



January 08, 2020

## **H+H, SUNY ink \$12M contract for vision services**

New York City Health + Hospitals and SUNY College of Optometry have partnered to expedite the hiring of optometrists to practice at H+H/Woodhull and Gotham Health facilities East New York, Gouverneur and Vanderbilt.

The value of the contract is up to \$12 million throughout five years, H+H said. It's expected to help improve patient outcomes and reduce health disparities in high-need areas.

The partnership builds on a relationship between H+H and SUNY College of Optometry that spans more than two decades. H+H previously began its recruitment process with SUNY, the health system said.

Now, instead of creating a contract for each new optometrist, the agreement will require only an addendum to be included. The added efficiency is expected to reduce recruitment time to three or four months, or less.

The agreement is focused on access to care and cost-effectiveness, said Dr. David Heath, SUNY Optometry president.

Early detection of eye and vision problems can lead to better learning outcomes for children and increased productivity for adults, H+H noted. It also can help determine the presence of undetected diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension.

"The contribution of the vision care provider can be huge in terms of addressing systemic disease," Heath said.

More than 60 optometry students rotate through H+H locations annually, according to the health system. There are 16 optometrists at H+H/Woodhull and Gotham Health, East New York, Gouverneur and Vanderbilt who are affiliated with the college. — Jennifer Henderson

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