DHS Provider Briefing

June 10, 2021

*The briefing will be recorded and posted on Allegheny County Analytics.

Agenda

- Current and Upcoming Opportunities
- Policy Updates
- Trauma Informed PA
- DHS Trauma Think Tank
- Q&A
- Resources

Opportunities

Active Solicitations

RFP for the Operator of the Low-Barrier Shelter and Drop-In Center at Second Avenue Commons

- Proposals are due at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 25
- New deadline for questions is 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, June 17! (1 day earlier than originally scheduled because the Juneteenth holiday will be observed on Friday, June 18)

RFI for a Racial Equity Training and Support Directory

- The quarterly submission deadline in June is coming up on Tuesday, June 15 at 3 p.m.

Link to DHS Solicitations

Older Youth Pandemic Relief Application Open Now!

Program website youthpgh.org

- Allegheny County received $3.7 million in additional, one-time Chafee funds through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, intended to be used as direct assistance for eligible youth

- We need your help reaching eligible young adults!
  - Share information with eligible young adults! Visit our **Partner Toolkit** on the website to find a flyer, palm card and social media graphics
  - Ask young adults to visit the website, where they can apply for the money and learn about resources

Are you a young adult in Allegheny County? Get money to help you during the pandemic.

You can get cash assistance if you're between 18-26 years old and have been involved with Allegheny County Children Youth and Families.

Key messages to share with young adults

- **If you're eligible for the program, claim your money.** You don't need to identify as struggling and there are no restrictions on how you spend the money. This is free money. This is not a scam.

- **It's important to apply ASAP.**
  - Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the money is spent. Age flexibilities in the law only last through September, so DHS plans to have all the money spent by then.
  - Once you turn 27, you are no longer eligible.

- **The first payment is $1,000. There will be more than one payment.**

- **Provide accurate contact information and CHECK YOUR EMAIL.**
  - If you don't confirm your email address with PayPal within 30 days, your money will be sent back to Action Housing.
  - You'll get email updates about your application, so you know what's going on. You do not need to apply more than one time.

- **If you don't know where to turn, contact KidsVoice resource warmline at 412-391-3100.** They can help get you connected to resources.

Application and Payment

1. Go to online application: Apply Now (yellow button) on **youthpgh.org**
2. Answer a few questions to verify your identity
3. Choose preferred payment method: PayPal, mailed check, or check pickup
4. Take the optional survey (answers won't affect your payment)
5. Check your email for updates about application status
6. Receive the first payment of $1,000 within 7 business days
7. Choose how to spend or save the money!

Check out the resources on the website to help you decide how to use the funds. Don't forget that Opportunity Passport matches up to $5,000!

Summer Programs

- You can search for summer programs at alleghenysummercamp.org

Allegheny County Housing Authority Public Hearing

- ACHA holding public hearing on changes to Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy and Section 8 Administrative Plan on **Friday, June 25th at 10:15 a.m.**

  - Date has changed from 6/18 to 6/25

- Proposed changes reflect ACHA's work with the Vera Institute of Justice, along with DHS, to reduce barriers to public housing for people with criminal records

- Review the draft documents and find details of hearing here: https://www.achsng.com/publicdocs.asp Attend hearing in-person or virtually, and/or submit comments ahead of time via email

Policy Updates

Policy Updates - State

- **PA House voted to end governor's pandemic disaster declaration on Tuesday**
  - Bill is currently being considered by the state Senate, which has indicated it will amend to allow some disaster declaration health regulations to continue
  - If the House bill is passed unamended, suspensions or waivers of state regulations by the disaster declaration would end unilaterally.
  - Would end waiver for work-search requirements impacting hundreds of thousands of people who collect unemployment benefits and stop the administration's use of emergency procurement procedures.
  - Other than a masking order, all mitigation orders have already been phased out, and the administration has already outlined a schedule for resumption of work-search requirements. Much of what the House bill seeks to remedy has already occurred via executive action.

Policy Updates - State

- **On Tuesday, Gov. Wolf called on the General Assembly to increase basic education funding by $1.35 billion for the next fiscal year**
  - This would include a $1.15 billion increase through the state's *Fair Funding Formula*, which allocates new school funding based on a district's wealth and student needs.
  - The proposal is one of multiple education initiatives included in Gov. Wolf's 2021-22 Budget, along with charter school reforms and proposed increases in pre-K and special education funding.
  - Gov. Wolf planned to pay for this investment with a tax increase, but now says that the state's budget surplus and American Rescue Plan (ARP) allocation are sufficient to fund the increase.
  - Unclear if the Republican-controlled General Assembly will approve the request; they continue to advocate for spending the revenue surplus and ARP funding with caution.

Colleen Young, MSW

Director

Colleen@forbesfunds.org

PA Budget Advocacy

- PA has $3B surplus – majority from expanded FMAP

- American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery = $7.3B

- Despite over $10B increase, little increased spending expected

- PA budget draft expected from Republican controlled General Assembly on June 16.

- Budget has to be signed by Gov. Wolf by June 30.

- Wolf expected to sign if education budget is sufficient.

- "No sense of urgency to use stimulus more quickly"

Nonprofit Impact Numbers

- PA: 807K employees; $116.7B annual revenue; provide critical services to millions of PA residents

- 87% of nonprofits experienced negative financial impact during COVID

- Nonprofit recovery expected to take 36 months (compared to 12-18 mo for business community)

- Pittsburgh Foundation: $708M economic loss (only 2% of PA nonprofits) – Aug 2020 https://pittsburghfoundation.org/COVID-PaNonprofits

- $60K nonprofit workers unemployed as of Dec 2020; unemployment claims rose 442% ($10.9M) from March 2020-Feb 2021.

