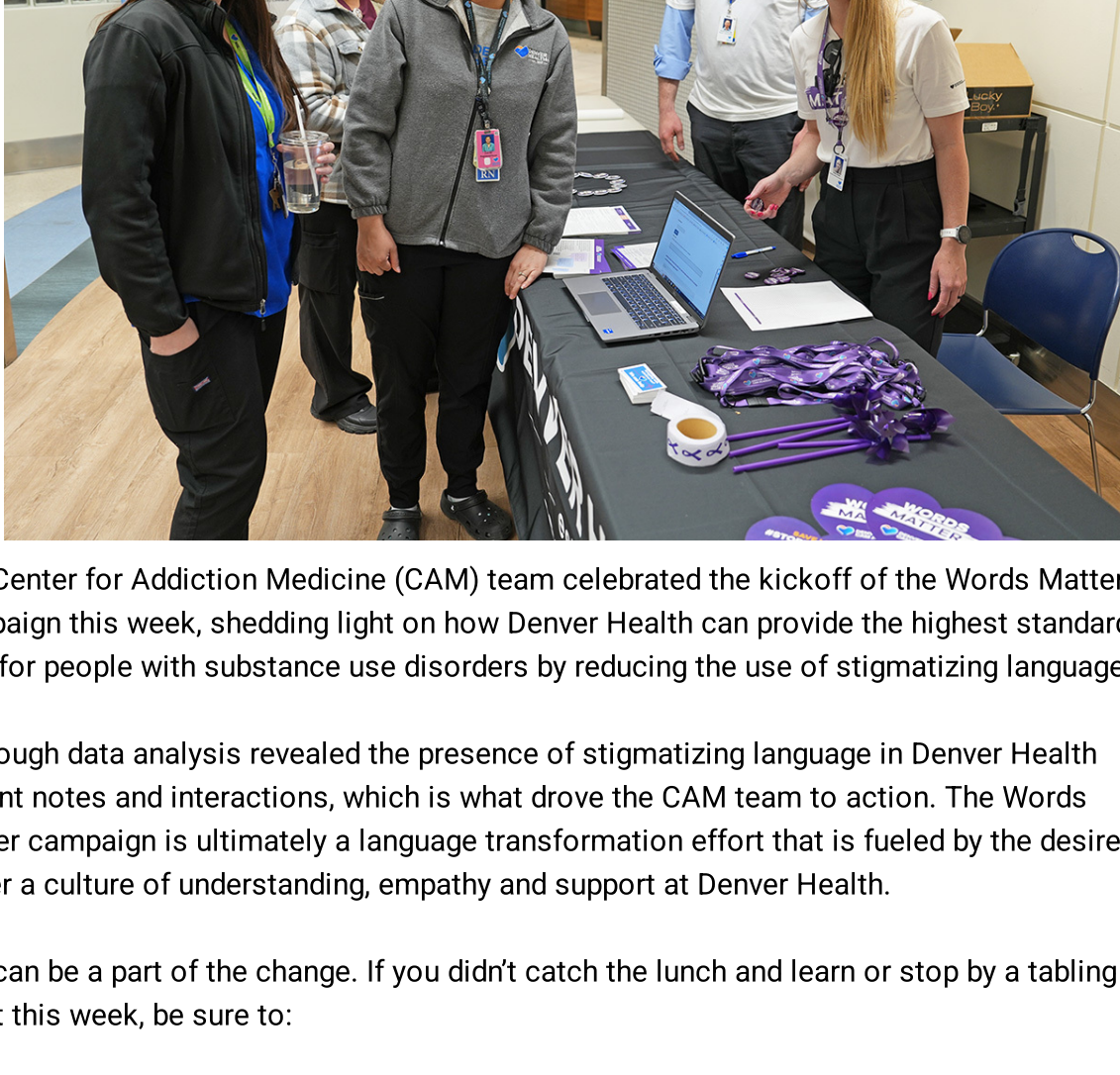


Thursday, April 18, 2024

CAM helps reduce stigmatizing language with Words Matter campaign



The Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM) team celebrated the kickoff of the Words Matter campaign this week, shedding light on how Denver Health can provide the highest standard of care for people with substance use disorders by reducing the use of stigmatizing language.

Thorough data analysis revealed the presence of stigmatizing language in Denver Health patient notes and interactions, which is what drove the CAM team to action. The Words Matter campaign is ultimately a language transformation effort that is fueled by the desire to foster a culture of understanding, empathy and support at Denver Health.

