

## COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting June 10, 2021 (4:30PM – 5:30PM)

Next Meeting: June 24, 2021

### Current and Upcoming Opportunities

- Active Solicitations ([DHS Solicitations](#))
  - Operator of the Low-Barrier Shelter and Drop-In Center at Second Avenue Commons
    - Deadline for questions is 3PM EST Thursday, June 17 (1 day earlier than originally scheduled because the Juneteenth holiday will be observed on Friday, June 18)
    - RFP due Friday, June 25 @ 3PM EST
  - RFI for a Racial Equity Training and Support Directory
    - The quarterly submission deadline is Tuesday, June 15 @ 3PM EST
- Older Youth Pandemic Relief Application ([website](#)): Allegheny County received \$3.7 million in additional, one-time Chafee funds through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, intended to be used as direct cash assistance to support youth during the pandemic.
  - Eligibility requirement: (1) in CYF placement in Allegheny County and dependent at age 14 or older and (2) between the ages of 18 and 26. Note, do not need to identify as struggling.
    - If you're eligible for the program, claim your free money! It's not a scam! You don't need to identify as struggling and there are no restrictions on how you spend the money.
  - Payment: the first payment is \$1,000 (there may be more than one payment)
    - Payment method: PayPal, mailed check or check pickup
      - If you select PayPal, make sure your PayPal is connected (If you don't confirm your email address with PayPal within 30 days, your money will be sent back to Action Housing.)
      - Reminder: Opportunity Passport matches up to \$5,000.
  - Applications: 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.
    - Individuals will be contacted via email – check your email regularly.
  - Spread the word!
    - Help DHS reach eligible young adults: share information with eligible young adults, ask young adults to visit the website to learn more and apply, visit our Partner Toolkit on the website to find a flyer, palm card and social media graphics.
    - KidsVoice resource warmline at 412-391-3100 can answer questions and connect people to other resources.
- Summer Programs: search for summer programs on an interactive map [here](#).
- Allegheny County Housing Authority Public Hearing on changes to Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy and Section 8 Administrative Plan – Friday, June 25 @ 10:15AM (Note: this date has changed from 6/18 to 6/25)
  - Proposed changes reflect ACHA's work with the Vera Institute of Justice and DHS to reduce barriers to public housing for people with criminal records.
  - Review the draft documents and find details of hearing [here](#).
  - Attend hearing in-person or virtually, and/or submit comments ahead of time via email.

## Policy Updates

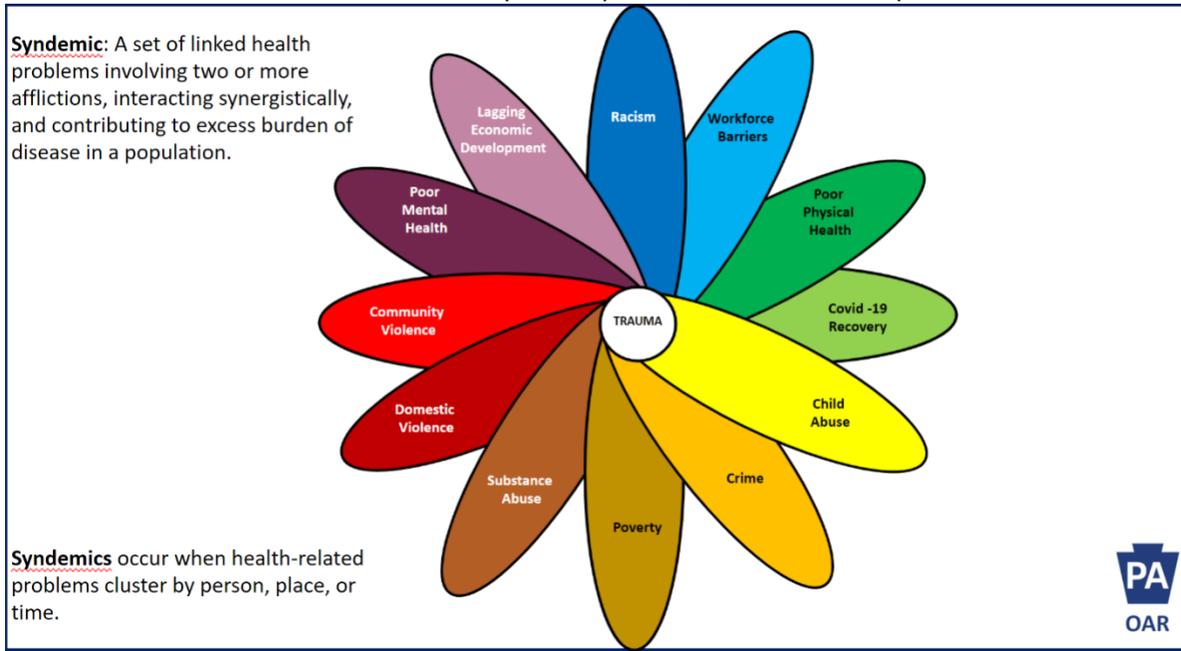
- State Policy Updates
  - PA House voted to end governor's pandemic disaster declaration (Tuesday, June 8).
    - Bill is currently being considered by the state Senate, which has indicated it will amend to allow some disaster declaration health regulations to continue.
    - If the House bill is passed 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.
  - Gov. Wolf called on the General Assembly to increase basic education funding by \$1.35 billion for the next fiscal year (Tuesday, June 8).
    - Includes 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.
- Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership (GPNP)
  - PA Budget: PA has an unexpected \$3B surplus, the majority of which is from expanded Medicaid dollars through FMAP, and an influx of \$7.3B from American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery. Despite over \$10B increase, little increased spending is expected.
    - The draft budget is expected from Republican-controlled General Assembly by June 16. The budget has to be signed by Gov. Wolf by June 30. Governor Wolf is expected to sign the budget if the education budget is sufficient.
  - Nonprofit Impact Data
    - PA: 807K nonprofit employees; \$116.7B annual nonprofit revenue
    - 87% of nonprofits experienced negative financial impact during COVID.
      - Nonprofit recovery expected to take 36 months (compared to 12-18 months expected for business community).
      - Pittsburgh Foundation: \$708M economic loss (2% of PA nonprofits) (August 2020, [Source](#))
      - 60K nonprofit workers unemployed (December 2020); unemployment claims rose 442% (\$10.9M) from March 2020 - February 2021
  - Collaborative Action Alert: Work with your board, volunteers and donors who may live in Republican-controlled districts to contact state legislators (focus on Republican legislators - especially leadership).
    - Policy Asks

