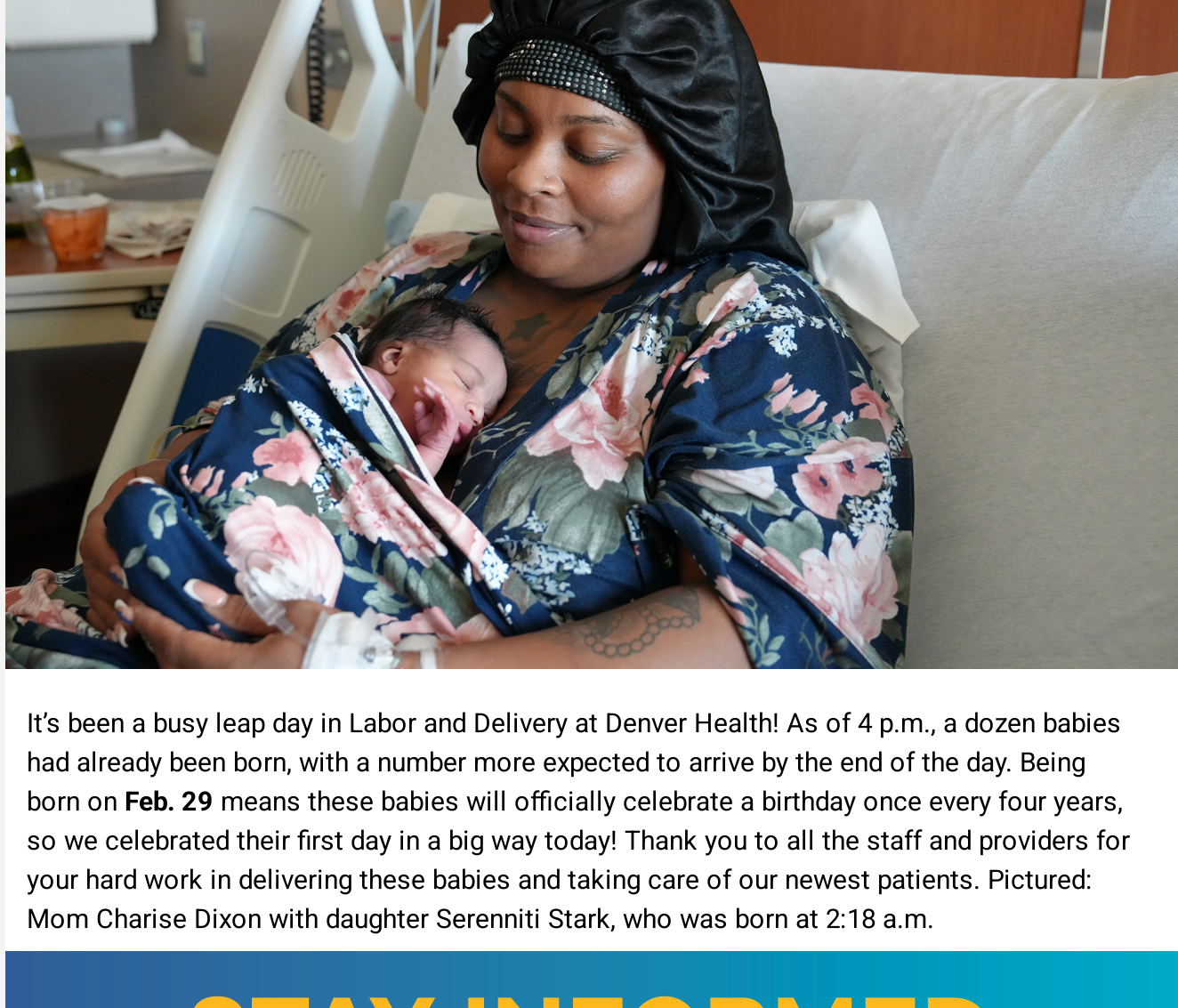


Thursday, February 29, 2024

Leap day welcomes over a dozen babies at Denver Health

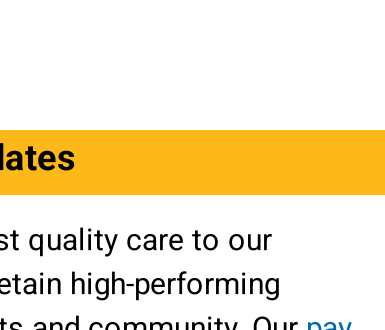


It's been a busy leap day in Labor and Delivery at Denver Health! As of 4 p.m., a dozen babies had already been born, with a number more expected to arrive by the end of the day. Being born on **Feb. 29** means these babies will officially celebrate a birthday once every four years, so we celebrated their first day in a big way today! Thank you to all the staff and providers for your hard work in delivering these babies and taking care of our newest patients. Pictured: Mom Charise Dixon with daughter Sereniti Stark, who was born at 2:18 a.m.

