

# your care

A CROUSE HEALTH COMMUNITY PUBLICATION | 2021



## Introducing the Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center at Crouse Health



Opening a New Door to Addiction Treatment Services in Central New York



# Message to Our Community

## A New Era in Addiction Treatment

In recent years, we have experienced an alarming rise in the number of people requiring care for substance abuse, particularly opioid use. We are proud of the work of our addiction treatment team, including physicians, nurses, social workers and other providers who are highly regarded among their professional peers.

We are pleased to announce the opening of a new facility that matches the caliber of our staff and provides an environment that will greatly enhance holistic patient care: The Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center at Crouse Health.

On behalf of the Crouse family and the patients we treat, we extend sincere thanks to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for its generosity and continuing support of Crouse

programs and services. We also acknowledge the support of the New York State Department of Health, Office of Addiction Services and Supports, and our elected officials, who have shared Crouse's vision to provide an enriching, safe and uplifting setting for those we serve.

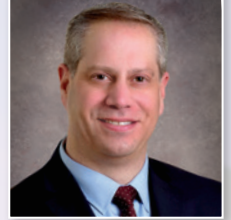
As we reach nearly six decades as the region's leading hospital-based addiction treatment service, we affirm Crouse Health's mission to provide the best in patient care and to promote community health.

**Kimberly Boynton**  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

**Seth Kronenberg, MD**  
Chief Operating Officer  
and Chief Medical Officer



Kimberly Boynton



Seth Kronenberg, MD

## Balancing COVID-19 and the Overdose Crisis



By Tolani Ajagbe, MD  
Chief of Psychiatry,  
Crouse Health  
Medical Director, Crouse  
Addiction Treatment Services

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the greatest public health crisis in the United States, with 600,000+ reported deaths. Prior to the pandemic, our nation's number one public health crisis

has been the opioid overdose epidemic. Efforts to control COVID-19, however, have shifted attention and needed resources away from the opioid epidemic, despite its increase as a result of the pandemic.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 88,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the U.S. during a 12-month period ending August 2020. This is the latest available data, representing the highest number of drug overdose deaths ever recorded nationally in any one-year timeframe.

### Rise in Opioid Overdoses

Most of these drug-related deaths result from the use of fentanyl, a powerful

synthetic opioid analgesic similar to morphine, but 50 to 100 times more potent.

The same picture is seen locally, with the Onondaga County Department of Health reporting a 40% increase in overdose deaths in the first nine months of 2020, as compared to the previous year. Local hospital emergency departments continue to report spikes in the number of stimulant overdoses from methamphetamine, cocaine and molly (MDMA).

**"The co-existence of these two public health crises presents a critical threat."**

The co-existence of these two public health crises presents a critical threat: Stress related to the pandemic has caused an increase in the number of new cases of addiction and has caused setbacks in recovery for those already engaged in treatment.

Social isolation, lockdown measures, school closures, job losses and economic hardship, although unavoidable, have all contributed to the current increase in addiction and mental health issues, including trauma-related disorders and elevated suicide rates.

Decreases in the rates of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths have led to the CDC's gradual relaxation of some of the current restrictive guidelines.

### Resources are Imperative

As the nation continues to recover and life slowly returns to normal, we anticipate a renewed focus on the quietly surging drug overdose epidemic and other addiction-related issues. It is imperative that resources be directed toward readiness to provide these highly needed services in our community.

With the opening of the Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center at Crouse Health, we are deeply committed to our efforts to expand access to care and ensure delivery of high-quality addiction and mental health treatment in our community.

Crouse has been the regional leader in responding to the multitude of drug-related epidemics over the decades, and we remain focused on dedicating our resources, expertise, time and leadership to ensure that our community overcomes this devastating public health crisis.



