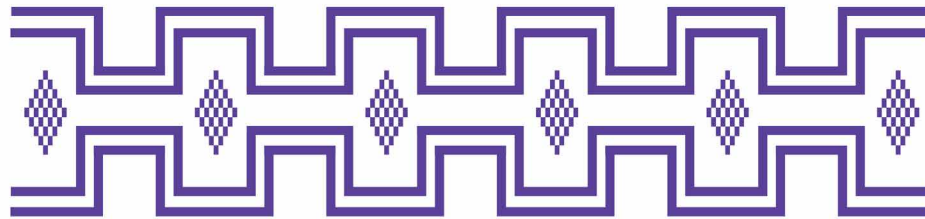


# tsi<sup>?</sup> nihsunhó·ta

*(health) - (gee-knee-soon-hota)*

ONEIDA COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH DIVISION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



<b>OUR MISSION</b>	<b>OUR VISION</b>
We provide the highest quality, holistic health care to ensure the wellness for OUR Oneida Community.	A progressive sustainable health system that promotes tsi <sup>?</sup> niyukwalihot <sup>^</sup> (Our Ways).



## INTEGRATED CAMPUS

As our community grows, so do the needs of patients and their families. We thank you for your patience as we continue to work on a proposed expansion of the health center that will improve access to care and enable us to provide services more efficiently for the community. Scan the QR code to learn more about this plan.



**TOP NEWS**

- INTEGRATED CAMPUS COMMUNITY MEETING
- PATIENT REMINDERS
- EVENT RECAP
- NEW DEVELOPMENTS
- DEPARTMENT UPDATES
- NEW PROVIDERS
- A HEALTHY HISTORY




# COMMUNITY MEETING



During its fall community meeting, Oneida Comprehensive Health Division shared health center updates:

- The Behavioral Health and Medical departments are working on a new pilot program for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to assist individuals struggling with opioid and alcohol use disorders. This initiative aims to provide expanded access to treatment options with supportive services for those on their path to recovery. Watch for more information during 2025.
- In response to patient feedback, the Pharmacy team is working on a plan to create a curbside pickup service for prescriptions that is expected to launch in 2025. A software update that will facilitate curbside pickup is one of the steps the team is taking in order to make the service as efficient as possible for patients and staff.
- In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, OCHD's radiology department shared related health statistics and explained in detail the efforts they've undertaken to help raise awareness and encourage ongoing screening and timely care.

OCHD leadership celebrated the incredible dedication of staff members who have reached significant service milestones and thanked them for their years of commitment to the community:

**Henri Cornelius** – Dental Executive Assistant - 45 years of service  
**Debra Danforth** – Division Director – 41 years of service  
**Mercie Danforth** – Director of Business Operations – 37 years of service  
**Michelle Kimps** – Certified Medical Assistant – 36 years of service  
**Sandy Sieloff** – Optometry Supervisor - 35 years of service  
**Susan Higgs** – Manager WIC Nutrition – 32 years of service  
**Lesley Ness** – Shipping and Receiving Specialist – 32 years of service  
**Mari Kriescher** – Behavioral Health Director – 30 years of service  
**Stephanie Eberhardy** – Physician Assistant – 29 years of services  
**Bobbi Jo King** – Analyst Business Operations – 28 years of service  
**Jean Olson** – Manager Project Systems – 27 years of service  
**Connie Danforth** – Physical Therapist Assistant – 24 years of service  
**Kim Vine** – Optical Tech – 23 years of service  
**Connie Danforth** – Coordinator Finance – 23 years of service

#### 21 years of service

**Staci Hickey** – Certified Medical Assistant  
**Maria Doxtator Alfaro** – Data Coordinator  
**Anita Antone** – Certified Medical Assistant

#### 20 years of service

**Lisa Slaby** – Optical Director  
**Lynn Metoxen** – Behavioral Health Social Worker  
**Julie Gauthier Danforth** – CNA

Thank  
you!