Action Alert

- Contact state lawmakers now!

- Focus on Republican lawmakers, especially leadership.

- Work with your board, volunteers, and donors who may live in R controlled districts

- Tell your story: what is the impact to your organization & community?

- Real numbers to share: lost revenue, increased need, unemployment

Collaborative asks

- $2OOM for NEEDS legislation – one-time grants for human service orgs, no caps on staff size, up to $500K (HB 1116; SB 594)

- $100M for COVID-19 Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program (HB 347)

- Unemployment claims relief for nonprofits: 100% reimbursement.

- Specific asks by issue (housing, food, behavioral health, etc.)
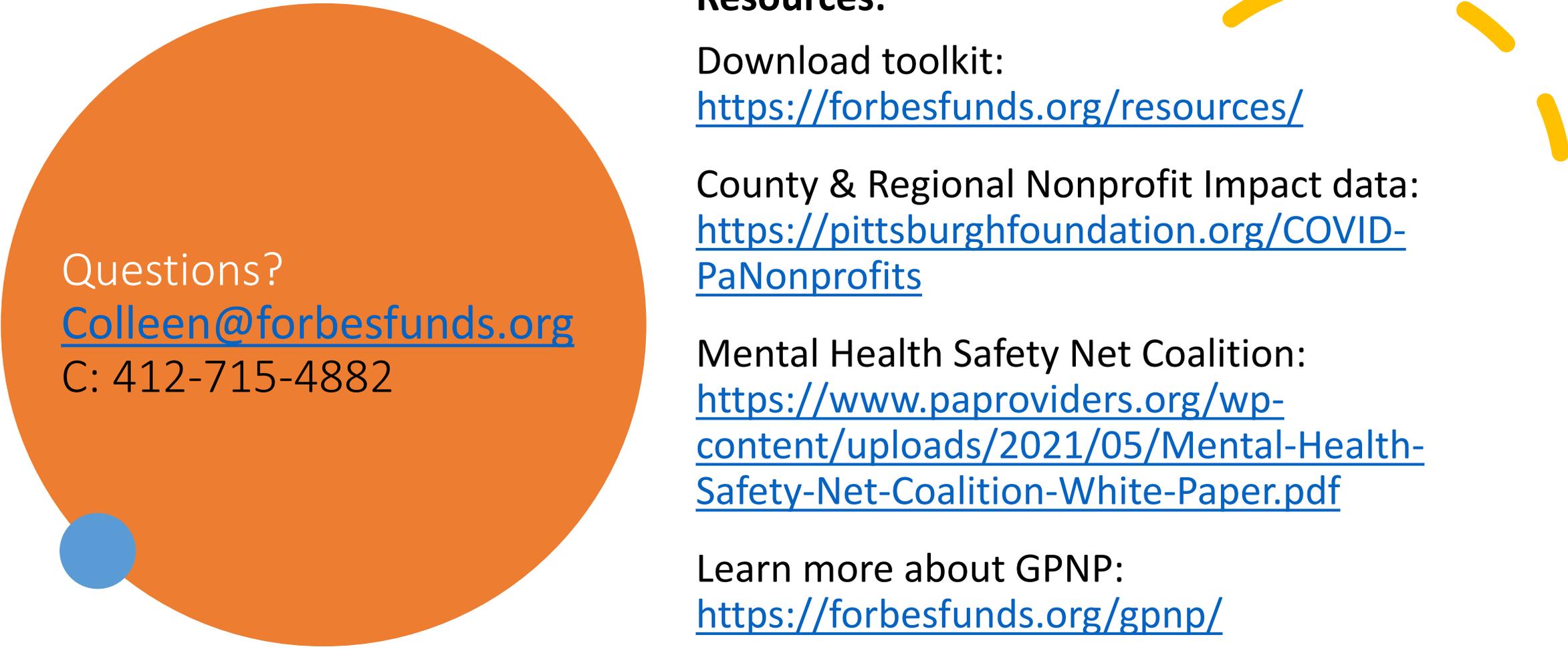
Questions?
Colleen@forbesfunds.org
C: 412-715-4882

Resources:

Download toolkit:
https://forbesfunds.org/resources/

County & Regional Nonprofit Impact data:
https://pittsburghfoundation.org/COVID-PaNonprofits

Mental Health Safety Net Coalition:
https://www.paproviders.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Mental-Health-Safety-Net-Coalition-White-Paper.pdf

Learn more about GPNP:
https://forbesfunds.org/gpnp/

Trauma Informed PA

Dr. Dan Jurman, Executive Director: Office of Advocacy & Reform

Office of Governor Tom Wolf

Trauma-Informed PA:

A Plan to Make Pennsylvania a Trauma-Informed, Healing-Centered State

Dan Jurman, MAR – Executive Director

Why Trauma-Informed PA?

The prevalence of trauma is intertwined with some of our largest community challenges.