# For History. For Life.

## The Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center at Crouse Health



Bill and Sandra Pomeroy

**W**hen the William G. Pomeroy Foundation was created in 2005, its focus reflected two very special interests of founder Bill Pomeroy: to celebrate and preserve community history and to raise awareness and support research that will improve the quality of care for patients and families facing a blood cancer diagnosis. Since that time, the Pomeroy Foundation has made more than 2,000 grants to charitable organizations and projects that align with its mission, all to benefit individuals and communities in need.

Bill Pomeroy was diagnosed with leukemia more than 15 years ago, and

Crouse Health is proud to have played a significant role in the early stages of his successful treatment. In turn, he and his wife, Sandra, have demonstrated their gratitude to Crouse in many ways. Both personally, as well as in their capacity as trustees of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, they have lent their passion, resources and names to major projects at Crouse that have advanced emergency services, nursing education and the healing environment.

**“We are proud to support this important program, with the deepest respect for the courage and commitment of all its patients and staff.”**

The Pomeroy Foundation has furthered its life-enhancing reach through a special donation to Crouse Health’s new outpatient addiction treatment services facility. This generous gift will name the building and create a dedicated endowment within the Crouse Health Foundation to permanently provide support for the unique offerings and activities that are hallmarks of Crouse’s program.

“For close to 60 years, Crouse has worked to remove the stigma of addiction and provide personalized treatment,” said Bill Pomeroy. “We are proud to support this important program, with the deepest respect for the courage and commitment of all its patients and staff.”

The grant from the Pomeroy Foundation will also be another impactful combination of its interests in history and quality of life. As one of the oldest hospital-based addiction treatment programs in New York State, Crouse traces its roots in this specialty to the early 1960s. And with that long history comes an expertise that has positively impacted the lives of thousands of Central New Yorkers working to overcome their dependency on alcohol and drugs.

With the opening of the Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center, Crouse Health will greatly expand the programming and space needed to help those with addictions regain control of their lives, livelihoods and relationships with family and friends. What a meaningful milestone for our community... for history...for life.

## Help Our Community with Wellness and Recovery

Financial support plays a significant role in the delivery of Addiction Treatment Services at Crouse Health. Donations will help provide programs and services in the new facility that will assist patients in their journeys to wellness and recovery.

Whether honoring a loved one or celebrating your own recovery, you can be sure your gift of any amount will help patients and families move toward healthy living and brighter futures.

Visit [crouse.org/give](https://crouse.org/give) to make a tax-deductible contribution. For information on how to name an area within the new Pomeroy Treatment Center, please contact Carrie Berse at [carrieberse@crouse.org](mailto:carrieberse@crouse.org) or call 315-470-7004.





