



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
May 28, 2020



General Information

County Manager, Rich Fitzgerald, will participate on the call on Monday, June 1st at 4:30 pm.

[Stories from the Frontline: Human Services in Allegheny County](#) are being published to share our collective experiences.

- Please share and help get the word out about the critical work you all do, this helps us to communicate the value of our sector.
- Contact Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.Ua to tell us your story or idea and a DHS staff member will help you write it if you wish.
- Download branded templates to write your own stories and badges to upload to your organization's website.
- Add a frame to your Facebook profile photo: <https://www.facebook.com/ACDHS/>.

Local Grantmaking

Today we are joined by representatives from the POISE Foundation and the Forbes Funds.

Karris Jackson, POISE Foundation

- Focus to Date
 - They immediately put out a survey to grantees and small-to-mid-sized black-led organizations to gather information about needs, followed by focus groups.
 - The following areas emerged, which they adopted as their priority areas through the critical community needs fund:
 - Critical life sustaining community needs, including food, housing and transportation
 - Mental, emotional and social health
 - Faith based organizations because the black church plays a critical role in meeting needs
 - Information dissemination
 - Urban gardening
 - Black businesses
 - Digital divide for students, families and seniors
 - They just released the first round of grants, with 31 grants totaling \$320,000, and will release 2-3 more rounds.
- Future Plans
 - They will continue to source their priority areas from the people on the ground. They will continue to listen closely to organizations and be as flexible as possible.
 - They can improve turnaround times and their practices to help grantees more quickly.
 - They will continue to focus on small black-led organizations.

Olivia Benson, The Forbes Funds and Hannah Locop, GPNP

- Focus to Date
 - They have been providing additional support to the nonprofit sector.
 - They began hosting [Monday Calls for Community Solutions](#) at 10 am, where they bring on experts and hold space for nonprofits to collaborate with one another on internal and external challenges.

- They coordinate, convene and capacity build and have moved all of these services to a virtual environment.
 - They are loaning out Zoom capacity to nonprofits
 - They have continued grantmaking work, loosening restrictions to help organizations survive
 - Over the summer they will be hosting learning cohorts around risk assessment, HR and advocacy.
- Future
 - They were just awarded a large grant from the Heinz Endowments to enhance programming in targeted communities
 - This Monday they have an [open Public Policy Committee meeting](#) to establish an actionable agenda for our sector and our region's residents.
 - They have a [Nonprofit Workforce Survey](#) out to understand how nonprofits are experiencing the continued crisis.
 - They are looking at additional partnerships locally and nationally to direct resources to communities that need it the most.
- You can share your ideas about how foundations can best support our social safety net at DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us

Essential Health & Human Services Recruitment Platform Update

- 70 candidates have applied and 24 provider agencies have onboarded.
 - The available candidates have an interest in working with a wide variety of populations.
 - 74% are willing to work with persons potentially exposed to COVID-19.
 - Most candidates have active clearances.
- If you are an agency that would like to gain access to this recruitment platform and these potential candidates, request access via: https://bit.ly/SWPA_HHSprovider.
- Candidates can learn more and indicate their interest in open positions at https://bit.ly/SWPA_HHSopportunities.
- Training & support site: <https://bit.ly/swpa-support>

COVID-19 Metrics

Allegheny County is below the following benchmarks:

- Testing capacity: but we are seeing more people being tested recently

Allegheny County is almost meeting the following benchmarks:

- Decline in new cases or low number of new cases: we have seen a 10% increase in cases over the last week, but our overall cases are really low.
- Decline in total hospitalizations: we have not seen a sustained 14-day decline; we have seen declines but they have not been sustained.
- ICU Bed Capacity: we are seeing more ICU beds being used due to the resumption of elective surgeries.
- Reproduction number below 1: U Penn is projecting that we will decline below 1 in Allegheny County.

Allegheny County is meeting the following benchmarks:

- New cases below threshold: this has been declining for some time

- Decline in deaths
- Percent positive tests: we have been under 10% since April 16th

We are continuing to improve our website, located at www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders.

- The [Operational Changes Tracker](#) is now live.
- You can reach us by email at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us. We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.

Legislative/Policy Updates

Federal Updates

- 5th federal stimulus bill: US Senate Majority Leader McConnell sees a bill to aid state and local governments "likely" in the next two months.
 - Sen. McConnell is interested in a much narrower bill than the \$3T HEROES Act passed in the House and including liability protections for businesses sued over coronavirus-related issues.
 - However, there is no agreement on next steps with the House, so path to enacted legislation is unclear.

