WHITNEY YOUNG HEALTHCARE DESIGNED AROUND HEALTH

WHITNEY WIRE

APRIL 2025

Whitney Young Health's Monthly Employee Newsletter

Employee Engagement Messages *by Keith Bemis*

Employee Engagement Messages guide us through the data collected through the 2024 Employee Engagement Survey and help us understand the results. They explain the rationale behind the action plan, including the next steps.

During the first quarter of 2025, four messages on the following themes were delivered by email:

- **Our Employee Engagement Score**, in which the score was introduced to staff
- **Meaningful Work**, regarding career development and growth, reviewing 2024 Employee Engagement Survey results, gaps, and explaining action plan
- **Belonging – Authenticity and Inclusiveness**, which broke down questions & key drivers, and **Employee Safety**

In the second quarter, we will continue the Employee Engagement Messages with a new focus – **Action Plan Updates**.

Employee engagement is critical to our organizational culture as we perform the work of our mission, move forward on our vision, and demonstrate our core values every day.

We appreciate your continued support and collaboration in this important initiative and we look forward to bringing you more information in the near future!

Progress on our Addictions Treatment Center

Renovations at our Addictions Treatment Center (10 Dewitt St., Albany) are moving along as the new extension has been built and the building's exterior is remodeled. The expansion and reconfiguration of the facility will allow us to serve more patients in need of outpatient rehabilitation services.

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WHITNEY YOUNG HEALTH

April 2025

Diversity, Equity, Awareness and Health Observances

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HELLO SPRING		1	2 World Autism Awareness Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 National Day of Silence	12 Passover/Pesach **begins** Jewish
13 Palm Sunday Christian	14 Vaisakhi Sikh New Year	15	16	17	18 Good Friday* Christian	19
20 Easter Christian Ridvan **begins** Baha'i	21	22 Earth Day	23 Holocaust Remembrance Day/ Yom HaShoah Jewish	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

All Jewish and Muslim holidays start and end at sundown.

**Fasting may be required for observers of this holiday.*

Month-Long Observances

NATIONAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

NATIONAL STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI) AWARENESS MONTH

New Hires & Position Changes

Fariza Abdul	Information Associate (IA)
Dylan Conway	Peer Support Specialist
Christine Macarelli	Dental Hygienist
La'Keysha Marshall	Director of Revenue Cycle
Shelly Parker	Nursing Supervisor

WYH Values in Action • EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

WYH Values In Action Employee Recognition Program provides a way for you to acknowledge the work of your fellow colleagues as we provide support to one another during our collaborative and collective journey at Whitney Young Health.

Congratulations to our employees who were recognized in February!

Gloria Diane Boyd
Kyle Butler
Tiffanie Cancer
LaShawna Cannon
Mia Castro
LeKedia Culler
Maria Cristina Gomez
Tamieka Johnson
Glenda Lloyd
Sara Lynn
Carol McConkey
La-Keisha Miller
Adrianna Mollo
Teresa Pee
Kristie Snyder
Kadasia Sparrow

When you observe a colleague who demonstrates a standard of behavior in a meaningful way with personal attention and detail in their efforts, take the time to recognize them by **clicking the button below to fill out a Values in Action Employee Recognition Form.**

CLICK HERE

Spring Health Tips

From article by Scripps Health

Schedule time for better mental health: Make it a priority to replenish yourself and relax. Find ways to manage stress and connect with friends and loved ones.

Clean up your diet: Add more seasonal fruits and vegetables to your diet. Also, add healthy fats (limit refined oils or fried foods), whole grains, lean meats and low-fat dairy products.

Stay hydrated: Hydration is always important but becomes even more so as the weather heats up and as we ramp up our exercise levels.

Move your body, preferably outdoors: You don't need to be a marathon runner; walking or gardening are great exercise as long as your muscles are activated and you do it consistently. (And exercising in the sunshine adds a mood-enhancing benefit!)

Protect your skin and eyes from UV rays: Wear sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats and garments with long sleeves and pants, and wear sunscreen while outside to help prevent skin damage.

CHCANYS Advocacy Day

On Monday, March 3, Whitney Young Health participated in an advocacy day organized by the **Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS)**.

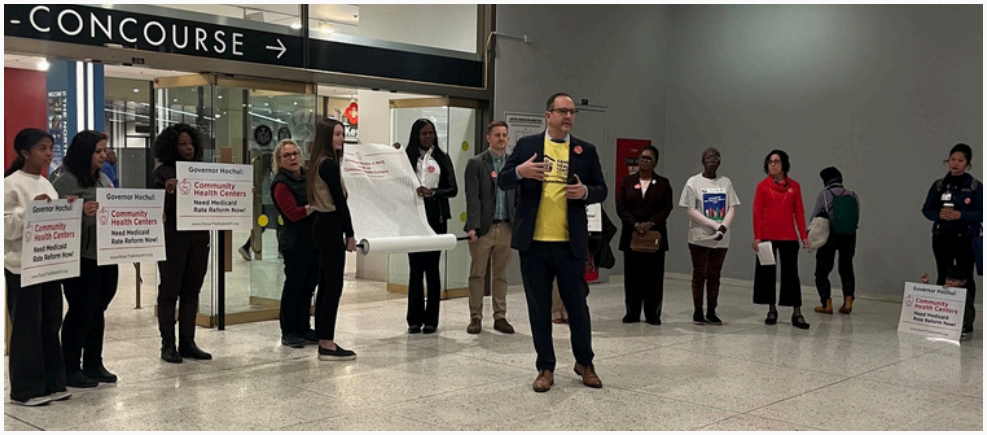
Held at the Empire State Plaza in downtown Albany, community health centers (CHCs) from across the state came to rally and meet with legislators to urge them to support Medicaid rate reform in the state budget.

Above: CHCANYS displayed posters with facts about the vital importance of Medicaid to millions of New Yorkers who receive services at CHCs.

Below: WYH President & CEO David Shippee met with NYS Senator Pat Fahy and her aide to discuss the critical need for recalculating Medicaid reimbursement.

Medicaid rate reimbursement has remained static for 25 years while expenses for staff, equipment, and treatments have steadily risen.

Reimbursement rates must rise to support the financial sustainability of CHCs, fostering their ability to expand and preserve services to Medicaid patients, the uninsured, and underserved communities across NY State.



Left: Staff from CHCs throughout NY State demonstrated and spoke about the need for Medicaid rate reform and other critical issues.