

# **Care**Connection

## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We are proud to serve a diverse patient population, ensuring that every individual receives culturally informed and compassionate care. Our goal is to meet the unique needs of every patient, embracing their background, traditions, and identities as we work to improve health outcomes and create healthier communities for all.

For Black History Month in February, we celebrate progress while recognizing the work that remains. Together, we strive for equity, inclusion, and a brighter future where everyone can thrive.

Hunter Health stands united in honoring the rich history, contributions, and achievements of African American individuals both within our organization and in the communities we serve. We take this time to recognize the incredible impact our African American employees have on our mission. Their dedication, perspectives, and talents are integral to the compassionate and inclusive care we provide every day.

At Hunter Health, diversity is not just a value — it is a strength. We are deeply committed to fostering an environment where every team member feels respected, heard, and empowered. We celebrate the unique stories and experiences that make each of us stronger together.

#### In This Issue

FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

- Celebrating Black History Month
- 2 Health is More Than Healthcare
- 2 Staff Spotlight
- Bonate Today
- 4 National Children's Dental Health Month
- 4 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- 5 American Heart Month
- 5 Insurance Reminder
- 6 Check Us Out Online

#### HEALTH IS MORE THAN HEALTHCARE!

"I had a really meaningful visit with a patient the other day—one that reminded me why the work we do is so important. Imagine being a young adult and dealing with so many challenges, like not having reliable transportation, struggling with money, lacking support from family or friends, facing legal issues, and dealing with both mental and physical health problems."

That was the situation for a new patient at Hunter Health who wanted to start receiving medical care. Thanks to our team-based approach and skilled professionals, we didn't just focus on their medical needs—we also talked about the trauma they had been through. We realized this young person was also struggling with a serious substance use disorder. Many people experience both mental health issues and substance use problems at the same time, but these conditions are often overlooked and not properly treated.



Tatiana Munoz Vargas Integrated Care Manager

At first, the patient downplayed their struggles. But as they became more comfortable, they opened up to the Integrated Care Consultant (ICC) and their primary care clinician. Because of this, we were able to create a complete care plan that addressed both their mental and physical health. We also started conversations about the challenges they face and possible resources that could help.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

#### MEET HUNTER HEALTH'S Brittni Ezeah, LMSW, LMAC, one of our Integrated Care Consultants:

"I've had the opportunity to live in various states and countries which helped inform my decision to pursue a graduate degree in social work. Doing my practicum at Hunter Health helped to foster an interest in the connection between physical and mental health."



#### Why Hunter Health?

"I love that I get to work for an organization that recognizes there are several layers to a person's health. In our Integrated Care approach, I get to work as part of a care team, alongside the patient, to identify strengths, barriers, resources, and treatments that focus on more than just a person's physical health concerns. I love that Hunter Health allows ALL people access to this kind of care."

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## **DONATE** TODAY

#### JOIN US in providing quality care to those who need it the most. Care That Creates a Healthier Community

Our passion—and our purpose—is about caring for the community. When people have access to the healthcare they need, they can truly thrive. And when they thrive, our entire community follows.

- We provide high-quality healthcare to all patients, insured and uninsured.
- We work with patients to provide individualized care and support that works for them.
- With your support, we can reach more patients and empower them to take control of their wellbeing.

Your donation isn't just a one-time solution. It allows us to provide care, build facilities, and support programs that impact our community now and well into the future.



**Follow us.** Did you know we are also on TikTok and Instagram? These pages are a great way for us to connect with our community and share more about the work we do at Hunter Health.

## PROMOTING HEALTHY SMILES

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, a time to highlight the importance of early dental care in building lifelong healthy smiles!

At Hunter Health, we're committed to making dental care accessible to every child. Our Dental Outreach Program brings free cleanings, sealants, and screenings directly to students at around **30 schools**, helping **11,000 children** each year. With our portable dental equipment, we eliminate barriers to care, ensuring kids get the preventative treatments they need—without the hassle of traveling to a clinic.

By focusing on **preventative care**, we can help protect young smiles from cavities and gum disease before they start. A healthy mouth means better overall health, improved focus in school, and more confidence for kids!



FEBRUARY 7

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Want to know if our Dental Outreach Program is coming to your child's school? Ask today and help your child build a lifetime of healthy habits!

## NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

February 7 was National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, a time to recognize HIV's impact on African American communities and promote education, testing, prevention, and treatment. We are committed to breaking healthcare barriers and ensuring equitable HIV care. Knowledge is power — together, we can make a difference.

- Get Tested Know your status.
- Get Educated Learn prevention methods.
- Get Involved Advocate for health equity.
- Get Treated Live healthy with care.

Let's raise awareness, end stigma, and build a healthier future. We offer quick, accurate free HIV testing at our Central Clinic with our HIV/STI Prevention Specialist. Call us: 316-262-2415.

## STAY HEART-HEALTHY FOR AMERICAN HEART MONTH

February is American Heart Month, a time to raise awareness about the importance of keeping your heart in top shape. High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is one of the leading risk factors for heart disease and stroke. It's often called the "silent killer" because it doesn't always present symptoms — but it can have serious consequences if left unchecked.

**The good news?** Regular monitoring, healthy lifestyle choices, and support from healthcare professionals can make all the difference. At Hunter Health, our providers are here to help you understand your blood pressure, learn effective ways to manage it, and stay heart-healthy all year long.

Don't wait to take action. Call (316) 262-2415 today to schedule an appointment. Let's work together and build a healthier future! AMERICAN HEART MONTH

## TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE

## REMINDER ON INSURANCE

Affordability is different for everyone. But everyone deserves equal treatment. That is why we serve everyone regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

#### **Insured Patients**

At Hunter Health, we accept a wide variety of health insurance plans, from Medicaid or Medicare to private or employer insurance. All insurance plans are different, so encourage patients to check their specific health plan for information about co-pays, deductibles, and other coverage information.

#### **Uninsured and Underinsured Patients**

We offer a sliding fee scale for all income-eligible uninsured and underinsured patients based on annual income and household size, for most services provided. Our income-based financial assistance means patients will always get the care they need when they need it.

Patients can apply for the Hunter Health Discount Sliding Fee Program on our website: https://hunterhealth.org/patient-guide/payments-insurance/



CareConnection FEBRUARY 2025

## Stay Connected @ HOME, @ WORK, @ YOUR FINGERTIPS



Instagram@HunterHealthClinic

CHECK OUT OUR VIDEOS

From patient testimonials to meeting our new staff members, all our videos are on Facebook in one place. Just scan this QR code:

#### **GET CARE CONNECTION ONLINE**

Now you can read our Care Connection newsletter or download it as a handy digital flipbook. Just scan this QR code:

#### SEE OUR NEW CALENDAR

Check out the Hunter Health Community Calendar! Each month, we update it with community events you won't want to miss. Just scan this QR code:







Please visit our website at **hunterhealth.org** and check out everything it has to offer. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and working with you to make a difference in the community.