State and local updates

- PA House and today the PA Senate have passed the stopgap 2020-2021 State Budget bill, which is expected to be signed by the Governor this week.
 - Funds the Budget at the 2019-2020 amounts for 5 months, through Nov. 30th, with the exception of most Education line items, which are funded for the full fiscal year. This gives us five months of stable funding, which is good news in the short term.
 - Budget for the remainder of fiscal year 2020-2021 must be passed before December 1st for the final 7 months of the fiscal year.
- PA House Appropriations passing a bill today to begin appropriating \$3.9 billion in federal CARES funds received for distribution by the State.
 - \$2.6 billion total, going to nursing homes (\$632m), intellectual and disability waiver (\$259m), and child-care and development fund block grant (\$106m), among other items.
 - Remaining \$1.3 billion held in reserve for future COVID-related spending.
- Pittsburgh URA preparing a small business recovery loan program to implement at the end of June.
 - Will extend as much as \$75,000 to owners trying to rehire staff or restock inventory. Funds were supplied by CDBG and private corporate capital.
 - Final approval needed at URA June Board Meeting to implement.

Food

As a reminder, If you are interested in partnering with the Pittsburgh Food Bank to provide food to your community, please complete this survey: bit.ly/PFB-partner. As a community partner, you would help distribute food boxes and produce.

Farmers to Families Program

- As a reminder, these five schools will be distributing boxes of produce every Thursday at 10 am, beginning today, 5/28/20:
 - Milliones, 3117 Centre Ave
 - Carmalt, 1550 Breining Street
 - Perry, 3875 Perrysville Ave
 - Faison, 7430 Tioga Street
 - The Gifted Center, 1400 Crucible Street
- There are no income requirements to access the food.

The Food Access Call is on Tuesdays at 3:30 pm. Call-in information can be found in the slide presentation.

AAA food information

- Kick-off date for Farmers Market Vouchers is set for June 16th, but details are still being finalized.

Program Updates

AAA

- We can expect some reopening guidance regarding protective services coming from a state workgroup soon.

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us or 412-350-3577).
 - The County put out [Allegheny County Health and Safety Guidance](#) around summer camps. Please review and reach out to Amy Malen at Amy.Malen@AlleghenyCounty.us with questions.
 - As a reminder, the new Allegheny Child Care tool launched! You can search for childcare spots in your area using information such as age and address. Providers are still being listed on the site, and it will become more useful once more providers are added. <https://tryingtogether.org/find-child-care/>
 - Gwen's Girls is continuing their remote tutoring throughout the summer. To register, go to www.gwensgirls.org or call 412-904-4239.
 - Next Wednesday and Thursday (6/3 and 6/4) will be the last PPS packet distribution.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - As a reminder, Quarantine and Isolation spaces are open and have available spaces.
 - To make a referral for a family, Contact Remy Harris (Remy.Harris@allegHENYcounty.us)
 - Homeless referrals: Jessica.McKown@allegHENYcounty.us
 - Office of Behavioral Health referrals: Diane.Johnson@allegHENYcounty.us
 - Allegheny County Jail referrals: Jennifer.Batterton@allegHENYcounty.us
 - Immigrants and Internationals referrals: bgreen@jfcspgh.org

- As a reminder, we received our first delivery of client cell phones.
 - Contact Gabe Krivosh (Gabriel.Krivosh@allegHENYcounty.us) for more information.
- Chartiers Center has a pool of funds available to provide utility assistance, as well as counseling on budgeting and paying for utilities, to individuals in need being served by the continuum of care in the homeless services system.
 - To learn more, contact Felicia Nolan: fnolan@chartierscenter.org.
- Provider Network Meeting is held every other Tuesday at 9:30 am; call-in information can be found in the slide presentation. Our next meeting is on June 9th focusing on behavioral health.

Behavioral Health

- CMS Medicare requirements have been finalized; for more information consult this [fact sheet](#).
- PA DHS issued a Policy Clarification on Pre-Authorization Requirements. CCBH has provided a [summary](#).
- Webinar Opportunities
 - SAMHSA's Technical Assistance Center Presents: [Implementing Best Practices and Improving Collaboration for Crisis Care and Suicide Prevention among High-Risk SMVF](#)
 - June 10th, 1:30-3:00 pm
 - DDAP virtual 6-hour trainings are being offered:
 - [Screening and Assessment](#) on June 8th, 9th and 10th
 - [Ethics](#) on June 2nd, 3rd and 4th
- Early Intervention
 - 84% of all children are receiving all recommended services via teleintervention.
 - Referrals are slowly increasing but are still down 28% compared to last year.

OID/Autism

- No new updates since 5/21/2020
- As a reminder, continue to follow local information and directives, along with the PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs. There are links to COVID-19 updates on MyODP.org <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>.

CYF

- Efforts to support CYF staff's mental health include daily affirmations and shout outs, Good Apple Award and trauma-focused webinars.
- CRO caseworker and LGBTQIA champion Jason Lucarelli organized an agency-wide training on June 5th to promote a comprehensive understanding of Pride.
- We are sharing youth messaging developed by youth, including an internet safety tip sheet, especially since we know youth are spending more time online.
- We will continue our We Rock Virtual Workshop.. It will include a talent challenge, educational workshop, recording sessions and final show on June 25th.
 - The Zoom forums are open every Thursday through June 18th
 - Visit www.facebook.com/WeRockWorkshop

Courts/Jail

- No new updates since 5/7/2020.

Transportation

- No new updates since 5/14/2020.

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).
- The COVID Hotline is 2-1-1 and the Health Department's line is 412-687-2243.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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