Poverty

Racism

Poor Physical Health

Poor Mental health

Barriers to Workforce Development

Crime

Substance Abuse

Child Abuse/Domestic Violence

Community/Economic Development

Covid-19

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Syndemic: A set of linked health problems involving two or more afflictions, interacting synergistically, and contributing to excess burden of disease in a population.
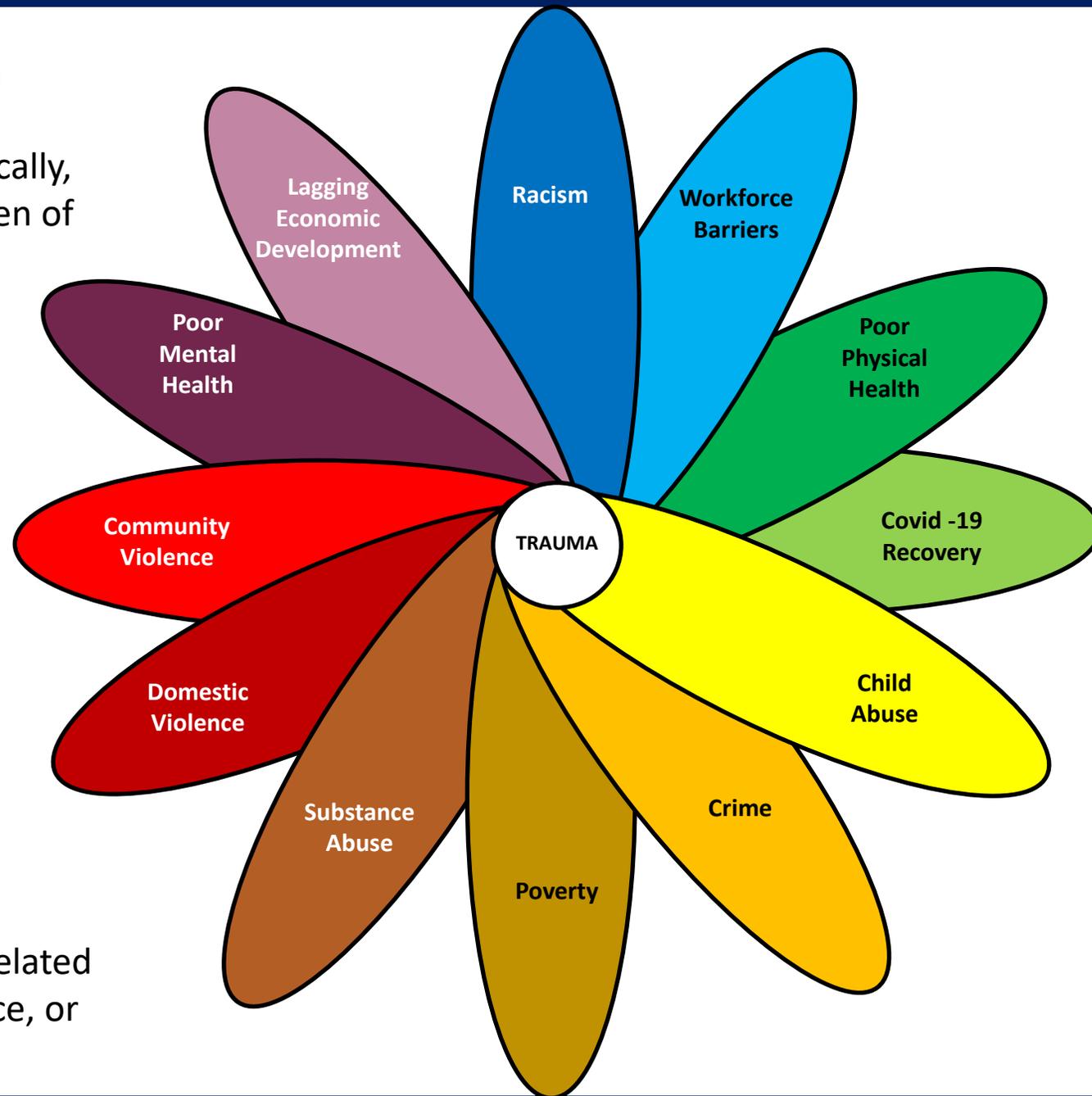
Syndemics occur when health-related problems cluster by person, place, or time.

TRAUMA

- Lagging Economic Development
- Racism
- Workforce Barriers
- Poor Mental Health
- Poor Physical Health
- Community Violence
- Covid -19 Recovery
- Domestic Violence
- Child Abuse
- Substance Abuse
- Crime
- Poverty

