

WYH & Equinox Affiliation Update

- On May 22nd, **EQX's Communications and Development** staff moved to the Watervliet Administrative building to work with WYH's Marketing and Development Team.
- WYH has started managing **IT and Facilities** for both organizations.
- In mid-June, the **EQX Health Home (Care Coordination)** staff will move under the WYH Health Home program.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

All Whitney Young Health locations will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, June 19** in observance of **Juneteenth**.

Spotlight: Equinox Domestic Violence Program.

In this issue of Whitney Wire, we're highlighting the [Domestic Violence \(DV\) Program](#), which will be remaining under Equinox.

So, what DV services does EQX offer? That was the subject of the presentation that **Christine Rodriguez, Director of Domestic Violence and Youth Services** at EQX, gave at the WYH Board meeting in May. Her presentation was part of an effort to educate and inform WYH and EQX Boards on our organizations' respective services and programs to ensure a smooth and effective affiliation. As you may recall, this Board Education initiative is a scorecard item.



Christine Rodriguez

Christine began her presentation with an overview of EQX's Domestic Violence Services, Albany County's only comprehensive DV program since 1989. The program focuses on victim-driven and trauma-informed services to victims of Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, and Elder Abuse. Services are free and confidential and include:

- A 24-hour hotline and online crisis chat line
- Crisis intervention and safety planning
- Information and referral services
- Individual counseling
- Support groups
- Court, police, and CPS advocacy
- Case management
- Transportation
- Crime victim compensation assistance.

The program also includes Albany County's only emergency shelter, with 30 beds for DV victims (inclusive to all gender identities) and their children. The shelter offers rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing services for over 75 survivor households, and extensive community education and outreach services. Equinox DV Services reach out to underserved community members, including immigrants, LGBTQ+ DV survivors, and individuals with disabilities, and operates the comprehensive Elder Abuse Services Project.

About 2,200 individuals each year contact Equinox for DV services, including nearly 300 adults and children who find safety at the shelter.

Continued on p. 2

WYH & EQX Affiliation Continued from p. 1

Equinox's Domestic Violence Services Department employs approximately 50 individuals from diverse backgrounds.

As the Director, Christine has a Master's degree in Social and Public Policy/Non-Profit Management and has 24 years of experience providing DV services with Equinox. Ms. Rodriguez was invited to serve on the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence, and is one of the Capital Region representatives of the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) Advisory Committee. She serves on the board and several committees of the Albany County Coalition on Homelessness, as well as several other task forces and collaborative groups, both locally and statewide. It is a pleasure to welcome Ms. Rodriguez and Equinox's Domestic Violence services as part of this long-awaited affiliation of two of the Capital District's most crucial human services providers

As an end note, our Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr. Vasquez, will reciprocate on the board education initiative by presenting to the EQX Board in June about the range of medical services provided at WYH.

Until next month,

Jor' aw Rogh Ose.

Pashto: Wish you well and good health

Will Backes
Chief of Staff



Facilities Updates



920 Lark: Bid packages are out and the application for building permit has been submitted. It looks like an early-to-mid July start.

10 Dewitt: Prints are still being developed and plans are being made so we can stay open through the whole project even while we have to relocate most of utilities serving the building. Stay tuned - this one could also start in July or August.

Work HUB is a new work order system which we hope to roll out by late June. Work Hub will help us track work orders, provide data so we can improve service, help make sure all our PM's are up to date, and we complying with all Joint Commission standards.

Electronic door locks: We are laying the groundwork for new electronic door locks and some new cameras at 900 Lark. The new system will be fully deployed during the construction projects.

500 Central transformation Grant for Equinox: We are starting the scoping of this project and as soon as some of the ground work is laid, we can really begin to engage this project and get it going.

New IT wiring at Equinox: We have scoped this project and looked at the needs of every EQX site. This work is on track to start before the end of summer.

Lastly, I would also like to thank everyone as there is a lot of collaboration and coordination with many departments in these projects to keep them smooth, successful, and with as little disruption as possible under the circumstances!

Scott Bryson
EOC Facilities Director

Diversity, Equity & Awareness

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>6/10/23: The 17th Annual BIPOC Pride "Say It Loud!" event, presented by In Our Own Voices, is held in Washington Park, to celebrate and center the people, experiences, and culture of the Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC) LGBTQ+ community.</p> <p>6/11/23: The Capital Pride Parade & Festival starts with a parade around Washington Park, followed by an afternoon of fun, food, music and above all, PRIDE!</p> <p><i>To volunteer at one or both of these events contact Kyla Loucks at ext. 4648. see the last page of this issue for more information!</i></p>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 BIPOC Pride Day "Say It Loud!"
11 Capital Pride Parade & Festival	12 Loving Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Juneteenth	20 World Refugee Day	21 Litha/ Summer Solstice Pagan	22	23	24
25	26	27 National HIV Testing Day	28 Eid al-Adha Muslim <i>Begins at sundown</i>	29	30	



Monthly Observances:

- PRIDE MONTH
- NATIONAL CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
- NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH
- ALZHEIMER'S & BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH



May
2023

New Hires



Edward Gordano

Director of IT Compliance & Service Delivery

Rita Stein

Grants and Development/Marketing Writer

Heidi Renaud

Annual Giving & Events Coordinator

Christina Rajotte

Chief Development Officer

Courtney Stewart-Steciuk

Digital Marketing & Graphic Design Specialist

Felicia Velasquez

Senior Administrative Assistant

Rong Zhang

Family Nurse Practitioner - CBP & SBHC

Welcome, New Staff!

WYH: Part of "The Power of the Collective"



WYH Director of Care Management **Laurie Levasseur** was a panelist at a recent conference held by the [Healthy Alliance](#) (formerly the Alliance for Better Health).

The Healthy Alliance, in which WYH is a partner, brings together organizations, big and small, to coordinate and collaborate so that all communities have reliable access to the resources they need.

The May 23rd conference titled "**The Power of the Collective**", brought

together clinical providers, government agencies, behavioral health providers, higher education institutions, churches, advocacy organizations, and community-based organizations to highlight the diversity of services available to communities through the Healthy Alliance network.



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