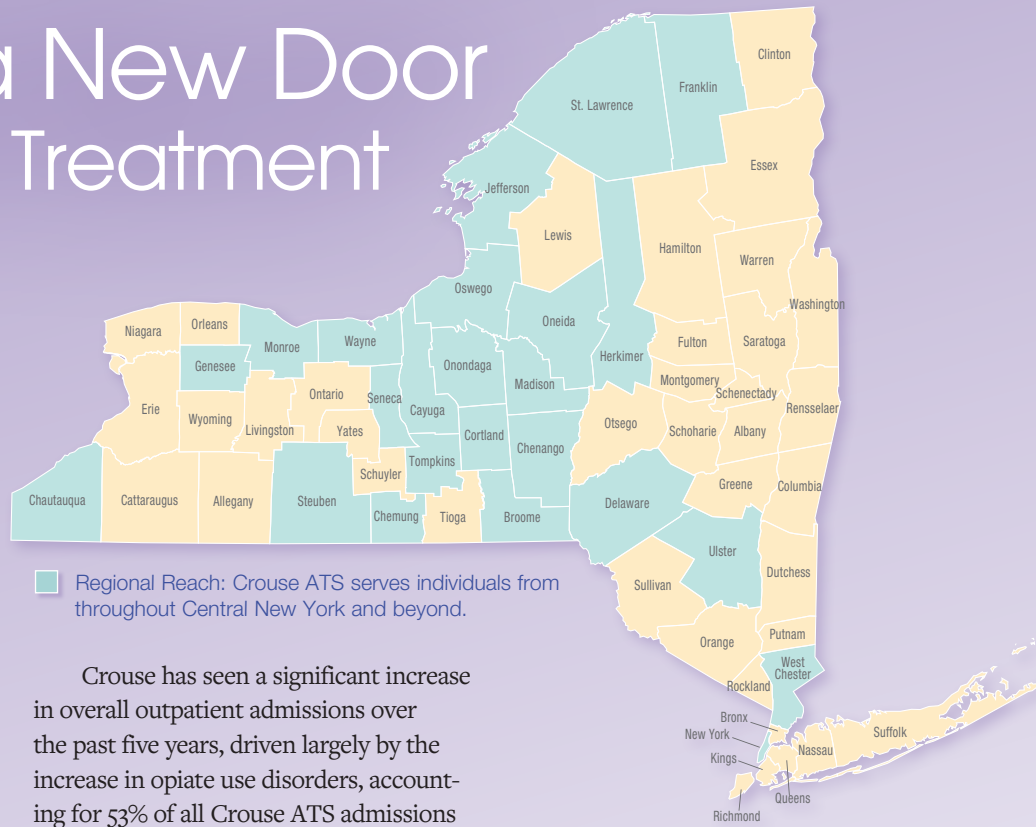
# Opening a New Door to Addiction Treatment

Since 1963, Crouse Health has been helping individuals and families take back their lives and experience a fresh start, free from drugs and alcohol. Following a year of construction, Crouse is proud to welcome patients to the new Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center in Syracuse. The two-story, 42,000 square-foot facility at 2775 Erie Blvd., East, replaces the 100-year-old former location of Crouse's outpatient treatment services at 410 South Crouse Avenue.

## Serving Diverse Population

Addiction affects all, regardless of background, race, religion or ethnicity. "Crouse Addiction Treatment Services (ATS) proudly serves a diverse population that reflects the entire socio-economic spectrum," says Crouse President and CEO Kimberly Boynton. "With the opening of our new center, we remain committed to our mission to expand access to care and ensure delivery of high-quality, holistic addiction and mental health treatment in our community," says Boynton.

Tolani Ajagbe, MD, ATS medical director, emphasizes the increased square footage will accommodate an additional 300+ patients annually in a welcoming, safe and nurturing environment, as well as allow Crouse to expand the integration of medical services, including primary care.



Regional Reach: Crouse ATS serves individuals from throughout Central New York and beyond.

Crouse has seen a significant increase in overall outpatient admissions over the past five years, driven largely by the increase in opiate use disorders, accounting for 53% of all Crouse ATS admissions during 2020. "With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the number of overdoses has increased significantly across the U.S. and here in Central New York," says Dr. Ajagbe.

## Treatment Leadership

Recognizing Crouse's longtime leadership role in addiction treatment, the New York State Department of Health and the Empire State Development Corporation awarded Crouse \$17 million to fund the purchase of land and construction. Local individuals and foundations have also made donations to assist in growing some of the unique offerings and activities that are hallmarks of Crouse's addiction treatment services.

Included in the facility design is a recreation therapy courtyard; staff courtyard; expanded and separate men's and women's rehabilitation areas; medical suite, meditation room; and staff multi-purpose rooms, each interactive and smartboard equipped.

The building also includes a Life Skills Lab, used to teach meal preparation, laundry tasks, and employability skills to provide participants with the tools to navigate life in recovery. The main areas of the building are oriented around a plant-filled central courtyard, which provides daylight and a calming environment for patients and staff.





## Creating a Healing Environment

A number of features in the new location evolved from focus groups held with both patients and staff members during the planning process, including design of the courtyard and artwork for the public spaces.