# COMMUNITY MEETING



**19 years of service**

**Michael Flood** – Internal Medical Physician  
**Stefanie Reinke** – Health Promotions Manager  
**Gwendolin Gniot** – Pharmacy Clerk

**18 years of service**

**Jessica DeGroot** – Behavioral Health Psychotherapist  
**Jessica Danforth** – Pharmacy Tech

**17 years of service**

**Brenda Haen** – Community Health Manager  
**Boni Colwitz** – Certified Diabetic Educator  
**Tiffany Prodell** – Pharmacy Tech

**16 years of service**

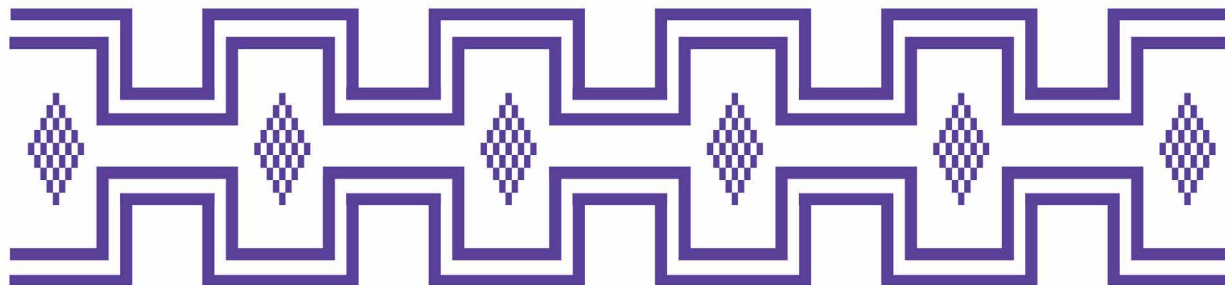
**Felicia Brunette** – Dietary Supervisor  
**Barbara Schofield** – Billing Specialist  
**Carrie Habeck** – Laboratory  
**Cindy John** – Registered Nurse  
**Wendelyn Kinnard** – Dental Assistant  
**Chia Moua** – AJRCCC - CNA

**15 years of service**

**Carol Torres** – Office Coordinator  
**Jennifer Rosner** – Credentialing Specialist  
**Regina Summers** – Billing Specialist

Leadership also recognized the following interns who are gaining valuable experience with OCHD:

**Britney Gruszynski** – Concordia University  
**Kayla Jacobsen** – Maryville University  
**Sheridan Grosshuesch** – UW-Oshkosh  
**Brady Kerwin** – UW–Madison  
**Lisa Miller** – UW–Green Bay  
**Delaine Anderson** – UW-Madison  
**Skyler Longhini** – UW-Milwaukee  
**Jade Doucette** – Bellin College  
**Shawneen Risler** – Lakeland University  
**Noelene Philipp** – UW-Green Bay  
**Kateri Wheelock** – Marquette University  
**Jennifer Bangert** – Lakeland University



# COMMUNITY MEETING



## UPCOMING MEETING


Please consider joining us for our next community meeting on Wednesday, January 22 (5:00 p.m.) at the Congregate Meal Site at the Anna John Resident Centered Care Community. Featured speakers are Dr. Robert Dempsey and Dr. Carol Mitchell with the University of Wisconsin Stroke Team to discuss the initial findings of the Root Causes of Stroke risk disparity in the Wisconsin Native American Research Study.

Join us!

**JANUARY 22**  
**5:00 PM**



**Robert Dempsey, MD**  
Chairman of Neurological Surgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health



**Carol Mitchell, PhD**  
Cardiovascular Medicine  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

**SPEAKERS:**

**Robert Dempsey, MD**  
Chairman of Neurological Surgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

**Carol Mitchell, PhD**  
Cardiovascular Medicine  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

*UW Stroke Team would like to collaborate and discover how traditional practices play a role in improving health and what the Nation's vision for its future health entails.*

# PATIENT REMINDERS



## MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PATIENT PORTAL

### Sign up today!

During 2024, OCHD introduced an improved Patient Health Portal for medical and behavioral health patients with enhanced features to make managing your health easier than ever. If you'd like to try the new portal, click here to learn more <https://oneida-nsn.gov/resources/health/patientportal/>.

### Questions?

My Health Oneida Help Desk • (920) 869-6123  
myhealthhelp@oneidanation.org  
Talk to a Patient Account Representative (PAR) at your next appointment.

## MEMORY CAFÉ TO OFFER MONTHLY SUPPORT

### Connect with community!

Join us every 2nd Wednesday from 1:30 until 3:00 p.m. at the Oneida Community Health Center for a welcoming space where individuals with memory loss, caregivers, family and friends can connect through art, crafts and meaningful conversation.




Our Memory Café is a relaxed, supportive environment for those navigating dementia or Alzheimer's, with resources, engaging activities and refreshments. This event is FREE and open to all. We can't wait to see you there!

# EVENT RECAP

## Governor Evers Proclamation – Wisconsin WIC Day

October marked a milestone for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program as it celebrated 50 years of improving health and nutrition for mothers and young children. In recognition, Governor Tony Evers proclaimed October 30, 2024, as Wisconsin WIC Day, honoring the program's impactful legacy across the state.