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The Brain Treats Chronic Stress, Scarcity, and Abuse / Dangers in Similar Ways
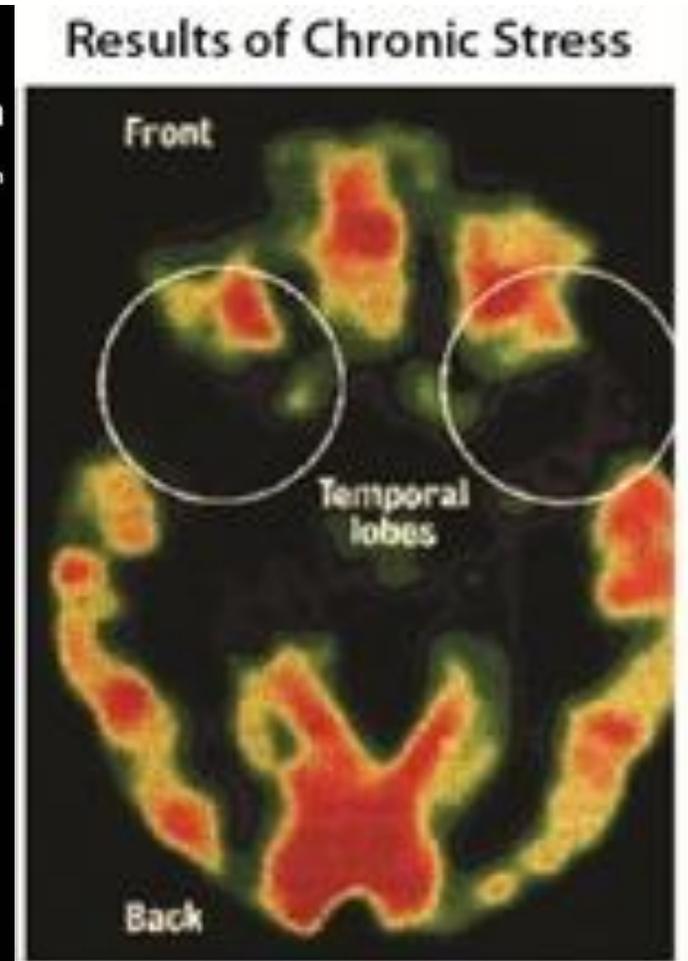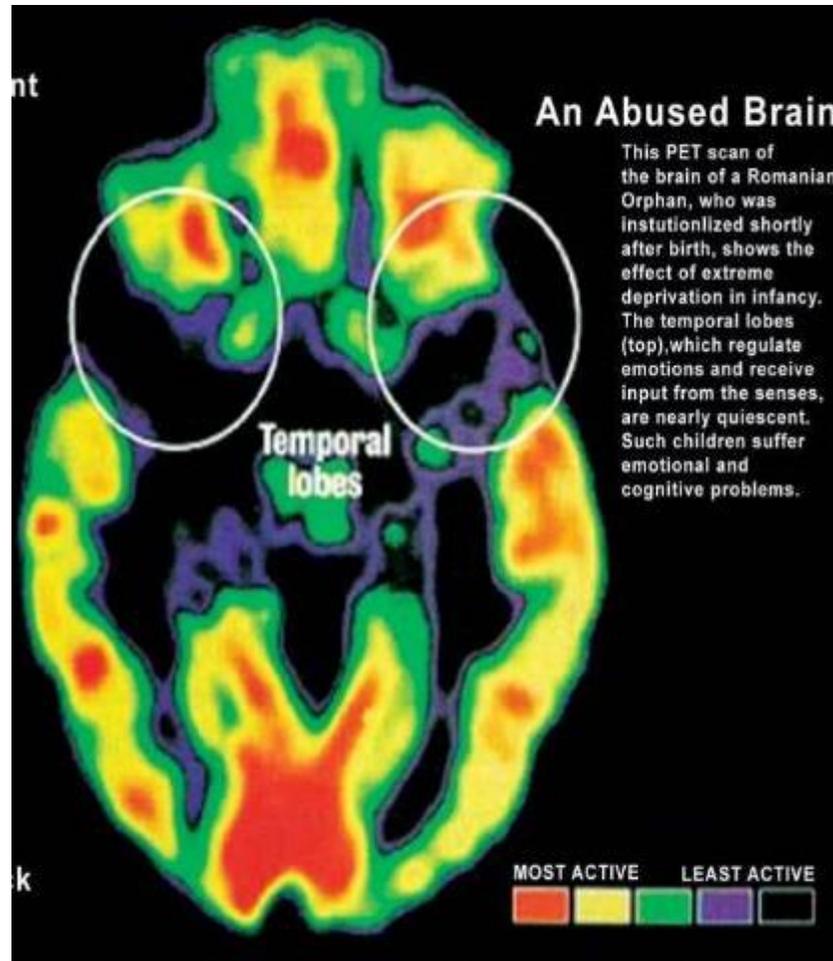
Our Approach

Formation of Trauma-Informed PA Think Tank

An Outside Perspective from Experts in the Field

68 Applicants – 25 Selected Members

Virtual meetings from March through June focused on:
- Defining the terms we would be using as a commonwealth to ensure we were all speaking the same language.
- Setting mission, vision, and values for the effort.
- Building a network to connect and support community-based, grassroots movements across the commonwealth.
- Prioritizing changes at the state level to affect culture, policy, and practice.
- Healing from the trauma of a major disaster like the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Healing the damage of racism, communal, and historical trauma.

State agency staff from DHS, OMHSAS, PDE, and DOH helped to edit the plan.

Phase One was putting these concepts into a plan that is both aspirational and actionable.