STAY INFORMED

CARES opens wellness lounge for staff

Employees at [Denver Community Addiction Rehabilitation and Evaluation Services \(CARES\)](#) have a relaxing new space to rest and recharge with the opening last week of the Denver CARES employee wellness lounge. The lounge, on the second floor of 1155 Cherokee St., has comfortable seating options, featuring a full-body massage chair.



Other attractions include calming water features and lighting, art, plants, a sensory corner, board games and various small items meant to promote tranquility. The lounge was paid for by a Signal grant. Denver CARES is open 24/7 and provides withdrawal management and short-term and residential treatment for people with substance use disorders. Pictured are members of the Denver CARES team and Denver Health's Executive Leadership Team.

[See more photos](#)

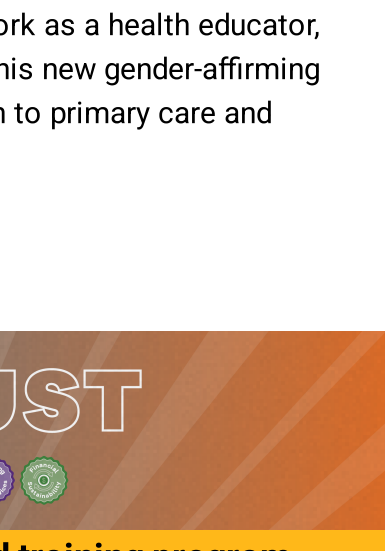
Important pay and PTO cash-in updates

Denver Health is fully committed to providing access to the highest quality care to our community. To effectively achieve this goal, we must attract and retain high-performing employees who are committed to excellence in serving our patients and community. Our [pay philosophy](#) explains how our total compensation program can help meet the needs of our organization and all employees while also advancing our strategic work. This commitment continues to be reflected in numerous ways, such as increasing our minimum hiring rate to \$20/hour and addressing internal pay equity concerns through a four-phase Years of Experience (YOE) review to increase employee pay rates. HR and Payroll are pleased to announce several important compensation and PTO updates, available at the link below!

[See important updates](#)

Program expands gender-affirming care for school-age patients

As we round out School-Based Health Care Awareness Month, we're spotlighting a new program expanding our work around gender-affirming care in our school-based health centers (SBHCs). In July 2023, Caring for Colorado Foundation awarded our SBHCs a grant to make affirming care more accessible for transgender and nonbinary (TNB) patients. The effort is led by Lisha Amin (pictured), LGBTQ+ workforce development coordinator for SBHCs. Amin and her team are thrilled to bring affirming care – from hormones to gender-affirming devices to youth engagement opportunities – directly to our TNB patients in Denver Public Schools.



At a time when medical care for TNB youth has become restricted in parts of the country, Denver Health remains steadfast in our commitment to provide inclusive and compassionate care to all. Since the program began, we have seen a more than 84% increase in SBHC patients interested in gender-affirming hormone therapy. Amin's work as a health educator, which she still does part-time at Denver Health, led her to create this new gender-affirming care in our SBHCs. For questions about connecting LGBTQ+ youth to primary care and gender-affirming care, please email LGBTAdmin@dhha.org.

[Read more](#)

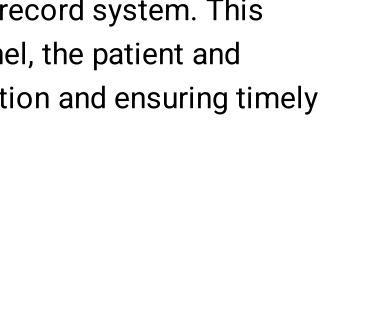
EARNING TRUST

2024-26 STRATEGIC PLAN



Denver Health dentistry receives grant to expand training program

Denver Health's dentistry program recently received a \$3 million grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for the Dental Assistant Training Program. This public health project serves to improve health care workforce planning and prevention needs in underserved communities in the Denver metro area.



