

Building & Facilities Updates

Whitney Young Health has quite a few exciting updates from our Facilities Director **Scott Bryson** this month:

10 Dewitt – We are trying to get on the final approvals from the city and working towards the final design. If the stars align correctly we could be targeting July as a start date

920 Lark – June 20th is still the goal but there are a few more hurdles to jump and things have to fall our way. We are zeroing in on sending out bid documents and starting to put the project together as far as construction.

With our new affiliation with Equinox (EQX), we have engaged and selected Bonoquisti Construction in the rehab project of **500 Central**, an EQX office. We are still waiting for a couple of final details and then we launch into scoping and pricing the work.

Worx Hub – Facilities is getting very close to launching a **new work order system** that will help us track work orders and completions, plus this is the first step to the Facilities department becoming deficiency-free as this system is very in tune with Joint Commission standards.

3Xlogic – We are getting ready to roll out a full keyless system at 900.



Architectural plans for construction at 920 Lark

Getting to Know Equinox

Hello All-

Things are moving along as WYH settles into the everyday routine of managing Equinox (EQX) facilities.

Scott Bryson, Director of Facilities, recently went to the Holt House, one of EQX's four NYS Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH) certified residential facilities, to fix a leaky pipe, so this issue of Whitney Wire seems like an excellent opportunity to provide a broad overview of the services offered at all four residential facilities.

Equinox operates four NYSOMH-certified residential programs, all in Albany County. Each program is designed to best serve clients with different sets of needs. Staffed around the clock, the residences provide medication supervision and offer clients a safe place to live while working on rehabilitation goals, training in self-advocacy, and preparing to re-enter the community to live healthy, productive lives.

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HOLIDAY CLOSURE

All Whitney Young Health locations will be **CLOSED** on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day

Apartment Program

Accommodates 36 adults living in one or two-bedroom apartments. 18 of the residents can live in individual apartments with staff available on site 24/7. The Program provides regular case management support for individuals who are ready for less structure and more independence. The program's goal is to help residents acquire the skills needed for independent living in the community.

Cohoes Residence

Serves 14 adults. Each resident has their own bedroom and shares a large living room, dining room, and family room with other residents. Staff are available to help with day-to-day issues and to teach a wide variety of living skills. The Cohoes Residence offers recreational activities at the house and in the community, encouraging residents to lead full, active lives. Many activities involving residents' families are scheduled throughout the year.

Holt House

Is a specialized program that serves 11 adults with both mental illness and developmental disabilities. A structured daily schedule and intensive staffing give residents the support necessary to live more independently. Staff encourage residents to take ownership and pride in Holt House by having them plan special activities and assist in evaluating house rules.

Recovery Residence

Serves 12 adults who have both a mental illness and an addiction. The program helps residents build the skills necessary to live successfully in the community. Required programming includes attending Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings, which encourage residents to develop a community support network, as well as other groups designed to support sober, clean living.

Stay tuned for more updates and information on the WYH/EQX affiliation!

Will Backes, Chief of Staff

EQX: Meet Shalonda and Jeff

I think it's fitting to end this update by requesting that you take two minutes to click on the link below and meet Shalonda and Jeff.

Shalonda, the Manager of the EQX Cohoes Mental Health Residence, and Jeff, one of their residents, shed light on overcoming mental health stigma and living a productive life.

Click on the link under the photos to watch the video.



<https://www.equinoxinc.org/page/residential-26.html>



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Beltane (Celtic/Pagan)	2	3	4	5 Vesak Buddhist	6 National Nurses Week Begins (5/6 - 5/12)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, & Biphobia	18	19 Hepatitis Testing Day	20
21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development	22	23	24	25 Shavuot (Jewish) Begins at sundown.	26	27
28 Pentecost (Christian)	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

Monthly Observances:

- HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH
- ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH
- JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
- MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



April
2023

New Hires



Zeshma Sadiq	Information Associate - Swinburne Call Center
Katelyn Albright	Behavioral Health Clinician - Albany HC
Jadan Pouriet Rivera	LPN - Albany HC
Chris Unger	Dentist - Albany Dental
Mercedes Lee	Patient Access Coordinator - Troy
Jaye Jackson	Dental Assistant II - Albany Dental

**Welcome,
New Staff!**

April Job Fairs Bring May Hires!

Job fair season is in full swing and this past month, WYH participated in a variety of events; including, the Department of Labor's Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Fair, the Health Resource Service Administration Career Fair, Russell Sage Humanities' recruitment event, the Veteran's/Service Members Career Fair, with more to come in May!

If you are a graduate of local program and would have interest in speaking with students in the future, please email our Sr. Talent Acquisition Specialist, Olivia Fagan at ofagan@wmyhealth.org.

Last, but not least –A quick reminder: **"SPRING" into action and you could earn GREEN!**

Plant a seed with a friend about employment opportunities at WYH and you could earn \$500 or more if your referral is hired and successfully completes their probationary period!



Olivia Fagan and Melissa File at the MLK, Jr. Career Fair held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center on April 6.

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

NYS DOH Acting Commissioner visits WYH



Dr. James V. McDonald, Acting Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health, recently visited Whitney Young Health.

During his visit, he spoke with WYH President and CEO Dave Shippee and toured the Albany Health Center and the Dental practice.

Dr. McDonald joined the New York State Department of Health in July 2022 and was appointed Acting Commissioner on January 1, 2023.

Planting the Seeds of Good Health

March was **National Nutrition Month** (NNM) and Whitney Young Health **WIC** took part by teaching kids and families about growing their own gardens.

NNM is an annual campaign created in 1973 by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. During the month, everyone is invited to learn about making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits.

Three young WIC participants are excited to go home and plant their own seeds. With the weather getting better, they'll have the opportunity to do it soon!



Introducing Dr. Chris Unger, DDS

Dr. Chris Unger joins Whitney Young Health Dental after 6 years of serving patients in private practice.



Prior to beginning his career as a dentist, Dr. Unger studied at Boston University's Henry M Goldman School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Unger feels that the opportunity at Whitney Young Health allows him to do things differently than he has before and he is excited about the opportunity to be a part of the community.

"In a way, Whitney Young is a new experience for me," said Dr. Unger. "Being here at Whitney Young Health allows me to practice my philosophy. I want to treat my patients, and make treatment recommendations based on what they need to help them out. This also allows me to serve my community as well. That's the main reason why I'm here."

Welcome to the WYH family, Dr. Unger!

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

CAPITAL PRIDE!



WYH is looking for volunteers to help celebrate Pride!



LOOK FOR AN
EMAIL WITH
MORE DETAILS
SOON!

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

BIPOC Pride "Say It Loud!" Day!

Join WYH at the **17th Annual BIPOC Pride "Say It Loud!" Day**, celebrating the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color LGBTQ+ Community!

This event, put on by [In Our Own Voices \(IOOV\)](#) kicks off Capital Pride weekend!

*To volunteer, at BIPOC Pride Day, contact Kyla Loucks at
ext. 4648 or kloucks@wmyhealth.org*

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Capital Pride Parade & Festival!

We are looking for WYH staff and their families to:

- March in the parade
- Volunteer at our WYH information table in Washington Park during the festival.

*To volunteer, at the Capital Pride Parade & Festival, contact Vanessa Gonzalez at
ext. 4479 or vgonzalez@wmyhealth.org*