“This truly is a transformative project,” says Crouse Chief Operating Officer/Chief Medical Officer Seth Kronenberg, MD. “We have never been more determined to dedicate our expertise and experience to ensure our community overcomes this devastating public health issue, made even more challenging by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.”

Reflecting its history and leadership as a regional treatment provider, Crouse continues to serve as a major rotation site

University; Le Moyne College; and other local and regional institutions.

The expanded Pomeroy location will allow Crouse to significantly increase the number of providers

**“We remain committed to holistic addiction and mental health treatment in our community.”**

— Kimberly Boynton  
Crouse President and CEO

trained in addiction medicine, adds Dr. Ajagbe. “We’re looking forward to working with our community partners to expand the training program

and generate more interest in the growing field of addiction medicine.”

## Serving Diverse Population

Crouse’s outpatient programs serve patients from 23 counties in New York State, with the majority coming from Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, Cayuga, Oswego and Jefferson counties. In 2020, the service logged more than 151,000 patient visits.

Crouse targets all segments of the population, including adults; adolescents;



for addiction services medical training, providing hands-on experience for medical students, residents and fellows who come through on a monthly rotation from Kings College in Pennsylvania; SUNY Upstate

pregnant and post-partum women; seniors; developmentally delayed/brain injured patients; patients involved in the criminal justice system; and those with co-occurring mental health and substance use issues.

## PROGRAMS

Crouse Health’s Addiction Treatment Services has been helping individuals and families take back their lives and experience a fresh start, free from drugs and alcohol, since 1963.

### Opioid Treatment Program

- Medication assisted treatment (Methadone, Suboxone and Vivitrol)
- Individual and group therapy and education

### Adult Programs

#### Hospital-based

- Addiction Medicine consult
- Planning and referral for continued treatment
- Certified Recovery Peer Advocates available to all Crouse patients with Substance Use Disorder
- Suboxone provided in the Emergency Department, along with transition to ongoing care

#### Inpatient Rehabilitation

- Residential care at Commonwealth Place
- Medical and biopsychosocial assessment
- Structured treatment planning
- Daily therapy and education
- Aftercare arrangements

### Outpatient Clinic Programs

#### Older Adults Recovery Service

- Intensive program for adults over 50
- Meets three days a week
- Continuing care group

#### Women’s Program

- Individual, group and intensive program
- Pregnant and postpartum services
- Works with local medical and social services

#### HYPE – Healthy Young People Excel

- Designed for young men 18 to 27
- Individual, group and intensive program

#### Day Treatment

- Meets five times a week
- Individual, group and family therapy
- Activities of daily living therapy

#### Structured Outpatient Programs

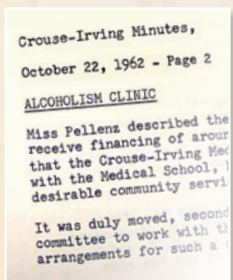
- Meets three times a week
- Mornings and evenings available

All programs provide patients with access to certified recovery peer advocates, a vocational counselor and addiction psychiatrist as part of their comprehensive treatment.



# A History of Treating the Disease of

## 1962



### Fall 1962

Onondaga County Executive John Mulroy proclaims an Alcoholism Information Week, noting that an estimated 14,000 local residents are afflicted. "Alcoholism is a disease," he said, "but it can be treated."

Crouse-Ing Memorial Hospital's Board of Directors votes to explore the creation of an alcoholism clinic as a "desirable community service."



### February 1963

New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller signs an agreement with Onondaga County to establish an outpatient alcoholism clinic in Syracuse. The first of its kind in the state, the clinic would be located in a general hospital to ensure the availability of related inpatient services, with Crouse-Ing Memorial Hospital chosen as its home.

### June 1963

Crouse-Ing Memorial Hospital opens the Robert G. Soule Clinic, a program dedicated to the treatment of alcoholism, in a hospital-owned house at 775 Irving Avenue. The facility is named to honor Robert G. Soule — a local businessman and civic leader who served as the President of the Onondaga County Committee on Alcoholism — to recognize his leadership in the fight against the disease.



