

Building the Future of WYH



Lots of exciting changes are in store as the renovations at the Albany Health Center (920 Lark) and the Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Treatment Center (10 Dewitt) are about to start.

Click the image above, or go to <https://youtu.be/QgAR7cT0Kyg> to hear EOC Facilities Director Scott Bryson's message about the renovation and construction plans, and what they mean for Whitney Young Health staff.



EQX Affiliation Update

Spring has sprung, and the Whitney staff is on the move over at Equinox (EQX) at 526 Central Avenue!

We start with an update from Angela Doe, Chief Behavioral Health Officer:

As we move ahead with the implementation of the WYH/EQX affiliation agreement, below are some of the items that will continue to drive our integration with Equinox Services:

- The logic model serving to outline the continuum of care coordination services has been presented/accepted by the Local Government Unit/Office of Mental Health.
- WYH has completed the necessary paperwork to obtain a specialty designation to provide Health Home Plus (HH+) and Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Care Coordination Services.
- Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) application for the transfer of ownership for the addictions services program counseling center is in process.

There are also exciting developments on the operations side of the house, we have an update from Robert Coyle, Chief Operations Officer:

- Scott Bryson, Facilities Director for Environment of Care (EOC), has taken over the management of EQX's facilities department and is providing day-to-day oversight over their physical plant.
- EQX has received a significant grant from the NYS DOH to update the infrastructure and physical plant at their 500 Central Ave location; Scott is working with them to identify a construction manager for the project.
- We're helping standardize things like environment of care and policies/procedures pertaining to the management of the physical plant across all EQX locations – this will be an ongoing process for the remainder of 2023.

It's been a busy month with the preparation for the Administrative Services Agreement going live on March 13th, followed by the start of executing the implementation plan that was approved by the Joint Integration Committee (JIC), which is made up of Board Members and staff from both WYH and EQX.

Stay Tuned!

Will Backes
Chief of Staff

April 2023

Diversity, Equity & Awareness

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<p><i>Ramadan continues through April 20. Fasting is required for observers.</i></p>						
2 World Autism Day	3	4	5 Passover (Jewish) Begins at sundown. <i>Involves dietary changes for observers</i>	6	7 Good Friday (Christian) <i>Fasting/dietary changes may be required for observers</i>	8
9 Easter Sunday (Christian)	10	11	12	13 Passover Ends	14 Vaisakhi (Sikh) Holy Friday (Orthodox Christian) <i>Fasting required for observers</i>	15
16 Pascha/Easter (Orthodox Christian)	17	18	19	20	21 Eid-al-Fitr (Muslim)	22 Earth Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Monthly Observances:

- ARAB-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
- AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH
- CELEBRATE DIVERSITY MONTH

March
2023

New Hires



Welcome,
New Staff!

Taha Alkhazaly	IT Specialist II
Daiyonna Carrington	IA - Albany Health Center
Erin Gage	LPN - Swinburne
Aline "Allie" Gardner	BH Clinician I - Collaborative Care
Kyla Loucks	PrEP Specialist
Sara Lynn	RN Care Manager I - Women's Health & Pediatrics
Carrie Mavrogeorge	LPN - Troy & Watervliet HCs
Mary Raiti	CPTS Program Manager
Jordan Rosen	Health Home Care Coordinator
Azalea Spellman	IA - Albany Health Center

WYH Marches in Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade



After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, one of the biggest parades in Upstate NY returned this year, and WYH was a part of the festivities.

On Saturday, March 11, WYH staff put on shades of green and marched along with Whitney on Wheels (WOW) mobile health unit in Albany's St. Patrick's Day Parade.



"SLEEVES UP, CAPITAL DISTRICT!" Vaccine Campaign Roll-Out

In March, Whitney Young Health began a new initiative to encourage our patients and members of the general public to get vaccinated, not only against COVID-19 and the flu, but also against a list of common, preventable health conditions.

The **"Sleeves Up, Capital District" campaign**, running through the middle of May 2023, is featured on CDTA buses (inside and out) as well as in bus shelters throughout the area. "Sleeves Up" posters are also displayed at all WYH locations.



How does the "Sleeves Up initiative work?

A graphic for the "Sleeves Up, Capital District!" campaign. It features a woman with her arm in a sleeve, a QR code, and text: "SLEEVES UP, CAPITAL DISTRICT! GET VACCINATED against COVID, the Flu, and other common illnesses! Vaccines are the safest way to protect you, your children and your community by preparing your immune system to recognize and fight many serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses. To learn more, scan here or go to www.wmyhealth.org To make an appointment, stop in at this Whitney Young Health location, or call 518-465-4771".

The **"Sleeves Up" campaign is open to the general public, not just WYH patients.** The ads ask people who are interested in getting vaccinated to request an appointment either by calling 518-465-4771, or by stopping in at any of our health center locations.

For more information on this initiative, please visit our dedicated webpage at <https://www.wmyhealth.org/vaccinesatwyh/>

If you have any questions about the workings of the campaign, please contact:

- **Dr. Deborah Vasquez** at dvasquez@wmyhealth.org or ext. 4660
- **Chief Operating Officer Robert Coyle** at rcoyale@wmyhealth.org or ext. 4453.

April is National Donate Life Month

National Donate Life Month

is a time to celebrate the generosity of those who have selflessly given the gift of life by becoming organ, eye, tissue, marrow, and blood donors.

In 2022, nearly 43,000 organ transplants were performed. But nearly 104,000 men, women, and children of all ages, races, and ethnicities are still on the national transplant waiting list.

The need for donor organs is especially important in minority communities.

Although organs are not matched according to race or ethnicity, and people of different races frequently donate to one another, all individuals waiting for an organ transplant will have a better chance of receiving one if there are large numbers of donors from their racial/ethnic background. Compatible blood types and tissue markers—critical qualities for donor/recipient matching—are more likely to be found among members of the same ethnicity. A greater diversity of donors will increase access to transplantation for everyone.

To learn more about becoming an organ, eye, or tissue donor, please visit organdonor.gov.

For more information on the need for organ donors in communities of color, please click [here](#).



Do you have something to share in the next issue of Whitney Wire?

The Marketing & Development Team is always looking for:

- ***stories***
- ***photos***
- ***info about programs***
- ***upcoming events***
- ***new developments and more...***

If you have something to contribute to an upcoming issue of Whitney Wire, please contact Susan Lovelock at ext. 4472 or slovelock@wmyhealth.org or Jeff Watson at ext. 4471 or jwatson@wmyhealth.org