Denver Health's Dental Service Office is understaffed by 16.1%. This program will expand Denver Health's existing Dental Assistant Training Program to increase the number of trained dental assistants available to work in Denver Health's dental clinics. The paid work-study model is designed to increase diversity, decrease financial barriers and produce entry-level dental assistant professionals.

Receiving this grant is an example of the 2024-26 Strategic Plan at work, as collaborative partnerships are a key strategy. This partnership with CDPHE is possible because of the trust they have in our program.

Infusion pump integration coming to Denver Health

Infusion pump integration is coming to Denver Health in the late third quarter of 2024. Infusion pump integration involves using technology to facilitate establishing an electronic link between an infusion pump channel and an electronic medical record system. This connectivity enables the seamless association of the pump channel, the patient and medication orders, enhancing the safety of medication administration and ensuring timely and accurate documentation of infusion data.

[Learn more](#)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

Black community leaders share feedback with executive leaders

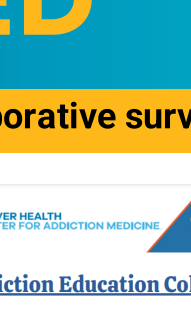
As part of Denver Health's continued community engagement efforts, **CEO Donna Lynne**, **Chief Government and Community Affairs Officer Steve Federico**, **MD**, and **Chief DEIB Officer Jorge Avendano-Curiel** hosted a listening session and reception for Black/African American community leaders.



The leaders shared their feedback regarding how Denver Health can work more directly with the community to build trust and to reach more people about providing high-quality care.

Denver Health is committed to continuing these conversations to ensure that we are addressing concerns and developing relationships to overcome health disparities and work toward addressing them together. Denver Health will also host leaders from the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, the Latino and Hispanic community and the LGBTQ+ community in the coming weeks. This is one of the many ways that we are listening to and learning from community leaders – an important strategy in our vision to become the most trusted health care provider in Colorado.

DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT



The story behind the Bernard F. Gipson Eastside Family Health Center

Did you know one of America's first Black surgeons practiced at Denver Health and even treated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.? His name was Bernard F. Gipson, MD, which you may recognize as the namesake of Denver Health's Eastside Family Health Center.



As part of its coverage of Black History Month, Denver 7 recently featured Dr. Gipson's story and spoke with **Candace Lartigue, a nurse practitioner at Eastside**. Lartigue spoke about what it means to her to carry on Dr. Gipson's legacy: "As a Black woman working in health care, you don't see a ton of representation ... It really means a lot that when I walk in the doors here, I am part of a legacy," she said.

[See full story](#)

GET INVOLVED

Take part in the Center for Addiction Medicine's Collaborative survey

The Denver Health Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM) is seeking participants for the Addiction Medicine Collaborative survey! Your participation is key as CAM seeks to better understand who would like to be included in education sessions and what you hope to gain from them. Previously, sessions were hosted by **Julie Taub, MD, hospitalist physician**, and are now hosted by **Sarah Christensen, MD, internal medicine physician**, with support from CAM's admin team. Please take less than five minutes to fill out [this brief survey](#). Monthly educational sessions will be hosted every third Wednesday of the month. Sign up via [this link](#) to receive the Webex invite.



RECOGNIZING YOU

Denver Health doctors inducted into Clinical Excellence Society

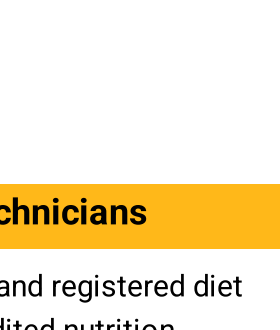
Congratulations to **Jeremy Long, MD, general internal medicine**; **Rebecca Allyn, MD, hospitalist physician** and **Tim Jenkins, MD, infectious disease physician**, on being inducted into the University of Colorado (CU) Department of Medicine's Clinical Excellence Society (CES), recognizing them as champions for their patients.



[Learn more](#)

Denver Health staff attend Community Health Centers meeting in Washington, D.C.