You can be a part of the change. If you didn't catch the lunch and learn or stop by a table during this event this week, be sure to:

- Download the [Words Matter Language Guide](#).
- Watch the recorded [Words Matter Lunch and Learn](#) (Password: Dj46pvaP).
- Take the [Words Matter pledge](#).
- Reach out to CAMAcademy@dhha.org to learn more and get involved.

Emily Elrick and **Hannan Braun, MD**, pictured at right, of the Center for Addiction Medicine held a table event to promote the Words Matter campaign outside the Good Day Café on Tuesday. Pictured from left are **Caitlan Jara, a charge nurse in the Correctional Care Medical Facility outpatient clinic**; **Linh Pham, RN, a utilization management nurse**; and **Teresa Villagrana, a medical assistant**, all of whom stopped by the table to learn about Words Matter.

DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT



Girl Scouts support Denver Health paramedics, earn badges

On **Saturday, April 13**, two local Girl Scout troops donated their Hometown Hero Girl Scout Cookies – more than 160 packages – to the Denver Health Paramedic Division. **CEO Donna Lynne** and Girl Scouts of Colorado CEO Leanna Clark joined the paramedics as Girl Scouts explored our emergency vehicles, worked through an art activity and took part in a basic first aid lesson. At the end of the day, the Daisies earned their First Aid badge and the Juniors earned their First Aid badge.



Paul Christine, MD, advocates for improved substance use disorder care in Senate testimony

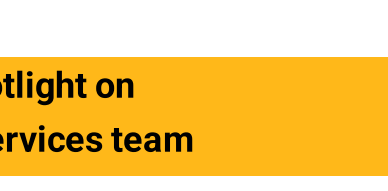
On April 9, **Paul Christine, MD, addiction medicine specialist at Denver Health's Westside clinic**, testified before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee's Health Care Subcommittee on ways to improve access to care for substance use disorder.



Dr. Christine talked about the importance of a community health center's team-based approach and gave several policy recommendations to ensure fewer barriers to effective substance use disorder care.

Denver Health honors organ donors at Donate Life Month ceremony

Denver Health is celebrating National Donate Life Month this April to recognize and honor individuals who have saved lives through organ, tissue and eye donations. The aim is to raise awareness of the crucial importance of registering as a donor.



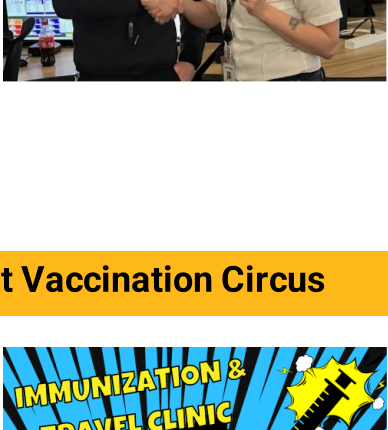
Last week, we hosted our third annual Donate Life flag-raising ceremony with our Donor Advisory Council and staff members, including leaders, chaplains, representatives of Donate Life Colorado and guest speaker Tony Young, whose life was saved through organ donation.

Throughout the month, Denver Health will fly the Donate Life flag as a symbol of unity, remembrance and to honor donors and donor families. To learn more and register as a donor, visit [Donate Life Colorado](#).

RECOGNIZING YOU

Denver Health highlights Black Maternal Health Week

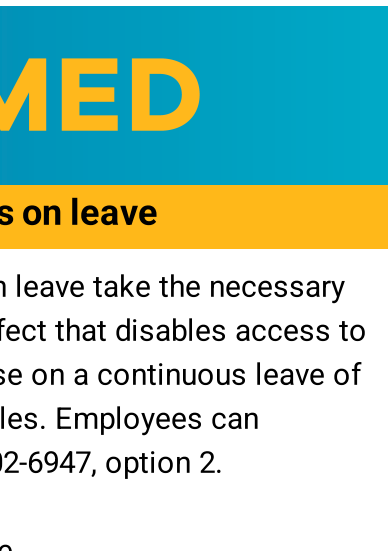
As part of a celebration of Black Maternal Health Week, April 11-17, **Lowry Family Health Center** hosted a roundtable on April 10 to promote Black Maternal Health in Denver and to announce a task force in Family Medicine to address the disparities in health outcomes in Black and African American mothers.