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The Plan

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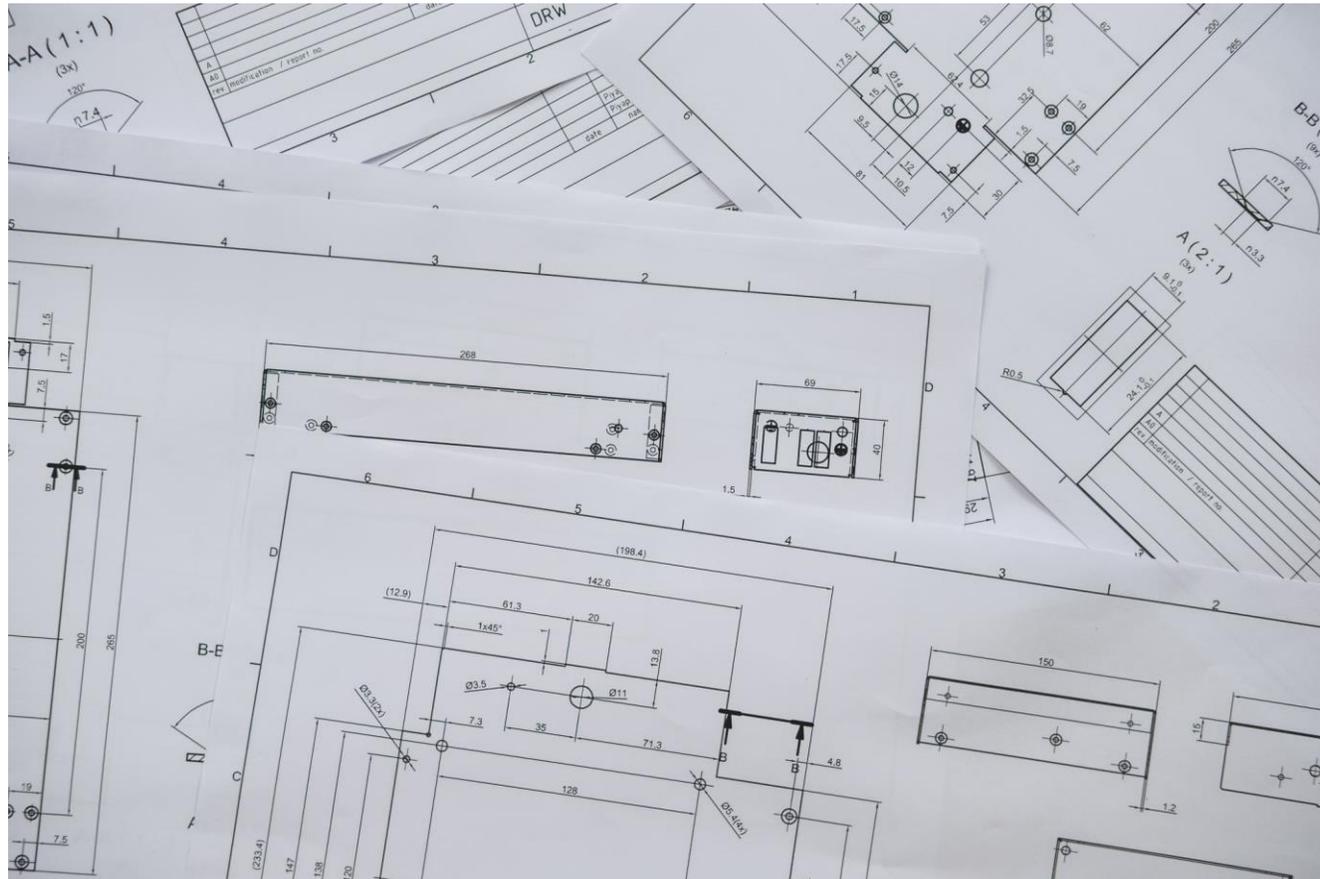
Recommendations Structure

A. State Government
1. Culture
   a) *Training*
   b) *Job Descriptions*
2. Policy
   a) *Retraumatization*
   b) *Prevention*
   c) *Healing*
3. Licensing
   a) *Continuum*
   b) *Retraumatization*
   c) *Prevention*
   d) *Healing*

B. Community-Based, Grass Roots Movement
1. ACEs Connection
2. Community-Based Coalitions
3. Free Training and Technical Support
4. Annual Summit

C. Communal Trauma
1. Racism, Discrimination, and Disproportionate Minority Contact
   a) *Core Causes*
   b) *Creating Safe Spaces*
   c) *Incentivize People Who Have Experienced Racism and Discrimination to Become Healers*
   d) *Eliminate Policies and Practices that Retraumatize*
   e) *Shifting from Unnecessary Levels of Policing to Social Work, Therapy, and Healing*
2. Natural Disasters, Crisis, and Public Health Emergencies (Learning from Covid-19)
   a) *Understanding Where We Are During Crisis*
   b) *Healing What We've Been Through*
   c) *Building on Empathy*

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Recommendation Highlights

Actions Already Underway

Insurance Parity
Telehealth Coverage
Resource and Referral Tool
Living Minimum Wage
Broadband Access
Anti-Stigma Campaign for Mental Health

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Training to Change Our Culture

We recommend that all state employees and the employees of all licensed, contracted, and funded entities be required to at a minimum successfully complete a Trauma-Informed Care introductory training.

We likewise have recommendations for training for police officers, judges, parole officers, social workers, etc.

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Licensure Based on People

We recommend that we reimagine how we license and review facilities through the lens of building trauma-informed cultures based on the latest scientific knowledge, as opposed to cultures focused on compliance and liability. This would include licensing based on customer feedback, measures of quality of care, positive relationships, access to treatment, physical safety, and positive outcomes.

3800 Regulations and 3700 Regulations

Expanding Our ACEs Definition

We recommend expanding the list of Adverse Childhood Experiences the commonwealth recognizes to include the list of expanded ACEs laid out in *Adverse Childhood Experiences: Expanding the Concept of Adversity* as well as one ACE recommended through our work. They include:

- Witnessed violence
- Felt discrimination and bigotry
- Lived in an unsafe neighborhood
- Experienced bullying
- Lived in foster care or another youth congregate care setting
- Experienced poverty for an extended period of time

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Child Abuse as a Public Health Crisis
We recommend the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Health declare child abuse and neglect a public health crisis.

How much worse will this problem be when we emerge from Covid-19?

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Requiring the Evolution to Trauma-Informed and Beyond
We recommend the PA continuum from **Trauma-Aware**, to **Trauma-Sensitive**, to **Trauma-Informed**, to **Healing-Centered** be employed to guide all state agencies, offices, licensed, contracted, and funded entities in the steps and requirements to become trauma-informed and healing-centered.

