



ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
ALWAYS INSPIRING



Allegheny  
Health Network

A HIGHMARK HEALTH COMPANY



Gateway Health.  
*I'm good with Gateway.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 16, 2018

**Contact:** Amie M. Downs  
412-350-3711 (office)  
412-327-3700 (cell)  
[amie.downs@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:amie.downs@alleghenycounty.us)

## **Kane McKeesport Celebrates Opening of Special Care Unit for Patients with Medical Conditions and Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders**

*First of its Kind Unit Embeds Addiction Medicine Specialists into Skilled Nursing Facility*

**PITTSBURGH** – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Allegheny County officials were joined today by Highmark Health, AHN and Gateway Health representatives to celebrate the completion and opening of a new 45-bed unit at the Kane Community Living Center in McKeesport. The post-acute unit is for patients with medical conditions and co-occurring substance use disorders.

“The mission of the Kane Community Living Centers is to provide quality nursing and rehabilitation services that enhance the lives of our residents, families, and communities. We do that by listening to what the needs are of our residents and trying to meet them – that’s exactly what occurred in this case,” said Fitzgerald. “We heard from admissions counselors and community services staff about the need for this specialized service. We were fortunate to have space at the McKeesport Center, and could move quickly to respond to this need by repurposing the vacant unit for this service.”

The first of its kind in the county, this unit will combine skilled care and addiction services for patients who meet Nursing Facility Clinically Eligible (NFCE) criteria, requiring 24-hour care. Kane’s team will provide skilled nursing care and work collaboratively with AHN addiction medicine specialists embedded in the unit to provide medication-assisted treatment and supportive services.

“At Highmark Health, Allegheny Health Network and Gateway Health, we’re addressing the epidemic of substance use disorders on many critical fronts through our hospitals, physicians, health plans, and through community outreach programs,” explained Dan Onorato, executive vice president of corporate affairs at Highmark Health. “This new unit at Kane will provide patients with the right kind of care in the right setting, offering high-quality, high-value, addiction-informed services and the positive health care experience necessary to heal and feel supported. We are getting health care right for these patients.”

Recent Commonwealth of PA data indicates that more than 12,000 individuals on Medicaid alone in Allegheny County have a substance use disorder related to prescription pain medications or heroin. Until now, following hospitalizations, these patients have lacked reliable post-acute care alternatives because traditional nursing homes aren’t equipped to manage addiction.

“This specialized new unit provides patients who are recovering from hospitalization and coping with substance use disorder with a good pathway forward,” said Dr. Mitchell West, DO, MHA, medical director of addiction services at Allegheny Health Network, who will direct the addiction services at the new unit. “By providing them with evidence-based addiction care, we can offer patients their best opportunity to recover from their hospitalization and continue the fight to overcome their addiction.”

Program partner Gateway Health is a leading Medicaid and Medicare Advantage managed care organization and other partners include Allegheny Health Network’s Center for Inclusion Health and HM Home & Community Services, a Highmark Health company centered on post-acute health care management solutions.

“Gateway Health is very pleased to be able to support Allegheny Health Network and Kane in their innovative partnership to provide improved care for our members with substance use disorders and skilled nursing needs,” added Steven E. Szebenyi, MD, MMM, chief medical officer, Gateway Health. “By working together, bringing AHN’s addiction specialists into the skilled nursing facility setting, our members can receive timely, high quality care in a manner not otherwise available to them.”

Beginning October 17, the Kane unit will begin accepting patient referrals from AHN hospitals. Following an initial pilot, it will admit patients from hospitals across Allegheny County and, as demand allows, from surrounding counties, accepting coverage from all health plans.

###

### **About Highmark Health**

Highmark Health, a Pittsburgh, PA-based company, that, together with its subsidiaries and affiliates, collectively employ more than 40,000 people and serve millions of Americans across the country, is the second largest integrated health care delivery and financing network in the nation based on revenue. Highmark Health is the parent company of Highmark Inc., Allegheny Health Network, and HM Health Solutions. Highmark Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates provide health insurance to nearly 5 million members in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Delaware as well as dental insurance, vision care and related health products through a national network of diversified businesses that include United Concordia Companies, HM Insurance Group, and Visionworks. Allegheny Health Network is the parent company of an integrated delivery network that includes eight hospitals, more than 2,400 affiliated physicians, ambulatory surgery centers, an employed physician organization, home and community-based health services, a research institute, a group purchasing organization, and health and wellness pavilions in western Pennsylvania. HM Health Solutions focuses on meeting the information technology platform and other business needs of the Highmark Health enterprise as well as unaffiliated health insurance plans by providing proven business processes, expert knowledge and integrated cloud-based platforms. To learn more, please visit [www.highmarkhealth.org](http://www.highmarkhealth.org).

### **About Allegheny Health Network**

Allegheny Health Network ([AHN.org](http://AHN.org)), a Highmark Health company, is an integrated healthcare delivery system serving the greater Western Pennsylvania region. The Network is composed of eight hospitals, including Allegheny General Hospital, its flagship academic medical center in Pittsburgh, Allegheny Valley Hospital in Natrona Heights, Canonsburg Hospital in Canonsburg, Forbes Hospital in Monroeville, Jefferson Hospital in Jefferson Hills, Saint Vincent Hospital in Erie, West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh and Westfield Memorial Hospital in Westfield, NY. The Network provides patients with access to a complete spectrum of advanced medical services, including nationally recognized programs for primary and emergency care, cardiovascular disease, cancer care, orthopedic surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, women’s health, diabetes and more. It also is home to a comprehensive research institute; Health + Wellness Pavilions; an employed physician organization, home and community-based health services and a group purchasing organization. The Network employs approximately 20,000 people, has more than 2,400 physicians on its medical staff and serves as a clinical campus for Drexel University College of Medicine, Temple University School of Medicine, and the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

### **About Gateway Health**

Gateway Health is a nationally-ranked managed care organization that focuses on providing the best possible healthcare to a growing number of Medicaid and Medicare Advantage consumers. A not-for-profit organization, Gateway Health serves the needs of at risk and vulnerable citizens with not only healthcare coverage, but services such as disease management, health and wellness programs and preventive care. The organization provides Medicaid services in Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and Arkansas, and Medicare coverage in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio and North Carolina. Our commitment to helping our members and their communities get and stay healthy is what keeps members, providers, communities and partners "Good with Gateway." To learn more about Gateway Health, visit us online at [www.gatewayhealthplan.com](http://www.gatewayhealthplan.com).

### **Office of County Executive Rich Fitzgerald**

101 Courthouse | 436 Grant Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone: 412-350-6500 | Fax: 412-350-6512  
[www.alleghenycounty.us](http://www.alleghenycounty.us)

---

**Follow us:** [allegheny alerts](#) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#) | [linkedin](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#)