



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
June 18, 2020



General Information

As a reminder, we are holding DHS Provider Meetings only once per week, on Thursdays.

[Green Phase Guidance](#) has been posted to the Provider Site.

You are invited to DHS's Virtual Human Services Block Grant Public Meetings on Monday, June 29th at 4:30 pm or Tuesday, June 30th at 4:30 pm. Please help us spread the word.

- To hear the live audio, see the live video and participate in the Q&A, join on your computer, smartphone or tablet by visiting <https://bit.ly/2N5AVCX>. To hear the live audio only, call (267) 368-7515. The access code for Monday's meeting is 172 596 105# and the access code for Tuesday's meeting is 746 312 327#.
- Send us your questions, comments and ideas: Via email at DHS-Ideas@AlleghenyCounty.US or via the Q&A feature during the live meeting.
- Information on the Human Services Block Grant Plan is available at <https://bit.ly/3dcqbgo>. To read the previous Block Grant Plans, visit <https://bit.ly/3ebyWIR>.

The Forbes Funds is holding a Scenario Planning for COVID-19 and Beyond Cohort Series. For more information, contact info@forbesfunds.org.

These briefing topics were most popular on last week's survey and will be covered in future briefings:

1. Planning: we are excited to share the planning work we've done around the next year and to get your feedback.
2. Changes to Operations
3. Future Funding Landscape

We will continue to poll you to get your input on how these meetings should take shape over time.

Kathy Heinz, DHS Contract Manager, joined the call to share updates on the 2020 Contract Process.

- We are hoping to get all contracts executed by August 1st.
- We are currently in phases 1 and 2, we are collecting documents and asking that you prepare budgets and fill out your D&A forms. We urge you to return those documents as quickly as possible.
- Phases 3 and 4 are final preparation and signatures & finalization.
 - We have about 1/3 of contracts issued or ready to go out the door.
- Contact your contract lead with any questions. You can find your assigned contract lead in the Master Provider Enterprise Repository (MPER).
 - Ambika Dason, 412-350-2738 adason@alleghenycounty.us
 - Barbara Mongelluzzo, 412-350-7329 bmongelluzzo@alleghenycounty.us
 - Carrie Schutrick, 412-350-4922, cschutrick@alleghenycounty.us
 - Jennifer Wernert, 412-350-6316 jwernert@alleghenycounty.us
 - Laura Brigido, 412-350-5258 lbrigido@alleghenycounty.us
 - Placid (PJ) Larouere, 412-350-6904 plarouere@alleghenycounty.us

COVID-19 Metrics

Allegheny County is below the following benchmark:

- Diagnostic testing capacity: we are working with the Health Department on this metric. Testing has not been increasing.

Allegheny County is meeting the following benchmarks:

- Decline in new cases: we continue to see a decrease during the green phase
- New cases below threshold: we have always been below the PA threshold over a rolling 14-day period. UPenn projects that new cases will continue to decline.
- Decline in total hospitalizations: the number of serious cases is decreasing.
- Decline in Deaths: We have a very low death rate and a decline in deaths.
- ICU bed capacity: we have not hit 90%. We continue to hover around 76%.
- Percent of Positive tests: our average positive rate is low at about 1.4% and declining
- Rate of transmission below 1: UPenn projects this will continue to stay below 1.

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.
- Please submit stories and photos of how you are meeting needs during this time to Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US

Legislative/Policy Updates

No new updates since 6/8/2020.

Food

There is a Farmers to Families distribution happening in the Hill District this Saturday from 10 am-noon at 1850 Centre Ave.

There are two Drive-Up Food Distributions happening next week:

1. Food Bank, Monday, June 22, 10 a-noon (1 N Linden Street in Duquesne)
2. Highmark Stadium, Thursday, June 25, 10 am - noon

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

AAA food information

- No new updates since 6/4/2020.

Program Updates

AAA

- No new updates since 6/11/2020.

