



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Officials Celebrate Ribbon Cutting for Kane-Glen Hazel Behavioral Health Unit

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald was joined today by Council Member Sam DeMarco, as well as other elected and appointed officials in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate a new long-term care unit at the Kane-Glen Hazel Regional Care Center. The new 45-bed unit, which opens today, is designed to provide specialized services for patients exhibiting neurological and psychiatric conditions.

“I’m thrilled that this project is complete and that we are providing improved care and quality of life for patients at Kane-Glen Hazel,” said Fitzgerald. “We believe taking care of aging Allegheny County residents who have special physical and emotional needs is an important responsibility, and with this new unit, Kane-Glen Hazel is even better equipped to administer vital services for our community.”

The new long-term care unit gives Kane Regional Centers greater flexibility in providing specialized programming for residents suffering from varying degrees of Alzheimer’s Disease, dementia and behavioral problems resulting from neurological conditions or damage. It is not intended as an alternative to an inpatient psychiatric unit.

Additionally, with this new unit, the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC (WPIC), which is affiliated with Kane Regional Centers, is contributing a full-time Assistant Program Director and specific, ongoing training related to various psychiatric issues.

“Allegheny County, in order to better serve the needs of so many of our aging citizens, has taken an important step in providing long-term care with the opening of this new 45-bed facility,” said Paul Klein, Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee and the District 11 representative, where Kane-Glen Hazel is located. “People in Allegheny County matter, particularly those who are the most vulnerable of our residents. Executive Director Dennis Biondo is to be commended in managing a facility that reflects the ongoing commitment of this county to ensure that those dealing with neurological challenges receive the attention and professional care that they need.”

The American Psychiatric Association estimates that 20 percent of people age 55 or older suffer from a mental health disorder, and two-thirds of nursing home residents exhibit mental and behavioral problems. More than 18 percent of Allegheny County residents are age 65 or older, and with more Baby Boomers reaching retirement age, the need for specialized, long-term care continues to increase.

“I am proud of what the county is able to provide for our seniors through our Kane Regional Centers,” said John Palmiere, Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee. “This is a groundbreaking unit, and I’m appreciative of the investment that we have made in it because of the greater benefit to the citizens of Allegheny County.”

With the new unit, Kane Regional Centers now offer 180 safe, secure beds designated for memory and other specialized care. Kane-Glen Hazel already had another 45-bed, long-term care unit that boasted enhanced behavioral health services and a 45-bed dementia unit. Kane-Scott Regional Care Center also has a 45-bed dementia unit. As the county’s provider of skilled nursing services, Kane Regional Centers are uniquely positioned to care for older residents with mental and behavioral health issues.

“This unit is one that is truly needed in our community, as many of the residents that we will be admitting to it are having their needs cared for in a variety of ways, rather than having one place where all of their needs can be met,” said Kane Regional Centers Executive Director Dennis Biondo. “The opening of this unit is an enhancement of the continuum of care already provided by the Kane Regional Centers.”

For more information about the new Kane-Glen Hazel unit, please call 412-422-6820 or visit alleghenycounty.us/kane/glen-hazel.aspx

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