



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
April 1, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-1-2020 at 4:30) there are 356 confirmed cases and 2 deaths in the County.

- Gender, age and geographic distributions of cases are available on the [Health Department website](#).

Today is Census Day!

- Please respond to the Census today at www.my2020census.gov and encourage others to do so.
 - Please contact Andrea.Stanford@AlleghenyCounty.us for additional resources and messaging to share with clients.
- August 14th is the new deadline. To date, 39.8% of Allegheny County households have responded.

Web Communication

- Please update your websites with any changes to your operations, such as hours, to help our clients better find services.
- Be aware of phishing scams that are going around. If you see any emails coming from DHS with a suspicious link or attachment, do not click on it and please report it to us.

Funding Impact

- DHS is aware that our network of contracted providers is experiencing increased expenses and lost revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We're engaging in active communications with funding agencies to identify fiscal solutions to these challenges.
- DHS will implement solutions as they're identified and will work with providers on implementation of identified solutions.
 - Providers will be engaged via email, and remote meetings will be held via Teams.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program RFP

- DHS is posting an RFP today for three different types of projects to be funded through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant that DHS received from HUD.
- For the most part we are not publishing RFPs right now, but we must publish this one because we are required to submit our selected projects to HUD by July 1.
- The RFP will be live on the [DHS Solicitations website](#) after 5 p.m.
 - An announcement email will be sent to all providers tomorrow.
 - Proposals will be due 5-1-2020, with program start dates of 10-1-2020.

We are continuing to improve our website, now located at www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSPROVIDERS.

- You can find daily briefings, slides and frequently asked questions.
- We're posting information under various subjects like child welfare, food assistance, homelessness and housing, and payments and DHS operations. We keep adding things to these sections so keep checking back.
- You can reach us by email at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us. We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.

Staffing Challenges

- Across the network, we are most concerned about staffing. When you have used all your staff resources and invoked all your contingency plans, please notify your Deputy Director or DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYcounty.us to help you solve your staffing issues.

Legislative/Policy Updates

State and local updates

- PA will receive grants through the CARES ACT from the federal government, totaling \$160.5M.
 - \$25 million has been allocated to Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.
 - Funds are distributed as Community Development Block Grants, Emergency Solutions Grants and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Grants.

Food

The Food Bank has received national attention for their great work getting food out to people!

Marnie Schilken from the Food Bank joined the call to share the following request:

- When referring people to the Food Bank or any of our distribution site/activities, please look at our website in real-time, because our distribution locations and hours are ever-changing. Do not use hard copy fliers.

Emergency “Last Resort” Food Access procedure is available for families that have exhausted all options:

- COVID-19 positive households.
- Households that lack the ability to leave the house and are without any options for delivery in their area.

Call 2-1-1 and a delivery will be arranged.

AAA food information

- ACCESS stepped up to help us with home-delivered meals in Tarentum.
- We are further reducing deliveries to one day per week, in most cases, to further limit social contact and risk to seniors.

Program Updates

AAA

- We are currently assembling emergency supply boxes for very vulnerable populations. Our emergency care management and OAPS personnel will be able to access these.
- Our Personal Emergency Response Systems providers found a way to do “contact-free” device installation.
- The following topics have been added to our Senior Line template so that callers are routinely provided with additional information at each call:
 - Education about the risk of COVID-19-related scams
 - Food resources and referral for any senior not currently registered at a senior center

- Addressing social isolation and loneliness by asking if the caller wants to be connected to a resource for a friendly, social check-in call

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@alleghenycounty.us or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
 - There are still about 230 open slots.
 - There is adequate funding but getting this funding to providers and families quickly is a challenge.
 - We have identified two additional childcare needs:
 - We are working on childcare for COVID-19 positive households.
 - Jeremiah's place is open for crisis respite care for families that need support
 - Hours are 7am - 7pm Monday – Friday.
 - Referrals can be made on behalf of families, from case workers/social workers.
 - Capacity is very limited, given the circumstances, so availability is on a first-come/first-served basis.
 - Call Jeremiah's Place at 412-924-0726 from 9am-5pm to make arrangements.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - We continue to work on isolation and quarantine space.
 - As a reminder, the CYF Youth Facility (FamilyLinks Teen Healing Center) is open! We hope to announce opening dates for the other two facilities soon.
 - The NOFA process for this year will likely be delayed.
 - DHS plans to start the pre-application process in late May or Early June.
 - The provider call occurs on Tuesdays at 9:30am.
 - DHS is working to schedule a call with emergency shelters and the Health Department. Contact Kate Holko (Kathryn.Holko@alleghenycounty.us) if you are interested in participating.

Behavioral Health

- Early Refill Availability for Prescriptions for Medicaid Recipients:
 - [PA DHS has directed](#) state's Medicaid Management Care Organizations (MCOs) to allow Medicaid recipients to obtain early refills of all prescriptions
 - Directive extends to both recipients covered by HealthChoices managed care organizations and fee-for-service Medicaid
- OMHSAS visitation guidance for Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs), Long-Term Structured Residences (LTSRs) and Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRRs) services is available.
 - Adult Facilities Guidance can be found [here](#).
 - Child Facilities Guidance can be found [here](#).
- Learning Opportunities and Resources

- Provider meeting is scheduled for tomorrow April 2nd at 10am. See slide for call-in information
- [SAMHSA Webinar](#) for treatment of SUD during COVID-19 Pandemic is scheduled for 4/2 at 12pm.
- [DDAP MAT Training Opportunity](#)
- Early intervention
 - This week, initial evaluations are nearly returning to their pre-COVID-19 levels (back up to 75/week, compared to 100/week pre-COVID)
 - We are getting positive feedback on tele-intervention services.

OID/Autism

- Allegheny County OID is having weekly meetings with the Supports Coordination Organizations. They have increased their communications with families, especially those most vulnerable. They are reaching families every way that they can. If you have a family in mind that needs support, call the appropriate supports coordination unit or our office.
- Health Care Quality Unit (HCQU), KEYPRO has announced modification to their [online training](#) in order to support increased number of staff who may be tapping into their curriculum. They have also highlighted some trainings relative to Coronavirus.
- [ODP Announcement 20-034](#), Provisional Hiring Process for staff serving Older Adults suspends the fingerprinting requirement for hiring new provisional staff.

CYF

- As a reminder, the Teen Healing Center, run by Family Links and Dr. Miller, is open.
 - To access the center, providers should contact CYF Call Center at 412-473-2000 and indicate that a youth is presenting symptoms of COVID19.
- Please share this [Virtual Visit video from our partners at A Second Chance Inc.](#) with families. It walks a family through how they can participate in a virtual visit and what to expect.

Courts/Jail

- The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a second supplemental order today, April 1, 2020, extending the general statewide judicial emergency and directing that all Pennsylvania Courts shall remain generally closed to the public until April 30, 2020.
 - The closure directive is subject to certain exceptions contained in the Court's March 18 order and today's order.
 - Today's order authorizes President Judges to declare judicial emergencies through May 31, 2020, or for part of that period, as they deem it appropriate based on local conditions.

Transportation

- We are working on transportation plans for folks with serious medical needs or who are COVID19 positive.

How to Reach Us

- Email us at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us with questions. Use the subject line to indicate the type of question you are submitting (e.g., program area, DHS operations).
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

SEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED AT TODAY'S CALL