- \$200M 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.)
- Tell your story: what is the impact to your organization & community?
- Share real numbers (lost revenue, increased need, unemployment) to make your case.
- Resources
  - [Forbes Fund Toolkit](#)
  - [County & Regional Nonprofit Impact Data](#)
  - [Mental Health Safety Net Coalition](#)
  - [Learn more about GPNP](#)

*Colleen Young MSW ([Colleen@forbesfunds.org](mailto:Colleen@forbesfunds.org), 412-715-4882), Director @ Forbes Foundation*

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

Trauma is a core cause, not just a symptom of our largest community challenges: poverty, racism, poor physical health, poor mental health, barriers to workforce development, crime, substance use disorders, child abuse, domestic violence, community development, economic development, COVID-19.



- **Trauma-Informed PA Think Tank:** community-organizing approach to bring outside expert perspectives to virtual meetings
  - Planning Phase: March-June meetings (with experts and state agency staff from DHS, OMHSAS, PDE and DOH) put the following concepts into a plan that is aspirational and actionable.
    - Defining the terms we would be using as a commonwealth to ensure we are 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.
  - Actions Underway: Insurance Parity, Telehealth Coverage, Resource and Referral Tool, Living Minimum Wage, Broadband Access, Anti-Stigma Campaign for Mental Health
  - Early Wins
    - OMHSAS/OCYF: Working on TIC Licensing with TIPA continuum
    - OAR: first recorded training tested (working to bring to the public)
    - PID: working on parity and telehealth (NGA)
    - Governor Wolf: \$368.7 million for broadband access
    - PDE: ACEs related questions will be included in the YRBS survey.
    - NGA Collaborative: Universal Healing Strategy
    - AG/OAR: PATIN Page on ACEs Connection with Partners

- Title 53, Section 2164 (18): TI training for law enforcement
- Title 53, Section 2164 (6): Enhanced de-escalation training
- Community conversations start this fall
- OAR: Actively advocating for funding and policy based on TIPA
- Recommendations
  - State Government
    - 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.
      - Training & Job Descriptions: We have recommendations for training for police officers, judges, parole officers, social workers, etc.
    - Policy: re-traumatization, prevention, healing
    - Licensing: continuum, re-traumatization, prevention, healing
      - 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)
  - Community-Based, Grass Roots Movement
    - ACEs Connection: 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, and experienced poverty for an extended period of time
      - We recommend the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Health declare child abuse and neglect a public health crisis.
      - 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)
    - Community-Based Coalitions: connect organizations to share resources and best practices.
    - Free Training and Technical Support
    - Annual Summit
  - Communal Trauma
    - Racism, Discrimination and Disproportionate Minority Contact
      - Core Causes
      - Create Safe Spaces: 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.