[Read more](#)

Child Abuse Prevention Month puts spotlight on Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services team

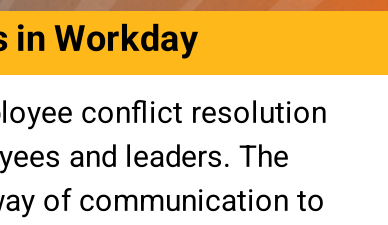
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Denver Health is dedicated to supporting and strengthening families and preventing child maltreatment. Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services, in the basement of Pavilion G, includes the Child Mental Health and Family-Oriented Resilience, Growth and Empowerment (FORGE) teams.



[Learn more](#)

Celebrating dispatchers for Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

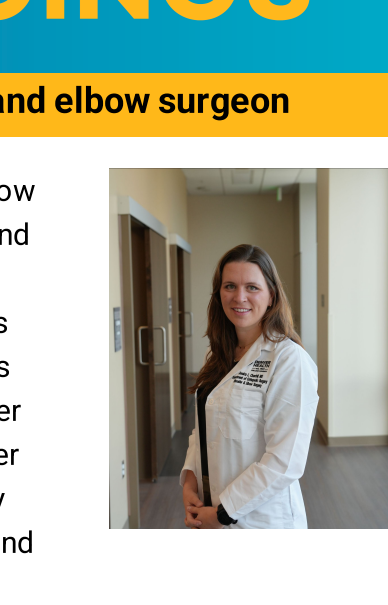
National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 14-20, was founded to honor the telecommunication personnel in emergency dispatch centers dedicating their lives to public safety.



Denver Health paramedic dispatchers have a lot to celebrate this year, as new employees have been hired and five have cleared their training program since December. This brings staffing for that team up to 100% for the first time in more than three years.

Immunization and Travel Clinic heroes assemble at Vaccination Circus

The Immunization and Travel Clinic at Denver Health recently participated in an outreach event called the Vaccination Circus, hosted by Julissa Soto Latino Health Equity Consulting, at Florida Pitt Waller K-8 school. The team dressed up as superheroes and provided routine vaccinations for children as well as flu and COVID-19 vaccines for people of all ages. In addition to the health care, the circus-themed event also featured clowns, puppets and games.



STAY INFORMED

HR implements new policy for employees on leave

Human Resources is moving to ensure that employees who are on leave take the necessary break from work they are allowed, so a new policy is going into effect that disables access to Denver Health systems, including email. The policy applies to those on a continuous leave of absence and does not apply to those on intermittent leave schedules. Employees can request pay stubs be sent to them while on leave by calling 303-602-6947, option 2.

Employees already on leave have been notified of the policy update.

MOST TRUSTED

2024-26 STRATEGIC PLAN



New Employee Conflict Resolution Process in Workday

Human Resources has spent the past few months crafting an employee conflict resolution policy aimed at fostering greater trust and respect between employees and leaders. The policy is an employee-initiated process that creates a direct pathway of communication to address employee concerns with leadership and come to a shared resolution. It aligns with Denver Health's strategic goal of being a collaborative and transparent partner to employees, encouraging open dialogue and fostering a culture of accountability and constructive communication. We believe this policy will contribute toward being a best place to work and look forward to its positive impact.

Employees can initiate the new Employee Conflict Resolution Process (ECRP) through Workday by following this pathway: Workday > Menu > Employee Conflict Resolution Process > Submit an ECRP Form.

For more information, including access to the policy, please review the [FAQ](#).

COMINGS & GOINGS

Denver Health Orthopedics welcomes shoulder and elbow surgeon

On April 1, **Denver Health Orthopedics** welcomed shoulder and elbow surgeon **Jessica Churchill, MD**. Dr. Churchill trained at the Cleveland Clinic and is thrilled to join Denver Health to be closer to family in Denver. Shoulder injuries can affect anyone and can happen just as easily doing daily activities outside of sports. One of Dr. Churchill's specialties is total shoulder replacement and reverse total shoulder replacement, the latter often recommended because it works better for certain rotator cuff injuries or injuries that did not heal properly the first time. "I hope my patients know I care deeply about them and that it's really important to me that they do well," Dr. Churchill said. [Read more, including why she says she has the best job in the world.](#)



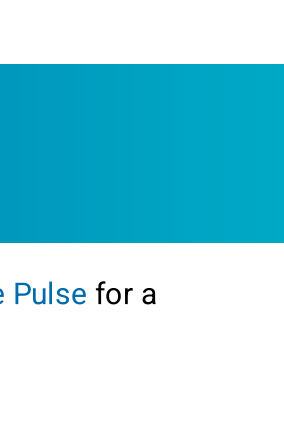
GET INVOLVED

Nurses Week packed with activities May 4-10

Denver Health has several events planned to celebrate our wonderful nursing staff from **May 4-10**. Events start this year with a **kickball tournament** from **8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, at Randall Park**. Events throughout the week will include therapy dog snuggles, an evidence-based practice **poster competition**, Nursing Awards Ceremony, massage events, Schwartz Rounds and snack carts. More information and a full schedule is available [here](#).