This was already in development by DHS (OMHSAS & OCYF)

Getting to the Heart of Racism and Discrimination
We recommend that each community identify safe spaces to have conversations about racism, reconciliation, and healing led by entities that are run by African Americans, Latinos, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other ethnic and religious groups that have experienced hate and discrimination.

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Connect People to Each Other and Healers During Crisis
We recommend the creation of targeted, temporary support groups in communities that have experienced trauma as well as chronic and toxic stress due to natural disasters, crisis, and public health emergencies.

HEAL PA Action Teams

Action Teams will meet monthly and will need to elect co-chairs annually or as needed. Co-chairs must also serve on the Leadership Team in order to make sure there is close coordination of efforts with no duplication or silos. These teams will be made up of former think tank members, think tank candidates, state agency representatives, and other community members with knowledge or expertise that helps each team reach its goals. Co-chairs will also be responsible for working to find ways to involve practitioners and regular citizens affected by each team's purview in membership as appropriate.

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Universal Teams -

Community Outreach and Communication Action Team - creating clear communications and facilitating outreach opportunities in communities across the commonwealth. Serves as a support to all other action teams for their communication and outreach needs and should be composed of at least two to three communications professionals.

Policy and Legislation Action Team - advocating for policy changes and legislative changes to support the plan. Serves as a support to all other action teams for their legislative advocacy needs and should be composed of at least two to three advocacy professionals.

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Development Action Team - taking advantage of opportunities to apply for grants or engage major donors who can move strategies in the plan forward. Serves as a support to all other action teams for their grant writing needs and should be composed of at least two to three development/grant writing professionals.

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Data and Evaluation Action Team - helping to gather pertinent data and stats on trauma/ACEs for distribution, evaluate the success of any intervention through use of data, and serve as consultants to orgs that want to evaluate programs and initiatives.

Targeted Teams -

Training Action Team - assisting with training strategies and vetting training partners as well creating a pool of volunteer trainers to help us keep training free for agencies and communities without resources.

Education Action Team - focusing on our education-based recommendations and supporting our early education settings, K-12 schools, and colleges to become trauma-informed and healing centered.

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Racial and Communal Trauma Prevention Action Team - focus on not only on healing the trauma of racism and discrimination, but also getting to the heart of what causes this behavior and working to prevent it.

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Criminal Justice Action Team - work to improve criminal justice outcomes through trauma-informed and healing-centered practices as well as supporting re-entry and prevention activities.

Poverty Reduction Action Team - work to break the cycle of trauma and poverty by supporting upstream solutions to eliminate poverty and advocating to eliminate structural policies and practices that criminalize poverty.

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Business Involvement Action Team - working with chambers of commerce, workforce development, and businesses to understand the impact of trauma on recruitment, retention, and productivity and what role the private sector can play in improving these outcomes.

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Child Abuse Prevention Action Team - helping to coordinate the child abuse prevention campaign laid out in the plan and planning out the response that would/should follow child abuse being declared a public health crisis.

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Organizational Support Action Team - providing technical assistance to organizations attempting to move along the continuum from trauma-aware to healing-centered.

Physical and Behavioral Health Action Team - working to educate providers and bring more trauma-informed screening, healing, and prevention practices into primary care and hospitals.

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Early Wins -

- **OMHSAS/OCYF - Working on TIC Licensing with TIPA continuum**
- **OAR - First recorded training tested (working to make public)**
- **PID - Working on parity and telehealth (NGA)**
- **DHS - RISE PA tool in procurement**
- **Governor Wolf - $368.7 million for broadband access**
- **PDE - ACEs related questions will be in YRBS survey**
- **Universal Healing strategy coming out of NGA collaborative**
- **AG/OAR - PATIN page on ACEs Connection with partners**
- **Governor Wolf - Dismantling Systemic Racism Task Force**
- **Legislature - TI training for law enforcement Title 53, Sec 2164, (18)**
- **Legislature - Enhanced de-escalation training Title 53, Sec 2164, (6)**
- **Community Conversations starting in fall**
- **OAR - Actively advocating for funding and policies based on TIPA**

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Questions?

djurman@pa.gov

https://www.governor.pa.gov/about/office-of-advocacy-and-reform/

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Trauma Think Tank

Joe Martin, DHS Trauma Think Tank

Joined by: Madeline Sample, POWER and Mark LeVan, Pressley Ridge

DHS trauma think tank

Who are we?

A cross-system collaborative of providers, DHS Staff, and family members

Our Mission:

Enhance our understanding of trauma and its impact, and foster collaborations that promote a trauma-informed organizational approach

Our sessions:

Bi-Monthly sessions feature guest presenters, resource sharing, group brain-storming and resource development.

Just a few of the TTT's accomplishments:

- Training: "Shifting the Lens: Practical Applications of Trauma-Informed Care," focused on the practical application of a trauma-informed approach for a broad range of human services professionals.
    - [Trauma-Informed Engagement simulation](#) game
- Family and Youth led committee created a [story-based resource on trauma reactions and resilience](#)
- Created a steering committee to develop Trauma-Informed Standards of Practice for DHS
- [Trauma Conversation Tip Cards](#) for direct care staff
- [Trauma Resource Library](#)
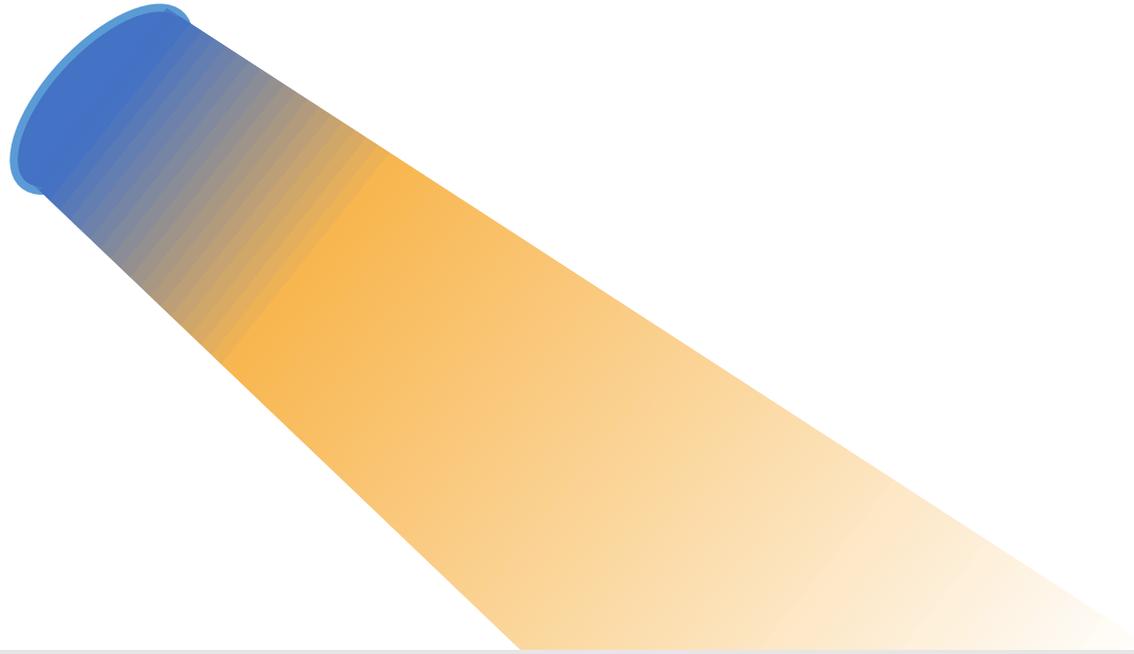
Member Testimonials

Trauma Resources

Local Resources

Information and Referrals:

PA Get Help Now
https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelpnow/CareProvider.aspx
1-800-662-HELP

resolve
https://www.upmc.com/services/behavioral-health/resolve-crisis-services

NAMI
https://www.nami.org/Home

MHA
https://www.mhanational.org/

Specialized Providers:

Center for Victims
https://www.centerforvictims.org/
24-Hour Crisis Hotline (1-866-644-2882)

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape
https://paar.net/

UPMC Mathilda Theiss
www.upmc.com/locations/community/mathila-theiss-health-center

Highmark Caring Place
https://www.highmarkcaringplace.com

National Resources

National Child Traumatic Stress Network
https://www.nctsn.org/resources/all-nctsn-resources

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress at the Uniformed Services University
https://www.cstsonline.org/

Sesame Street's Grief Toolkit
https://www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/grief

NAMI Frontline Professionals Resources
https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Frontline-Professionals

Fred Rogers Productions Help for Parents and Caregivers
https://www.fredrogers.org/parents-caregivers/

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration):
   Tips for Survivors: Coping With Grief After a Disaster or Traumatic Event
      https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Tips-for-Survivors-/SMA17-5035
   Tips for Survivors of a Disaster or Other Traumatic Event: Managing Stress
      https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Tips-for-Survivors-of-a-Disaster-or-Other-Traumatic-Event-Managing-Stress/SMA13-4776

Coming up next

- Our next meeting is on June 24, 2021.
- The topic will be Reentry.

Key Contacts

- Provider questions for Allegheny County Health Department
  - DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us
    - Use the subject field to indicate if your qq is about CYF, Aging, BH, CYF, ID, Community Services, or DHS operations (e.g., contracting, payment)
  - https://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/index.aspx
- Key DHS staff
  - Payment inquiries: Dan Evancho Dan.Evancho@alleghenycounty.us
  - Contract inquiries: Kathy Heinz Kathy.Heinz@alleghenycounty.us

    Laura Brigido Laura.Brigido@alleghenycounty.us
- United Way 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 available.

Appendix

Allegheny County Vaccination

Through 6/9/2021:

- 184,627 are partially vaccinated and 579,836 are fully vaccinated
  - 69% of residents have received at least one dose
  - 52% are fully vaccinated