- Incentivize People Who Have Experienced Racism and Discrimination to Become Healers: 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, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and other ethnic and religious groups that have experienced hate and discrimination.
- Eliminate Policies and Practices that Re-traumatize.
- Shifting from Unnecessary Levels of Policing to Social Work, Therapy and Healing
- Natural Disasters, Crisis and Public Health Emergencies - Learning from COVID-19: Understanding Where We Are During Crisis, Healing What We've Been Through, Building on Empathy
- HEAL PA Action Teams will meet monthly and will 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.
  - Community Outreach and Communication Action Team: create clear communications, facilitate outreach opportunities in communities across the commonwealth, and support all other action teams for their communication and outreach needs.
  - Policy and Legislation Action Team: advocate for policy and legislative changes to support the plan and support to all other action teams for their legislative advocacy needs.
  - Development Action Team: apply for grants, engage major donors who can move strategies in the plan forward, and support all other action teams for their grant writing needs.
  - Data and Evaluation Action Team: 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.
  - Training Action Team: assist with training strategies, vet training partners, and create a pool of volunteer trainers to help us keep training free for agencies and communities without resources.
  - Education Action Team: focus on our education-based recommendations and support our early education settings, K-12 schools and colleges in becoming trauma-informed and healing centered.
  - Racial and Communal Trauma Prevention Action Team: focus 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.
  - Criminal Justice Action Team: improve criminal justice outcomes through trauma-informed and healing-centered practices as well as supporting re-entry and prevention activities.
  - Poverty Reduction Action Team: 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.
  - Business Involvement Action Team: work 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

- Child Abuse Prevention Action Team: coordinate the child abuse prevention campaign laid out in the plan and plan the response that would/should follow child abuse being declared a public health crisis.
- Organizational Support Action Team: provide technical assistance to organizations attempting to move along the continuum from trauma-aware to healing-centered.
- Physical and Behavioral Health Action Team: educate providers and bring more trauma-informed screening, healing and prevention practices into primary care and hospitals.

*Dr. Dan Jurman ([djurman@pa.gov](mailto:djurman@pa.gov)), Executive Director: PA Office of Advocacy and Reform, Office of Governor Tom Wolf*

## DHS Trauma Think Tank

The Trauma Think Tank is a cross-system collaborative of providers, DHS Staff and family members dedicated to enhancing the understanding of trauma and its impact, and fostering collaborations that promote a trauma-informed organizational approach. The Trauma Think Tank accomplished this goal via bi-monthly sessions that feature guest presenters, resource sharing, group brain-storming and resource development.

- Accomplishments: Shifting the Lens: Practical Applications of Trauma Informed Care Training, Trauma-Informed Engagement simulation game, story-based resource on trauma reactions and resilience, steering committee to develop Trauma-Informed Standards of Practice for DHS, Trauma Conversation Tip Cards for direct self-care, Trauma Resource Library
- Practical application of trauma-informed approach for a broad range of human service professionals via continued learning over time, best practice research and plain language training
- Member Testimonials (Madeline Sample - Line Staff Supervisor @ POWER and Mark LeVan - Western PA Clinical Director @ Pressley Ridge): The DHS Trauma Think Tank provides concise, helpful information that translates to work. Sharing trauma is not an event/label, it is a process of storytelling. Using a lens that focuses on experience is helpful when working with people who have experienced traumatic events. The Trauma Think Tank rose to the occasion of educating and providing support for stressors brought on by the pandemic and white supremacist violence towards Black and Asian communities. The Trauma Think Tank is true to its mission of understanding trauma and its impact, and how trauma-informed care can and should be incorporated in human service delivery. Collaboration, research sharing and topical group discussions are useful and implementable at members' agencies.
- Resources
  - Information and Referrals
    - [PA Get Help Now](#) 1-800-662-HELP
    - [resolve](#)
    - [NAMI](#)
    - [MHA](#)
  - Specialized Providers
    - [Center for Victims](#): 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (1-866-644-2882)
    - [Pittsburgh Action Against Rape](#)
    - [UPMC Mathilda Theiss](#)
    - [Highmark Caring Place](#)
  - National Resources
    - [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)
    - [Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress at the Uniformed Services University](#)
    - [Sesame Street's Grief Toolkit](#)
    - [NAMI Frontline Professionals Resources](#)
    - [Fred Rogers Productions Help for Parents and Caregivers](#)
    - SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
      - [Tips for Survivors: Coping With Grief After a Disaster or Traumatic Event](#)
      - [Tips for Survivors of a Disaster or Other Traumatic Event: Managing Stress](#)

Joe Martin ([joseph.martin@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:joseph.martin@alleghenycounty.us)), DHS Trauma Think Tank