Sign up, get inspired at Trauma Survivors Fun Run

Denver Health Trauma and Orthopedics teams invite you to join the Denver Health Trauma Survivors Fun Run, a free 5K or 1-mile walk, run or wheel event on **Saturday, May 11, at Berkeley Lake Park**. The run, walk or wheel will start at **9 a.m.**, but we encourage participants to arrive at **8 a.m.** to check in, grab swag and listen to patients' and survivors' stories. Street parking and parking lots are available around the park. This community event will bring together trauma survivors, family members and caregivers to share stories, provide support and celebrate life. [Registered participants](#) can pick up a T-shirt on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to volunteer for the event, you can sign up [here](#).

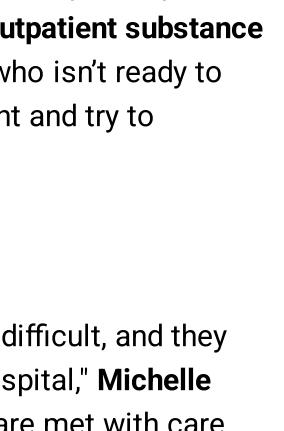


Decompress with Workplace Well-being on meditation Monday

Practice the art of meditation as part of National Stress Awareness Month. Workplace Well-being is hosting a guided meditation session from **noon-12:30 p.m. Monday, April 22** via Webex. They will also share/discuss some of the available resources, benefits and tools available to Denver Health personnel to help you identify, cope with and manage stress in a healthy way. This session will be recorded and available on the Pulse for anyone who could not join live. You can join the session via [this link](#).

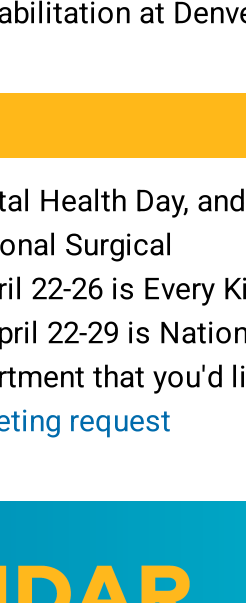
Denver Health welcomes kids for Take Your Child to Work Day

Employees are welcome to bring their children to work on **Thursday, April 25**, as part of Take Your Child to Work Day. We encourage staff to work closely with departmental leadership on plans, activities, age requirements and coordination for your team. Those wishing to bring their children to their work sites should **first receive approval from their managers/supervisors**. Children are not allowed in patient care areas. If you plan to bring your child and wish to participate in our 411 and social media coverage of the day, please send photos to DenverHealth411@dhha.org and write that you have given us permission to include photos of their children on our Denver Health social media pages.



Superhero Day: Bringing joy to pediatric patients

Join us from **12:15-1:15 p.m. Friday, April 26**, for Superhero Day! Dress up as your favorite superhero and visit our pediatric patients at the main campus. Bring joy and hand out gifts to our little ones. Can't make it to the event? Show your support by wearing your favorite superhero T-shirt. Please follow the Denver Health [Dress code policy](#) for guidelines. Thank you for helping us make Superhero Day a special experience for our pediatric patients. We look forward to seeing you there, beginning in the Child Life Zone on the second floor of Pavilion C. Register to [volunteer here](#). For further questions email ChildLife@dhha.org.



Denver Health throws a baby shower

More than 3,800 babies were born at Denver Health last year, and we expect a busy 2024 as well. Support Denver's tiniest community members by donating new baby items to the Newborns in Need program from **10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 4, in the Pavilion M parking lot**. You can pull into the parking lot and we'll help with your donation.

Suggested items include:

- Bibs and burp cloths.
- Receiving blankets.
- Warm blankets (24" x 36" minimum).
- Hooded towels.
- Onesies and sleepers (3-month size).