### Oneida WIC Program Highlights:

-  **Breastfeeding Excellence:** Oneida WIC families consistently surpass statewide breastfeeding rates from birth to 12 months, reflecting a strong commitment to maternal and child health.
-  **Leadership Recognition:** Congratulations to Heidi M., recently appointed as an at-large member representative for the Wisconsin WIC Association!
-  **Throwback Fun:** To celebrate this anniversary, WIC staff statewide embraced the 70s spirit with themed photos. Meet the Oneida WIC team (pictured left to right): Kaitlyn M., Heidi M., Susan H., Alyssa H., and Kelly K. (front).



### The Impact of WIC

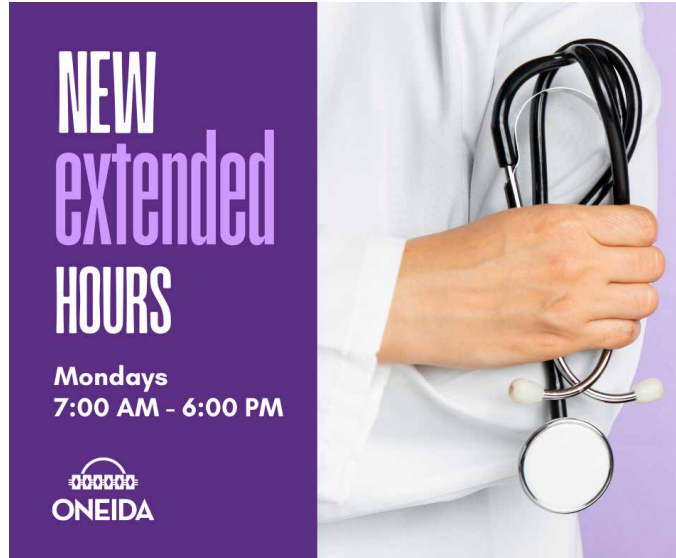
Since its inception, WIC has provided essential services including nutritious food, breastfeeding support and health referrals, serving over 90,000 participants monthly in Wisconsin. The program not only addresses health inequities but also supports local economies, with WIC food benefit purchases generating millions in community investment annually. Join us in celebrating this incredible milestone and the continued efforts of WIC to build healthier futures for families.

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS



## ADJUSTED HOURS

In response to input received through our hours of operation survey, OCHD has adjusted its Monday hours of operation for its Medical, Dental, Optical, Pharmacy and Therapy services. As of January 6, these departments will operate between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Mondays. These departments will also be accessible by phone until 6:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. We thank all those who provided feedback through the hours of operation survey.



## IMPORTANT PATIENT REGISTRATION UPDATES

Patients who have medical, lab and radiology appointments now only need to check in at the medical desk. They no longer need to stop at Main Registration. The previous Main Registration desk, now known as the Main Desk area, houses:

<p><b>A Purchase Referred Care (PRC) Specialist</b></p> <p>The PRC specialist will process referrals for patients, assist walk ins with PRC-related questions and collect information from patients, such as applications and proof of residency.</p>	<p><b>Two Medical Benefit Coordinators (MBC)</b></p> <p>The MBC's will assist patients applying for Medicaid.</p>	<p><b>A Patient Account Representative (PAR)</b></p> <p>The PAR will assist with registration for those who are new to OCHD and will be the check in location for Community Health appointments.</p>
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We would like to thank you for your understanding while we work on updating internal signage that reflects these updates.

# DEPT UPDATES



## Anna John Resident Centered Care Community

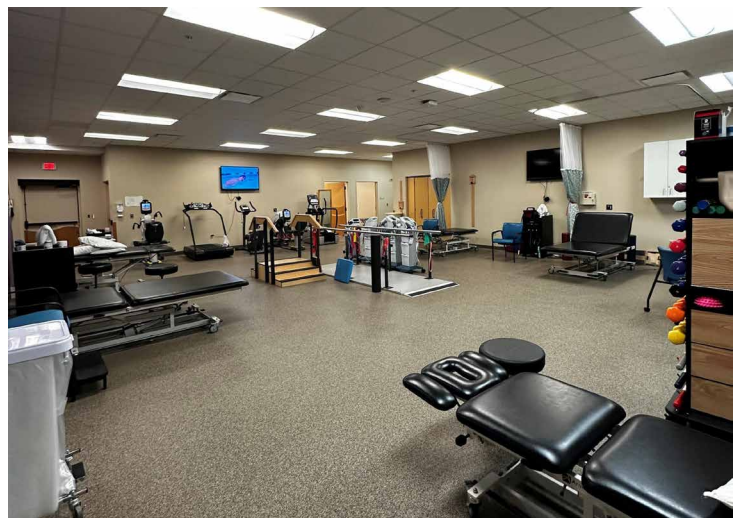


If you're considering a future stay at the Anna John Resident Centered Care Community (AJRCCC), whether for rehabilitative care or longer-term, many factors will come into play, mainly whether your choice of insurance will cover your stay here and whether the specific type of medical care you'll need is available. It helps to know answers to questions like these before your need becomes urgent.

