

Press Release

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Ellis Medicine Cuts the Ribbon on New Medical Home

A unique approach to providing comprehensive primary and preventive care for the entire community

SCHENECTADY, NY-- Ellis Medicine today officially announced the grand opening of its new Medical Home on the Ellis Health Center campus, ushering in a new era of primary and preventative/wellness care for the community. More than 100 employees, physicians, donors and members of the community joined New York State Health Commissioner, Richard Daines, M.D, elected officials and community leaders in marking the occasion.

Patti Hammond, Vice President of Operations for Ellis Medicine said:

“This is an important day for Ellis Medicine and for our community. The Medical Home embodies a new spirit of community collaboration as we work with our many partners toward a shared goal – to promote and improve the health and well-being of everyone in our community, with special attention to the most vulnerable.”

The Medical Home offers comprehensive primary care for everyone in our community, with unique support for the underserved -- all in one convenient location. The Medical Home is designed to improve access to quality care and preventive/wellness medicine by centralizing and enhancing the following key services:

- Family medicine at the Family Health Center
- Pediatric medicine at the Pediatric Health Center —new space doubles the number of treatment rooms to serve more patients in a timely manner
- Dental care at the Dental Health Center – renovations currently underway in new space with more treatment rooms

These services are supported by insurance enrollment assistance and a wide array of additional outpatient services, such as child and adolescent mental health, diabetes education, imaging, laboratory and emergency services. Other unique features include:

- Health Services Navigators – specially-trained nurses with extensive knowledge of community resources connect patients to the medical care and social services they need.

- Ellis' Community Shuttle makes seven stops in Schenectady, weekdays, 12:30 pm-1:30 pm and brings people to the Medical Home for care.
- The use of electronic health records will help ensure continuity of care for every Medical Home patient.

The New York State Department of Health has been an ongoing resource for guidance and support as Ellis moved forward with the Medical Home. State Health Commissioner Richard F. Daines, M.D., says Ellis Medicine and its community partners are doing important work:

“We congratulate Ellis for its success in developing this Medical Home, an innovative model for the delivery of comprehensive, quality, primary care in New York State. Efforts like this will go a long way to improve the health of our communities by breaking down barriers to primary and preventive care.”

Mike Saccocio, director of the City Mission of Schenectady, one of Ellis' community partners in developing the Medical Home, says it's making a significant difference in people's lives:

“I've seen mothers with little children take the shuttle to the Ellis Health Center for care they might not have otherwise received. Recently, the Medical Home helped connect one of our guests and his wife with the primary care they needed – plus, they were signed up for Medicaid. Ellis' Medical Home will help break the cycle of episodic visits to the emergency room by people in generational poverty, by getting them into the system for primary and preventive care.”

The Medical Home has been under development for more than a year. It was supported by a \$5 million New York State HEAL grant and through a \$1 million grant secured by NYS Senator Hugh T. Farley.

“The Medical Home is part of Ellis' continued restructuring efforts to strengthen the delivery of quality care. Today's ribbon cutting marks a major step forward along our path of progress and reflects our ongoing commitment to meet the health care needs of our entire community – now and for generations to come. We're proud of what we've accomplished together so far, and we look forward to accomplishing our future plans,” said James W. Connolly, president and CEO of Ellis Medicine.

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