



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
November 12, 2020



General Information

As a reminder, DHS Provider Meetings are held once per week on Thursdays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRF Billing

- All providers please send in your invoices for CARES/CRF funding as soon as possible!
- CARES/CFR funds must be spent by 12/30/20
- Tomorrow, 11/13, is the last day to submit October invoices
- Please submit November invoices by 12/5
- Due date for December invoices will likely be 1/5/21

Upcoming food distributions:

1. McKeesport, 11/21, 10 am, 225 Penn Ave [Register here](#)
2. Duquesne, 11/23, 12 pm, 1 N Linden St [Register here](#)
3. Wilkesburg, 12/5, 11 am, 225 Penn Ave [Register here](#)
4. Duquesne, 12/7, 3 pm, 1 N Linden St [Register here](#)

Drive-up Diaper Distribution

- Saturday, 11/14, 10 am to noon
- UPMC Second Ave Parking, 88 Swinburne Street
- Drive-up only, only one family per car

Mental Health America of SWPA Virtual Adult Support Groups

- There are many different groups being held via Zoom

COVID-19 Testing at McKeesport

- 455 Industry Road, McKeesport
- Appointment required, M-F 10 am to 4 pm
- 412-209-2262 or bit.ly/McKeesportCOVIDTestSite

METRICS

PA State Metrics – Compared week of 10/30-11/5 to week of 10/23-10/29

- Almost all metrics are up – new cases and incidence rates both increased by 22%
- Hospitalizations decreased by 8%

Allegheny County Metrics

- The average weekly positivity rate has been increasing for the last month. On 11/7, there was a 16% positivity rate. This is the highest positivity rate since Allegheny County really began testing people.
- Cases have been rising throughout October. They increased 98% from the week of 10/11 to the week of 11/1.
- 11/4 had the highest number of cases in a single day since the start of the pandemic – 316 cases
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia is projecting a steep increase of weekly cases per 100,000 people throughout November.

- Case rate per 100,000 Allegheny County residents has risen since 8/30, when it was 65 cases per 100,000.
- On 11/7, it was 211 cases per 100,000.
- The highest rate Allegheny County saw was 235 cases per 100,000 on 7/12.
- Hospitalizations have fallen over the last few weeks, but this is a lagging indicator and we would expect to see increases in hospitalizations in the next few weeks
- ICU bed usage remains stable at just below 90% and has not hit the concern mark yet.
- Deaths remain low, never exceeding 6/day.
- Rate of Transmission (R) is now estimated at above 1, which means there is significant spread; prediction is it will remain above 1 throughout November.

Legislative/Policy Updates

State and Local Updates

- PA House and Senate elections did not change the balance of power much, with Republicans slightly increasing their majorities in both chambers
- General Assembly will return next week to begin finalizing the remainder of the state's 2020-2021 budget that runs thru June 30, 2021
 - \$2b hole remains to be filled from pandemic-related revenue reductions.
 - The remaining \$1.3b in federal CARES Act funds must be allocated.
- Pittsburgh Mayor Peduto released his proposed city operating budget for 2021 with a \$55m hole due to pandemic
 - Could cause over 630 layoffs of city employees if not addressed by federal stimulus by 7/1/21
 - City Council will begin budget hearings next week

PROGRAM UPDATES

OCS

Housing and Homelessness system update

- Housing Navigator Training
 - 11/18 at 1 pm via Microsoft Teams: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
 - Will focus on legislation and regulations impacting housing
- Winter Shelter opens on 11/15
 - Will be open every day until 3/15/21
 - Smithfield Church for men
 - Shephard's Heart for women
 - There are COVID precautions in place
 - Overflow at Safe Haven
- The Safe Haven is now hiring for the following positions:
 - Community Support Specialist : <https://communityhumanservices.applytojob.com/apply/zAwLztODOa/Hotel-Shelter-Community-Support-Specialist>
 - This position currently pays incentive pay and is starting at \$21 per hour. Full and Part Time considered.