### Crouse-Ing Clinic Opens for Persons Losing Alcoholism Battle

A new clinic that treats with alcoholism is set to open at the Crouse-Ing Memorial Hospital. The clinic is a new addition to the hospital's services for alcoholism treatment.

### September 1963

A ribbon cutting ceremony is held to dedicate the Soule Clinic. More than 100 guests, including public officials and board members, tour the facilities and meet the staff.



### March 1966

To accommodate the growing needs of the program, the upper floors of the clinic building are renovated to include a large meeting room for group therapy sessions, a staff conference room and staff offices. Prior to this time, only the first floor of the building was used for services and activities.



### May 1968

Crouse-Ing and Syracuse Memorial Hospitals merge to become Crouse-Ing Memorial Hospital. Construction of a new hospital building, adjacent to the Memorial building, is completed in 1976, with three more floors added to the "Irving Unit" in 1985. The proximity of these inpatient beds to the Soule Clinic's outpatient program supports the needs of patients who require admission for medical detoxification services.

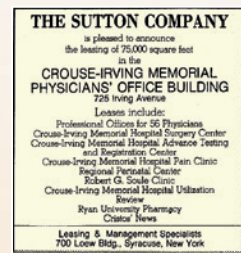
### September 1975

The Soule Clinic adds a drug clinic and outpatient therapy program, taking over these services from St. Mary's Hospital.



### December 1977

The Soule Counseling and Treatment Center moves operations into the new Physicians' Office Building at 739 Irving Avenue and adds a day treatment program to its outpatient services. Crouse-Ing Memorial Hospital also takes over medical detoxification and rehabilitation services for alcoholics from nearby A.C. Silverman Public Health Hospital.



### Winter 1988

Crouse-Ing Memorial Chemical Dependency Treatment Services move into leased, newly-renovated headquarters at 410 South Crouse Avenue, doubling patient capacity.



### Summer 1989

Crouse-Ing Memorial Hospital receives approval from the New York State Division of Alcoholism and the state's Division of Substance Abuse for a 40-bed residential treatment center in Dewitt. The opening of the facility, One Commonwealth Place, is scheduled for the fall and will allow patients to work toward recovery in a focused setting.



# f Addiction

## 2021

### December 2007

Crouse Hospital purchases the building at 410 South Crouse Avenue, as the demand for services grows.



### March 2017

Crouse Health physicians and staff have been recognized as experts in the field of addiction treatment for six decades. In addition to working with patients and their families, Crouse representatives present at community forums and regional educational programs, and train practitioners for this much-needed specialty. They are also frequently called upon to participate in events sponsored by federal and state officials, such as this town hall meeting focusing on the opioid crisis held in Oswego on March 30, 2017, sponsored by Congressman John Katko.

### September 2009

Commonwealth Place becomes an Article 28 facility under New York State law, meaning its operations must follow the same regulations and participate in the same annual inspections as all other public health-care facilities.



### May 2017

Growing demand for services leads to the need for a larger home for outpatient treatment. New York State funding is secured to build a new, expanded facility and planning begins with input from physicians, staff, patients and industry experts.

### August 2020

Site work and construction begins on land located at 2775 Erie Blvd., East in Syracuse. The location provides the space needed for a large and modern facility, in proximity to public transportation and major roadways, as well as ample parking and outdoor spaces. Construction is estimated to take about 11 months.



### June 2021

A ribbon cutting ceremony is held to officially open the Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center, ushering in a new era in addiction treatment services for our region.



### The Door to Recovery

When Crouse's Addiction Treatment Services relocated to the 410 South Crouse Avenue location in 1988, this door had already served as the entrance to the building for many years. In the decades that followed, determined patients and dedicated staff passed through the door, making it a true gateway to new possibilities. We are now pleased to put its craftsmanship — and its history — on display as a symbol of the recovery process.



