



SPECIAL EDITION

ONYOTA'A:KÁ:

❖ ONEIDA INDIAN NATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER ❖

JULY 2016



HEALTH SERVICES RELOCATES TO NEW FACILITY
State-of-the-art medical center unifies services

PHOTO: DAVID RIVETTE PHOTOGRAPHY



Underscoring the Oneida Indian Nation's commitment to providing award-winning health care is the new Oneida Indian Nation Health Services facility. The state-of-the-art facility unites primary, dental and diabetes care, and behavioral and community health under one roof, thus providing Oneida Nation Members and health services clients the best in care for all ages and stages of life.

"This is a culmination of the Oneida Nation leadership's quest to provide a patient-centered medical home for our clients," Dr. Seelan Newton, clinical director, said. "This new facility gives us the opportunity to provide full services to Oneida Members and to our clients for generations to come."

Among the facility's features are 10 exam rooms, five dental rooms, a health education and conference room and a kitchen. The convenient location at Dreamcatcher Plaza makes it easier for the 3,500 American Indian patients to use, if they choose to, the onsite radiological services provided by Bassett Oneida Health Center. ❖

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Nation Council meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m., Nation Council House, Oneida Territory via Route 46 South, Oneida, N.Y. For further information contact: The Oneida Indian Nation, P.O. Box 1, Vernon, NY 13476.



BY-THE-NUMBERS: THE NEW AND IMPROVED ONEIDA NATION HEALTH SERVICES

Hours: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday

Services: Primary Care, Dental, Diabetes, Behavioral, Community Health

Staff: 41 full- and part-time staff members including:

- 2 full-time family practice physicians
- 1 full-time family nurse practitioner
- 6 part-time contract medical doctors
- 1 part-time endocrinologist
- 1 part-time podiatrist
- 2 part-time psychiatrist
- 1 part-time psychologist

Number of Rooms:

- 10 exam rooms
- 1 health education room
- 2 conference rooms
- 5 dental rooms (operatories)
- 1 lab
- 2 nurses stations
- 8 behavioral health offices
- 1 Joslin Vision Network eye room
- 1 nutrition/diabetes office
- 1 business office suite



Above: a patient examination room



Right: The staff kitchen doubles as a classroom

Below, left: Hallway décor includes simulated skylights

Below, right: a dental patient room



PHOTO: DAVID RIVETTE PHOTOGRAPHY





The reception area includes two spacious waiting areas with glass display cabinets full of Oneida artifacts and craftwork.



Reception area:
The 1,600-square-foot reception area features three reception desks with overhead lights indicating check-in availability for patients in the waiting areas.

Décor:
An emphasis has been placed on the Haudenosaunee culture with two large display cases in the lobby featuring Oneida artifacts and craftwork courtesy of the Shako:wi Cultural Center. Items on display range from archival beadwork and baskets to modern day crafts created by Oneidas participating in classes offered through the Cultural Center.

The Six Nations wampum belt design is a theme that has been carried throughout the building, as seen in the reception area wall mosaic and in the colors chosen to decorate the facility. The Oneida Nation wampum belt design can be seen in the floor tiles as well. ❖

HEALTH SERVICES STAFF EXCITED ABOUT CHANGES, IMPROVED SERVICES

Dr. Jason Harris, Dentist

“One of the bonuses of the new facility is that we can work with all (health) departments. Everything is under one umbrella, which is excellent. One of my patients said she can now schedule all three appointments in one day. She lives in Syracuse, so it saves her gas and time.



Dr. Jason Harris (left) and dental hygienist Pat Planck simulate a patient exam.

Heidi G. Vernold, RN Health Operations Director

“We did it and we couldn’t have done it without Commissioner of Nation Administration Kim Jacobs (Wolf Clan). Kim Jacobs was instrumental in making sure our facility reflects the Oneida Indian Nation and the Haudenosaunee respectfully.”



Barbara O’Herien, phlebotomist/clinical tech, stands in a new, larger lab area.



Nurses and doctors can confer on patient health and history in this nurse station.

Dr. Bradley Layton, Family Practitioner

“The care that was given to patients was good, but not everyone was under one roof. Now, we can communicate better. The way the building is set up has confidentiality for our patients. Once they understand that this is set up for their well-being, they have embraced it.



“I’ve never been involved with an organization that has been so focused on helping people overcome their problems until now. Our goal is to help the patient and provide good care. We focus on the wellbeing (of the patient) in every way.”

Christie Riggall, Family Nurse Practitioner

“I love to be able to collaborate with behavioral health in the same location. We work really well together. We really collaborate to make sure they (clients) are getting the best care in a timely manner. Everybody really likes it. We have top-of-the-line equipment. The rooms are much more private and have privacy curtains. The nurses’ station is smaller, so it’s quiet.



“I think we are committed to providing the best care possible. It’s all about the patient and that they are comfortable. We are here when they need us.”



Kara Kaplan, LMHC Manager, Behavioral Health

“It’s exciting to be in our forever home. It’s really kind of comforting that we’ve moved here and being onsite, together (with other services), has been a big asset for us.

“Patient reaction has been very positive for us. They like that we’re in the health services facility now. It sets an atmosphere that this isn’t casual, this is treatment. This facility honors the client by setting the bar high, and giving them the best of the best. They (the Oneida) have been very conscientious in trying to balance integrity of behavioral health and being cognizant of the American Indian population.”