- Team Lead :
 - <https://communityhumanservices.applytojob.com/apply/BMkMdpDzts/Hotel-Shelter-Lead-Community-Support-Specialist>
 - This position is eligible to receive incentive pay, making its pay range \$22 - \$26 per hour.
- Clinical Operations Consultant (to organize medical aspects, policies and procedures):
 - <https://communityhumanservices.applytojob.com/apply/eSjNe80QFw/Clinical-Operations-Consultant>
- Social Worker :
 - <https://communityhumanservices.applytojob.com/apply/OVMLEbnPjg/Social-Worker-MSWLSW>
- DHS and Partner4Work have partnered to assist individuals who are unemployed or underemployed due the pandemic
 - Will use CSBG supplemental funds to bring workforce development services to community sites
- CCAC Career Preparation Classes
 - Virtual classes for individuals who are eligible
 - Topics include career decision making, skills, computer literacy
 - For more information, contact Peter Harvey at peter.harvey@alleghenycounty.us
- Pathways Forward Challenge
 - DHS, Partner4Work, Light of Life, Pleasant Valley and EECM has partnered to figure out how to better integrate homeless services and workforce services
 - For more information, contact Peter Harvey at peter.harvey@alleghenycounty.us
- Additional Employment Initiatives
 - Employment and Training Advisory Board (ETAB) Survey – wants to learn about homeless services providers’ employment-related service needs
 - https://alleghenycounty.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8iViZ25hD2KqzXf
 - Occupational Therapy Collaboration – University of Pittsburgh PhD students in Occupational Therapy are working with Rapid Re-housing programs to enhance employment-related services
 - For more information, contact Peter Harvey at peter.harvey@alleghenycounty.us

Allegheny County Responds to the Need: Addressing the Challenges of Addictive Disease

- The Current Landscape
 - Fatal Overdoes for Allegheny County
 - In 2017, Pennsylvania was leading the country in its fatal overdose rate and Allegheny County above PA’s rate
 - In 2018 we saw reductions
 - In 2019 it went back up, starting in Q3
 - County demographics from 7/18/2019 to 6/20/2020
 - By numbers, white men are most impacted, followed by white women. with a spike in ages 34 to 44.
 - By rate, older black men are most affected.
 - Starting in Q3 2018, the rate for the Black population surpassed White rate.

- There was a spike in the rise in opioid overdoses deaths when other synthetic opioids hit the streets
 - Locally, the synthetic overdoses death rise started in 2013.
 - Stimulant use is now beginning to rise.
 - There is a moment of opportunity to help when an individual is using other services (MH, CYF, Jail).
 - For example, in child welfare, an analysis of child deaths/near deaths shows that 22% involved adult substance use.
- The Challenges
 - Accessing Care
 - System is complex even though it is comprehensive
 - Getting the right care at the right time is important
 - DHS identified key points in care: 1) coordinated entry, 2) unconditional response and 3) support during transitions
 - Collaboration
 - DHS has worked with stakeholders and partners to improve the system of care.
 - Creation of coordinated entry
 - Strengthened DHS's collaboration with PA GET HELP NOW
- The Changes
 - Direct Linkage to Allegheny County: PA GET HELP NOW provides one entrance to the system of care
 - 1-800-662-HELP
 - DHS established Certified Assessment Centers
 - Four providers: Jade Wellness Monroeville, POWER, Pyramid, White Deer Run/Cover Forge
 - They are the preferred entryway for DHS services and provide Level of Care (LOC) Assessments.
 - Services include: Onsite and mobile level of care, choice of provider, warm hand-offs, timely access to treatment, follow-up, assessment for other needs ancillary to treatment
 - Phase One Opening: **Allegheny County's Pathway to Care and Recovery** – open now!
 - This is the new coordinated entry for Allegheny County's drug and alcohol services; it acts as a front door to info, services and support.
 - Open 365/24/7
 - Located downtown and has mobile services
 - Walk-in at 326 3rd Avenue or call 412-325-7550 or 1-800-662-HELP.
 - Individuals can re-engage at any time and can come at any point in their recovery – they will be supported throughout the entirety of the recovery process.
 - Designed for county residents age 14+, family members, friends, natural supports, first responders, providers, schools, advocates, faith communities and other community members
 - Services include information, peer support, screening, case management, connections through warm handoffs, MAT education
 - Multidisciplinary staff includes nurses, clinical service coordinators, Certified Recovery Specialists
 - Has two mobile teams to respond to calls from the community
 - Phase Two Opening: **Safe Place to Stay** – targeted opening in early 2021

- For individuals who received LOC assessment, are awaiting admission to a treatment slot and need support while waiting
- Additional Resources
 - Narcan Distribution
 - If you are a contracted provider, contact Monique Smith at Monique.Smith@alleghenycounty.us
 - If you are NOT a contracted provider, you can still get Narcan at the link provided in slides
 - Resolve crisis 1-888-796-8226
 - If you are having trouble assessing services, call DHS's Bureau of Drug & Alcohol 412-350-3328
 - Community Care 1-800-553-7499
- Child Welfare Intersection with Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services
 - DHS's initiatives include
 - Hired a staff member with specific expertise in this intersection
 - In-Home Recovery Services for families
 - Family Residential Inpatient 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