



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
March 4, 2021



General Information

DHS Provider Meetings are held once per week on Thursdays at 4:30 pm.

Community leaders joined the call to share a Thank you, Farewell and Best Wishes to Marc Cherna, outgoing DHS Director.

- Lauri Fink, Senior Program Officer, Hillman Family Foundation – You mean so much to this sector and region.
- Dr. Sharon McDaniel, President & CEO, A Second Chance, Inc. – You have touched many lives and were a true mentor.
- Patrick Monahan, Supervisor, Youth Support Partner – You helped build this unit to do the great work that it does based on lived experience.
- Cindy Haines, Executive Director, Focus on Renewal – You have led us through dark and light times and impacted thousands of families through Family Centers.
- Cathy Volponi, Director, Juvenile Court Project – You are a true collaborative partner and champion. You have supported quality legal representation for parents and secured crucial funding.
- Dave Coplan, Executive Director, Human Services Center – Your social work values permeate your leadership. You are an advocate for our agencies and our sector.
- Marc reflected that the incoming Director Erin Dalton and the provider network is strong, truly special and prepared to carry on this work. Thank you!

Please continue to submit multi-media stories of the impact of your services on the people you serve to Nakia.Granberg@alleghenycounty.us.

Health and vaccine metric updates were not presented at this meeting but can be found in the appendix of the slide show.

COVID-19 Mobile Testing Schedule

As a reminder, each Monday, the Allegheny County Health Department provides an updated mobile testing schedule on its [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#). Testing is ongoing at sites around the County and individuals can [register here](#); some sites allow for walk-ins.

- You can use the [county testing map](#) to help clients finding testing locations.
- Individuals who are unable to drive can contact the COVID-19 hotline at 1-888-856-2774 for additional options and resources.

DHS has [released three solicitations](#):

- CYF Prevention Concept Paper
 - Submit feedback by Thursday, March 10
- RFI for Racial Equity Training and Support Directory
 - Next deadline March 15
 - Ongoing solicitation with quarterly deadlines
- CCBH/DHS RFP for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
 - Proposals due April 1
 - Proposals submitted through CCBH, not DHS, but the RFP can be found on our Solicitations page.

Bridging the Digital Divide

- As a reminder, free public Wi-Fi is available at 10 sites. Find them at [/www.wifi.alleghenycounty.us](http://www.wifi.alleghenycounty.us)
- As a reminder, the Digital Divide Device Program has re-opened! Previously submitted eligible requests will be filled as supplies become available. We welcome the submission of new requests for clients in need. The link to submit new requests can be found here: [DHS Device Request Form](#). This is for anyone, not just CYF youth and families.
- We would like to hear from you! If you have any feedback on your experience with the program or devices let us know. Email us at dhs-covid19supplies@alleghenycounty.us.

Upcoming Food Distributions:

- Drive-up food bank distributions are happening on 3/9 (Allegheny Valley) and 3/11 (Glassport) – [details and registration here](#).
- Don't forget the [Food Bank's network of food pantries](#) for more consistent access to food.

Legislative/Policy Updates

Federal Updates

- We are closely monitoring Congressional action on the federal COVID-19 relief package, "American Rescue Plan."
 - Expect enactment next week with significant human services-related investments and supports for individuals.
 - We will provide a summary of the final legislation.

State and Local Updates

- Pennie, PA's health insurance exchange, is holding an additional open enrollment period through May 15
 - Pennie connects eligible applicants to Medicaid or CHIP.
 - Anyone who experiences a qualifying life event is eligible to enroll anytime during the year.
 - For more information and enrollment assistance: pennie.com or 844-844-8040.
- Gov. Wolf revised maximum occupancy limits for indoor and outdoor events and removed the out-of-state travel restriction.
 - Indoor events: allows for 15% of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size, only if attendees and workers can comply with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement.
 - Outdoor events: allows for 20% of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size, only if attendees and workers can comply with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement.
 - This order does not change requirements for restaurants and bars.
 - Continued enforcement of core public health measures such as face covering (mask-wearing), social distancing and hand hygiene.
 - FAQs from PA Department of Health: [Targeted Mitigation FAQ \(pa.gov\)](#)

Program Updates

OCS

New Emergency Rental Assistance Program Updates

- Eligibility Criteria - The program can only serve people who meet the following criteria:
 - Household income below 80% Area Median Income (AMI)
 - At risk of homelessness or housing instability
 - One of the following due to COVID-19:
 - Qualifies for unemployment benefits
 - Reduction in household income
 - Incurred significant costs
 - Experienced a financial hardship
 - Lease or oral lease documentation
- We hope to serve 10,000-12,000 households. Assistance can be given for back rent as well as upcoming rent.
- Application available online March 15th
 - <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/> website is live and you can visit now to sign up for updates
 - Toolkit for Partners is available now: <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/toolkit-for-partners/>
 - Palm card and fliers to promote the program
 - Copy and images to share out on social media

CYF

Family Preservation & In-Home Redesign 2021 Overview:

- To address concerns that may place children at risk of harm and could potentially lead to a child's placement in foster care, CYF will make every effort to engage families in prevention services. CYF seeks to support families so that children are safe and able to thrive.
 - We want to ensure that we are offering the right services and investing in supports for providers
 - We want to re-build our prevention services array (currently referred to as “in-home”) to enhance our ability to meet families’ needs with programmatic services and targeted supports that are known to make a difference.
- In late February 2021, DHS released a concept paper to set forth our proposal for how to redesign the CYF prevention program currently known as “in-home services.”
 - The Concept Paper (which can be found at <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442474008>) outlines the details of this initiative – please review this paper and provide feedback at CYFPrevention@alleghenycounty.us by March 10, 2021; anonymous feedback can be submitted using [this form](#).
- DHS will schedule a virtual Provider Town Hall to engage further on the ideas and plans outlined in the concept paper. The Town Hall will be recorded and the recording will be posted online.
- To advance this mission, we plan to rebuild our in-home service array by:

- Releasing an RFP, this Spring, to procure a new clinical intervention that can be delivered in the home for families who qualify.
- Re-procuring concrete goods and basic needs services later this year for families in CYF's family preservation system
- Effective FY 2023 - taking down the service strings currently associated with the traditional in-home program

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. For basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries call the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services are available.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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