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@alleghenycounty.us or 412-350-3577).
 - The new Allegheny Child Care tool is live. You can search for childcare spots in your area using information such as age and address at <https://tryingtogether.org/find-child-care/>.
- Care Mobile has added more [locations and dates!](#) Here is an [updated flyer](#).
- There is a Drive-up Diaper distribution scheduled for next Thursday, June 25th from 10 am-noon at PPG Paints Arena.
 - Families and caregivers of young children who are experiencing financial hardship are invited to line up by car outside PPG Paints Arena to receive (at no cost to families):
 - 1 case (four packages) of diapers per car
 - 1 package of wipes per car
- Proactive outreach to families during COVID
 - Families who recently closed with CYF.
 - We provided names and contact info to DHS and Family Center staff, who called the families and simply asked them if they needed anything and made referrals when appropriate. We reached out to 423 families and reached 105; resources were offered to 94 families. Top needs included food, housing and childcare.
 - We hope to increase contacts like this going forward.
 - Families with newborns who might need additional support.
 - Hello Baby's full program launch is on hold, but Healthy Start launched a simple process. Magee made referrals to Healthy Start, who dropped off a basket of essentials and asked the family if they needed any other support. We got 151 referrals at about 20 referrals per week. We are reaching high percentages of families and have delivered 51 diaper boxes.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - As a reminder, [DHS guidance](#) has been posted today for our residential programs, please review it. It covers sanitation, social distancing, accepting new clients and other important information.
 - HUD Rule Change on Verification of Eligible Status
 - This rule would require verification of immigration status under covered programs. However, CoC housing programs are not covered programs and do not fall under this rule. CoC permanent housing programs are required to verify eligibility for the Head of Household or spouse ONLY. Contact Kate Holko (Kathryn.Holko@AlleghenyCounty.US) with questions.
 - Upcoming Trainings
 - [Point Source Youth weekly webinars](#)
 - [NAEH Nationwide Virtual Town Hall on Ending Homelessness](#) on July 15th
 - Quarantine and Isolation spaces are still open for individuals and families 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
- DHS has run out of client cell phones. If you are still interested in getting one, contact Gabe Krivosh (Gabriel.Krivosh@alleghenycounty.us) for more information. You can use HUD funds within specific parameters to get phones.
- We've moved the Provider Network Meeting to every other Tuesday at 9:30 am. Call-in information can be found in the slide presentation. Our next meeting is on June 23rd.

Behavioral Health

- OMHSAS announced that continuation payments will go through September. More details coming.
- Testing Guidance from OMHSAS
 - OMHSAS provided [specific guidance](#) yesterday covering important categories: Long Term Structured Residences, Community Residential Rehabilitation and Residential Treatment Facilities
- Training Opportunities
 - DDAP's [Compassion Fatigue Training](#) June 23, 9 – 11 am and June 30, 9:30 – 11 am
 - DDAP's [Providing Telehealth Recovery Support Services During COVID-19](#) June 23rd, 10 am – Noon
 - [ASAM Risk Rating Training](#) online module
 - [Medicaid/Medical Assistance Eligibility Webinar](#) July 8th from 3-4 pm, open to public
- Applications are open for [National Health Service Corps New Site Application](#)
- [New SAMHSA Publication: Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorders](#) This guide supports health care providers, systems and communities seeking to treat stimulant use disorders.
- As a reminder, We encourage you to share the [PMHCS Virtual Warm Line](#),
- Early Intervention
 - No new updates since 6/4/2020.

OID/Autism

- These announcements are most important to review at this time:
 - [ODP Announcement 20-072](#): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) At-a-Glance Reopening Guide
 - [ODP Announcement 20-031](#): Retainer Payments to CPS Providers
 - [ODP Announcement 20-070](#): CARES Act Funding for Providers of ODP Waiver Services
 - [ODP Announcement 20-074](#): CPS Retainer Payment Update
- Continue to follow local information and directives, along with PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs. Links to COVID-19 updates can be found on MyODP.org, <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>.

CYF

- We anticipate increased stability in service delivery in the green phase.
- We continue to team around provider reopening through provider weekly calls, chat sessions with providers and reopening plans from agencies.

- The CDC website has added helpful visual aids that can support your reopening efforts.
- PA Fingerprinting & Clearances update
 - As of today, 84 fingerprinting sites are open across the state.
 - If your clearances require renewal in the fall, please renew this summer to avert backlogs.
 - Individuals should call IDEMIA Customer Service using the toll-free number 1-844-321-2101 to confirm a location's operating status. Masks must be worn while visiting the site.
- June is National Reunification month. Family is an essential source of strength that helps us be resilient. Check out this [article from the Children's Bureau](#).
- We honor Juneteenth and embrace the victory for LGBTQ rights in the workplace.

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 COVD 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