Denver Health was well represented at this year's National Association of Community Health Centers' Policies and Issues Forum in Washington, D.C. Six employees attended this forum, which brings together community health center leaders from across the country to meet with members of Congress, share their stories, and underscore both the needs of health centers and the fact that they are an efficient and cost-effective way to deliver primary health care to all.



[Read more](#)

Denver Health recognizes International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants Day

International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC) Day is **March 6**. Breastfeeding is vital for both mothers' and infants' health, but it does not always come easy. IBCLCs see all breastfeeding mothers, in both inpatient and outpatient settings, to assist at any stage in their breastfeeding journey.

[Find out more](#)

Nutrition Month puts spotlight on dietitians and diet technicians

March is National Nutrition Month. Did you know that registered dietitians and registered diet technicians must get a four-year degree with a specifically designed, accredited nutrition curriculum? They must also pass a rigorous registration exam and maintain continuous education credits throughout their career! Registered dietitians must also complete an extensive supervised practice program.

[Learn more](#)

Workplace Well-being, RESTORE events planned for National Employee Appreciation Day

Friday, March 1, is National Employee Appreciation Day! Join us for a full day of appreciation events hosted by Workplace Well-being and RESTORE in the RESTORE Support Center, located on the first floor of Pavilion B. Events include:

- Massage therapy: **11 a.m.-3 p.m.**
- Pet therapy: **3-5 p.m.**
- Appreciation and gratitude activity: Drop in any time during RESTORE center hours from **10:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.** to write a thank you card or shoutout to a colleague to show your appreciation for all they do.

We will also be providing swag and resources, including information about discounted Colorado Rapids tickets for Denver Health employees and their families! See a [flyer here](#). Finally, be sure to read [the latest communication from CEO Donna Lynne](#) and **Chief Human Resources Officer Amy King** if you haven't already; it includes a poem of appreciation for all staff!

GRATITUDE

Denver Health Pediatrics 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 Pediatric Primary Care team at the Webb Center for Primary Care!

"Their pediatric providers are always exceptional. From a fellow medical provider, I appreciate their bedside manner and thorough assessments of my kids."

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 rundown of all recent stories featuring Denver Health.

Denver Health: The importance of diversity in medical research
Feb. 28, *Fox31*
Dr. Randy Miles, chief of breast imaging and associate director of service in Denver Health's radiology department, spoke with FOX31 about why it's important for medical research to diversify the patients studied.

How eating disorders can damage the heart
Feb. 26, *American Heart Association*
"The heart is severely affected by weight loss and malnutrition," said **Dr. Philip Mehler, founder and medical director of the ACUTE Center for Eating Disorders and Severe Malnutrition** in Denver. "The more severe the disorder, the more likely the person will have cardiac complications."

National awareness and recognitions

March is [Social Work Month](#), [Women's History Month](#), [Multiple Sclerosis Month](#), [Bleeding Disorders Month](#), [National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month](#), [Developmental Disabilities Month](#), [National Endometriosis Awareness Month](#), [National Kidney Month](#), [National Nutrition Month](#), [Trisomy Awareness Month](#), [Brain Injury Awareness Month](#), [Save Your Vision Month](#) and National Sleep Awareness Month. 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

February | March

- | | |
|--|---|
| Feb. 29: Required performance appraisal acknowledgment deadline for all employees | March 11-15: See a Registered Dietician |
| March 1: RESTORE free massages | March 13: RESTORE Group Support: Cumulative Stress & Burnout |
| March 1: Pet therapy in RESTORE Support Center | March 14: Fidelity: Retirement Basics |
| March 4-8: Stay nourished on a budget | March 18-22: Eat a variety of food from all food groups |
| March 5: Mobile blood drive | March 20: Restore Group Support: Migrant Humanitarian Crisis |
| March 6: Pediatric Trauma Grand Rounds: From Bare Bones to Grandiose | March 21: Trauma-responsive care workshop |
| March 7: Restore Group Support: Migrant Humanitarian Crisis | March 22: Nurses Week Award nominations close |
| March 8: Moving research evidence into routine care | March 25-29: Eat with the environment in mind |
| | March 26: WorkLife tax preparation webinar |

CLICK HERE FOR A PDF VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

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.

[View this email in your browser](#)

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