We have staff members who can help you learn what types of insurance will cover a stay at AJRCCC and what type of medical care is available. Our social workers can help you understand and navigate all of the state and federal requirements for nursing home admission for an upcoming stay. If you or a family member may need rehabilitative or long-term care within the next few years, we encourage you to plan now for a smooth transition. You can reach us by telephone at 920.869.2797. If we are not available immediately, please leave us a message, and we will return your call as promptly as possible.

Your feedback is extremely valuable to us and helps us know what we're doing well and where we can improve. If you have questions or feedback, please fill out this form <https://oneida-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Client-Concern-Grievance-Form-01072025.pdf> or reach out to us directly so we can use it as part of our continuous improvement process. Please start with David Larson, Continuum of Care Director at [dlarson@oneidanation.org](mailto:dlarson@oneidanation.org) or 920.869.4820. You can also contact Assistant Division Director Sid White at [swhite1@oneidanation.org](mailto:swhite1@oneidanation.org), or 920.869.6554.

You can also share your feedback with the Anna John Resident Centered Care Community Board by reaching out to Shannon Davis at 920.869.4324 or [boards@oneidanation.org](mailto:boards@oneidanation.org).



# NEW PROVIDERS

PLEASE HELP US WELCOME THREE NEW PROVIDERS TO OCHD



## DR. THANMAYI "TAMMY" KAZA AJRCCC Medical Director

Dr. Kaza, a board-certified Family Medicine and Hospice/Palliative Care physician, brings extensive expertise in geriatrics and long-term care. Her compassionate, patient-centered approach supports OCHD's mission to deliver high-quality care to the Oneida Nation and surrounding communities. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Watch Tammy's welcome videos to learn more.



## DR. RYLEY RUZEK Physical Therapist

Dr. Ruzek, a Doctor of Physical Therapy, specializes in orthopedics and vestibular rehabilitation. His expertise and dedication to holistic, culturally sensitive care enhances OCHD's efforts to meet the ongoing needs of our patients and community members. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Watch Ryley's welcome videos to learn more.



## GINA RAO Physical Therapist Assistant

Gina Rao, a Physical Therapist Assistant, specializes in outpatient orthopedics and is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association. She enjoys helping people feel and function better. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Watch Gina's welcome videos to learn more.

Their expertise will enhance patient care and access to services for the Oneida Nation.  
Welcome aboard!



# A HEALTHY HISTORY



## ONEIDA HEALER JOSIAH A. POWLESS, M.D.



Born on August 1, 1871, Dr. Josiah Powless is known not only for his medical accomplishments but also for his heroism during World War I. After attending the Carlisle Industrial Institute for six years, Josiah graduated from the Milwaukee Medical College (later known as the Marquette University School of Medicine) at the age of 28.

Upon his graduation, Dr. Powless took charge of the Oneida Hospital, where he provided healthcare to his community until 1916. He ran the Oneida Hospital while simultaneously caring for children at the Oneida Boarding School. Dr. Powless’s legacy extends beyond his contributions to medicine and Oneida youth.

In World War I, he served with the Medical Detachment of the 308th Infantry-77th Division. His bravery on the battlefield earned him the posthumous Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on October 14, 1918, near Chevieres, France. Despite the intense machine gun and artillery fire, he courageously crossed enemy lines to aid his wounded comrade, Capt. James M. McKibben. Tragically, he sustained serious injuries during this act of heroism and passed away on November 6, 1918, just five days before the end of the war. (Story Courtesy of Oneida Nation Museum)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- OCHD Community Meeting..... January 22
- Health and Wellness Expo..... January 23
- Winter Wellness Talk..... February 5
- Winter Wellness Talk..... March 5
- Winter Wellness Talk..... April 2

*\*Winter Wellness Talks begin at 12:10 p.m. in the OCHC Conference Room*

### ANTICIPATED CLOSURES



- Good Friday..... April 18  
(closing at 12 p.m.)
- Teen Health Fair..... April 29  
(closed until 12 p.m.)
- Oneida Code Talkers Day..... May 23
- Memorial Day..... May 26

You can watch for additional information regarding upcoming events and health center closures on social media and our [website](#).

