provide prenatal and perinatal care to families, particularly ones with complicated histories and high social needs. This CBS Colorado story features a Denver Health doula who talks about her experience with our unique program and why she finds it rewarding.

**Hospitals Against Violence Day takes place this week** – May 31, Fox31  
**Firearm violence** is being considered a public health issue and is the focus of **Hospitals Against Violence Day** on Friday, June 2. **Ben Li, MD, emergency medicine physician and medical director of Denver Health's At-risk Intervention and Mentoring (AIM) Program**, appeared on Denver Health's weekly Fox31 segment to discuss how hospitals are getting involved to promote firearm safety.

**Parents surprise son with billboard upon medical school graduation** – May 29, ABC News  
As **Ryan Boyland** gets ready to move to Denver to begin an **emergency medicine** residency with Denver Health, his parents say they're "very proud" of him. "He's accomplished a lot in a very short period of time and I'm looking forward to many more accomplishments in the future," dad said. So, his parents gave him the ultimate gift.

**National awareness and recognitions**

June 4 is **National Cancer Survivors Day**. Let's honor those who are cancer survivors and take a moment to thank those who care for anyone living and dealing with cancer!

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

June	
June 1: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 1	June 15: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 6 (if necessary)
June 2: Pride kick-off party	June 15: Application deadline for School of Medical Laboratory Science
June 4: Nuggets vs. Health, Game 2	June 17-18: Juneteenth Music Festival
June 5-8: Denver Health Rocky Mountain Trauma & Emergency Medicine Conference	June 18: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 7 (if necessary)
June 7: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 3	June 19-23: Days of Celebration
June 9: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 4	June 22: Nightshift BBQ
June 10: Five Points Jazz Festival	June 23: Daytime BBQ
June 10: Voluntary, Safe Firearm Surrender	June 24: Walk with a Doc
June 12: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 5 (if necessary)	June 30: Annual education training deadline

**CLICK HERE FOR A PDF VERSION OF THIS WEBSITE.**

**SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE WEEKLY 411**  
Submit content for consideration in the Weekly 411 through the employee outreach request form below. 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.