Cash donations are always welcome and can be made through [Denver Health Foundation](#). For additional questions, email Sharon.Mushkin@dhha.org.

GRATITUDE

Park Hill Family Health Center praised for excellent care

It is rewarding to hear from patients who have received outstanding care at Denver Health. This week, we would like to highlight a five-star online review of our incredible team at the Park Hill Family Health Center!

"Their staff and service is top notch. I've had check ups and outpatient procedures done here with local anesthesia and they are so caring and gentle. I can't say enough about their bedside manner. Great folks at Denver Health!"

We encourage staff to ask patients to leave a positive review online, as a higher rating helps build trust in our community. Every star counts!

IN THE NEWS

The 411 highlights top stories of the week. Please visit [In the News on the Pulse](#) for a roundup of all recent stories featuring Denver Health.

[Denver Health teaching orthopedic surgeons from around the world](#)
April 11, *CBS Colorado*

Cyril Mauffrey, MD, is the chair of the Department of Orthopedics at Denver Health. He said every year, up to seven international surgeons shadow the orthopedic department at Denver Health, a Level One trauma center. "I want to learn from the best of them. That's why I'm here," said Dr. Xiaoreng Feng, who's been an orthopedic surgeon for five years.

[How 'miracle' weight-loss drugs made health disparities worse](#)
April 15, *Los Angeles Times*

"If everybody had equal access (to weight loss drugs), then this would be a way to help," said **Rocio Pereira, MD, chief of endocrinology at Denver Health.** But without equal access – which is what we have now – it's likely this is going to increase the disparity we see (in obesity rates)."

[How one Colorado overdose victim fell through the cracks](#)
April 14, *The Denver Post*

People dealing with drug addiction often go through a process of asking for help multiple times before they can follow through, said **Joshua Blum, MD, director of outpatient substance use disorder treatment at Denver Health.** Providers can't force someone who isn't ready to go into treatment, but ideally, they would have the time to talk to the patient and try to motivate them to seek care in the future, Blum said.

[Denver Encourages All to Start by Believing Victims of sexual Assault](#)
April 11, *El Semanario*

"Denver Health realizes that coming forward after a sexual assault can be difficult, and they do their best to get rid of any barriers a patient may face coming to the hospital," **Michelle Metz, forensic nurse program manager at Denver Health,** said. "Patients are met with care and respect, their options are explained, and their decisions honored. Starting by believing means that patients are treated with respect and empathy to ensure they get the care they need and deserve."

[How to keep your Colorado teen from drinking and driving](#)
April 17, *NewsBreak Original*

Christian Thurstone, MD, is director of behavioral health services at Denver Health and pulled patient numbers from Denver Health for 2021. Thurstone said 7,790 people were treated for substance abuse disorder through a primary care doctor. The emergency room saw more than 23,000 substance abuse visits. It was diagnosed during more than 1,500 visits at school health centers. More than 8,000 people attended inpatient rehabilitation at Denver Health.

National awareness and recognitions

April 22 is Earth Day, April 23 is World Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Day, and April 27 is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. April 15-19 is National Surgical Assistants Week, April 21-27 is National Infertility Awareness Week, April 22-26 is Every Kid Healthy Week, April 22-28 is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week, and April 22-29 is National Infant Immunization Week and Transplant Nurses Week. Is there a department that you'd like us to recognize during a special week or month? Let us know in a [Marketing request form](#) and we'll spotlight them in the 411.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April | May

April 22: Meditation Monday

April 25: Take Your Child To Work Day

April 26: Superhero Day

April 27: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

May 2: Children's Hospital Mobile Blood Drive at Rita Bass

May 4: Nurses Week kickball tournament

May 4: Newborns in Need Baby Shower

May 4-10: National Nurse Week events

May 6: Creative Arts Session: Button Making

May 7: RESTORE free massage

May 7: RESTORE Group Support: Grief & Loss

May 8: Fidelity retirement planner on-campus

May 10: Creative Arts Session: Button Making

May 11: Trauma Survivors Fun Run

May 13: American Red Cross Blood donation

May 16: Trauma-Responsive Care Workshop

May 30: Fidelity retirement planner on campus

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Denver Health VALUES
how we do it.

RESPECT

BELONGING

TRANSPARENCY

ACCOUNTABILITY

SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE
WEEKLY 411

Submit content for consideration in the Weekly 411 through the employee outreach request form [here](#). 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.

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