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Dashboard.aspx
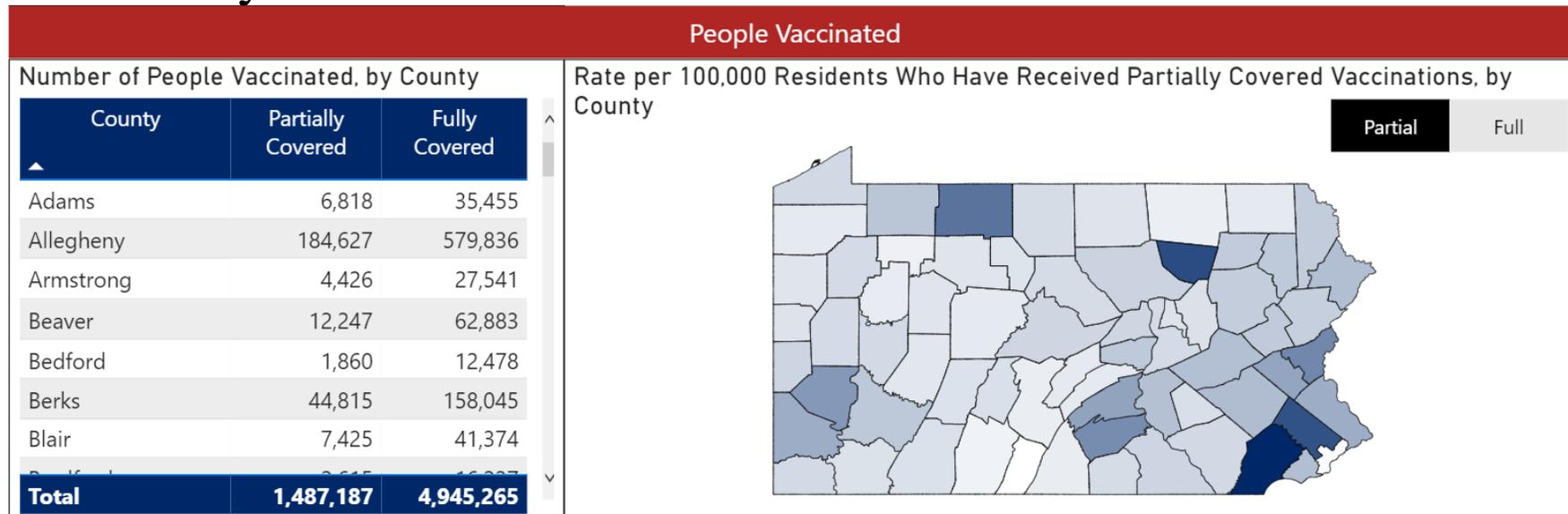
PA State Metrics

- Compares week of May 28th–June 3rd to previous week (May 21st–May 27th)

	% change from last week to this week
Newly reported cases	-38%
Incidence rate per 100,000	-38%
Positivity rate	-20%
Ave. daily hospitalizations	-5%
Ave. daily patients on ventilators	-40%
% ED visits due to CLI	+33%

PA state's early warning system dashboard (https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx).

pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard

Updated on 6/4/2021

Select a County: ALLEGHENY
Page Navigation: All Counties

Newly reported confirmed cases
Decreased from 295 confirmed cases the previous seven days to 184 in the most recent seven days.
| 295 Previous 7 days | 184 Most recent 7 days |

Incidence rate per 100,000 residents
Decreased from a rate of 24.3 per 100,000 residents in the previous seven days to 15.1 per 100,000 residents in the most recent seven days.
| 24.3 Previous 7 days | 15.1 Most recent 7 days |

PCR testing positivity rate
Decreased from a PCR testing positivity rate of 3 percent during the previous seven days to 2.4 percent over the most recent seven days.
| 3.0% Previous 7 days | 2.4% Most recent 7 days |

Average daily COVID-19 specific hospitalizations
Decreased from 109.4 daily COVID-19 specific hospitalizations, on average, over the previous seven days to 103.4 daily COVID-19 specific hospitalizations, on average, over the most recent seven days.
| 109.4 Previous 7 days | 103.4 Most recent 7 days |

Average daily COVID-19 patients on ventilators
Decreased from 23.9 daily COVID-19 patients on ventilators, on average, over the previous seven days to 14.4 daily COVID-19 patients on ventilators, on average, over the most recent seven days.
| 23.9 Previous 7 days | 14.4 Most recent 7 days |

Percent of hospital emergency department visits due to COVID-like-illness (CLI)
Increased from 0.3 percent of hospital emergency department visits in the previous seven days due to COVID-like-illness (CLI) in the previous seven days to 0.4 percent in the most recent seven days.
| 0.3% Previous 7 days | 0.4% Most recent 7 days |

Allegheny County Department of Human Services

LISC Vaccine Access Fund

- LISC is providing grants to 501c3 partner organizations to coordinate free rides to vaccination sites for residents who cannot get there on their own.
  - Funds will cover the cost of Uber rides, staffing, and other operational costs.
  - Partners are expected to coordinate rides for at least 250 people.
  - Riders do not need to have a smart phone, credit card, or Uber/Lyft app.
  - The program will run through December 31, 2021 (whereas free ride offers directly through Lyft and Uber extend only through July 4th)
- To view the guidelines and apply, visit the Overview and Intake Questionnaire

Vaccine Transportation Options for Individuals

- Call 2-1-1 to access:
  - Free transportation to an ACHD clinic through ACCESS for those aged 65+, MATP eligible, or with mobility needs
    - This option may provide the best vehicle fit for those with mobility needs
  - Free transportation to any vaccination site through Ride United partnership with Lyft
- Open the Uber app and tap "Vaccine" for $25 off each of up to four rides (first and second doses) through July 4th
- Open the Lyft app and enter code LYFTVACCINE for $15 off each of up to two rides through July 4th

Pop-up Vaccination Opportunity

- Squirrel Hill Health Center is looking for indoor or outdoor locations for pop-up vaccination sites
  - Mobile Unit is available for outdoor sites
  - Offerings include one- or two-dose vaccines (J&J or Moderna), evening & weekend hours depending on availability
- If you are interested, please contact Emily Magoc EMagoc@squirrelhillhealthcenter.org

Please Submit Uncovered COVID-related Expenses

Please submit these expenses into MPER no later than 7/8/21

Expenses must be incurred between 7/1/20 and 6/30/21

All expenses submitted will be reviewed by the DHS compliance unit

Supporting information can be sent to Lisa Impavido

lisa.impavido@alleghenycounty.us

Submitted expenses are not guaranteed to be paid

Payment is also dependent on availability of funding

Lost revenue cannot be considered

Allegheny County Department *of* Human Services