# Addiction Treatment Requires Multidisciplinary Approach



By Monika Taylor, MBA, LCSW, CASAC,  
Director, Addiction Treatment Services

**O**ur team is excited about the much anticipated move to our new facility, the Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center. The stunning structure features new equipment and furnishings, advanced technology and treatment areas, as well calming environmental spaces — inside and out — to promote holistic healing.

Working with our Engineering Department team and a number of locally-based companies, our addiction treatment employees contributed to the entire concept and design process with one end in mind: the care and well-being of our patients.

I am proud of the work they do and for the ideas and expertise they shared to make our new home for outpatient services the best it can be. We are also pleased to have incorporated many other design ideas gathered during patient focus groups.

Addiction treatment requires an experienced, multidisciplinary healthcare team that develops a plan tailored to meet the specific treatment and recovery needs of each patient. Our staff includes psychiatrists, a psychologist, board-certified physicians, credentialed and licensed counselors and therapists, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, therapy aides, therapeutic recreation specialists, and certified recovery peer advocates, in addition to admitting and administrative support staff.

As we settle into to our new treatment setting, one thing remains the same: our dedication to the recovery journey and health of our patients.

## Need Addiction Treatment Services?

If you or someone you know needs assistance with substance abuse, call **315-470-8304**.

## Valued Community Partnerships

The Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center at Crouse Health is proud to partner with the following agencies and organizations to support and extend treatment and post-treatment services for our patients:

Access–VR–Adult Career and Continuing Education Services–Vocational Rehabilitation  
ACR Health  
Belly O'So Pregnant  
Catholic Charities: The Lullaby League & Hope Connections  
Center for Community Alternatives  
Children's Consortium  
Circare  
CNY Behavioral Health Care Collaborative  
Conifer Park  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Enjoy Chi  
Helio Health  
Hutchings Psychiatric Center  
Liberty Resources  
March of Dimes  
NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision  
Onondaga County Department of Health  
Onondaga County Department of Probation  
Onondaga County Department of Social Services  
Onondaga County Drug Task Force  
Onondaga County Healthy Start  
Opiate Court  
Prevention Network  
Syracuse Community Health Center – FQHC  
Syracuse Community Treatment Court  
Syracuse Recovery Services  
Tully Hill  
U.S. Department of Probation  
Vera House

# Crouse Auxiliary Assists Recovery with Clothing Closet



By Jeffrey Pawlowski, President, Crouse Hospital Auxiliary

**T**hose working on recovery may lack the resources to secure tangible items that help establish feelings of security and self-esteem: personal toiletries and clothing.

That's why the members of the Crouse Hospital Auxiliary are creating a well-stocked closet at the Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center.

For more than a century, the Auxiliary has existed to enhance care and the patient experience at Crouse Hospital. Each year, the organization provides funding for hospital needs.

The Auxiliary Board of Directors sees this project as the perfect opportunity for collaboration with the staff and patients of Crouse's Addiction Treatment Services. We plan to hold seasonal clothing drives, seeking

donations of gently-used items for men, women, children and infants.

When individuals come into our programs for treatment, they can now take a hot shower with toiletries to keep and will receive a set of clothing to wear. Items such as clean underwear and socks, something most people take for granted, are greatly appreciated. The clothing closet will also benefit patients' families in need.

The hope is that providing clothing will boost individual confidence levels. We'd especially like to receive clothing that will help patients dress appropriately for job interviews as they work to get back into life's daily activities.

For more information about how to donate to the ATS Clothing Closet, visit [crouse.org/atscloset](http://crouse.org/atscloset).



**Crouse Health worked with a number of locally-based companies to design and build the new facility, including** The Hayner Hoyt Corporation; King + King Architects; ASM Engineering; and Klepper, Hahn & Hyatt. Pyramid Brokerage worked with the hospital to identify potential site locations for the new facility. We thank these firms for their commitment to the project.