

COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
August 26, 2021 (4:30 PM – 5:30 PM)
Next Meeting: September 30th, 2021

Current and Upcoming Opportunities

- Active Solicitations ([DHS Solicitations](#))
 - High-Risk Track of Functional Family Therapy (evidence-based intervention) through Child Welfare RFP
 - Amended July 30 --> Proposals now due @ 3PM EST September 10
 - Pre-proposal information session (Microsoft Teams) @ 1PM EST August 17
 - Forensic Psychological and/or Psychiatric Evaluators RFQ
 - A biannual application deadline for this ongoing RFQ is Wednesday, September 1 @ 3PM EST
 - Racial Equity Training and Support Directory RFI: information for 20 providers with services like racial equity trainings, coaching, strategic planning, policy development
 - Quarterly response deadline on Wednesday, September 15, @ 3PM EST
 - A new edition of the Racial Equity Training and Support Directory [is available](#)
- September is Suicide Prevention Month
 - [SAFE \(Suicide Awareness is For Everyone\) Virtual Conference](#) (free) -- Breaking the Silence: Understanding Suicide on October 22 from 9AM-3PM
 - Includes a screening of the documentary “The S Word”, a discussion with the director, a panel discussion, and additional workshops led by leaders in the field
- [Open Positions](#) @ Allegheny County Department of Children’s Initiatives: Deputy Director, Office Manager, Birth-Five Manager, ECE and OST Workforce Manager, Out of School Time Manager

Policy Updates

- The PA labor market improved in July as pandemic-related job losses declined from previous months, but PA still lags behind the US job recovery average.
 - PA unemployment rate stands at 6.6%.
- Federal emergency pandemic unemployment benefits will expire September 4th. Regular state unemployment compensation is unchanged.
- Beginning October 1, 2021, immigration status can no longer be introduced as evidence in PA criminal or civil proceedings unless essential to the case.
- PA Departments of Health and Human Services launched the PA Health Equity Analysis Tool (HEAT), an interactive map that synthesizes Medical Assistance and population

health data to show opportunities for intervention to promote better health and promote health equity.

- Results are presented at the state, county, zip code and census track levels on a number of population health measures and how they affect local communities and Pennsylvania as a whole.

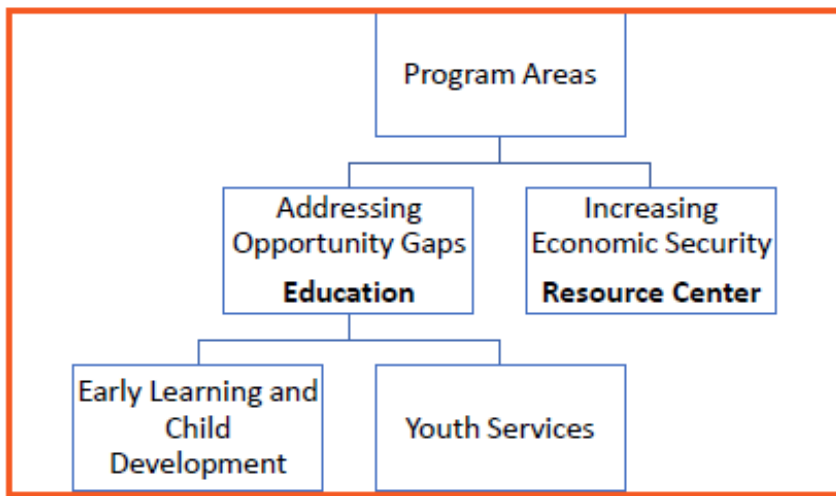
Advancing Racial Justice and Gender Equity

- Angela Reynolds, CEO @ YWCA Greater Pittsburgh
- Guiding Principles

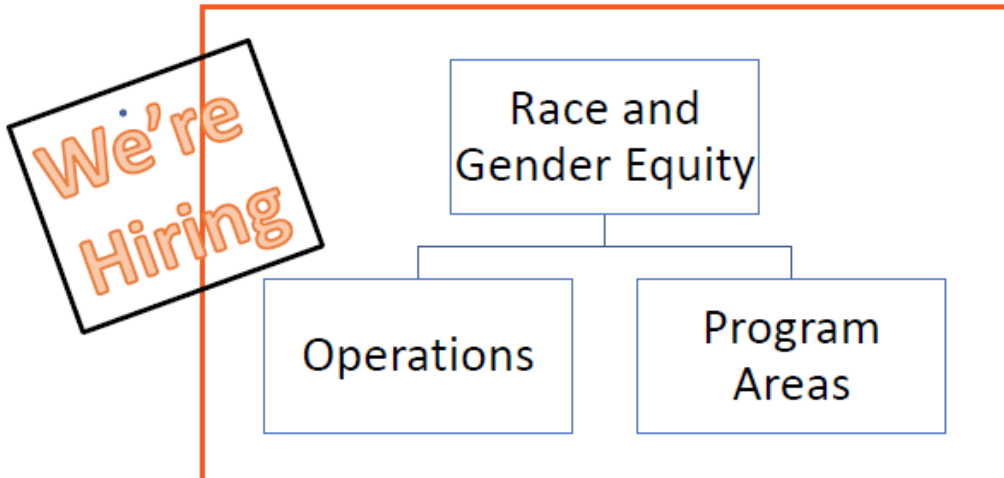
Advancing racial justice and gender equity requires:

- Deliberate action
- A collective approach
- Understanding the challenges and triumphs at the intersection of race and gender is paramount to our mission
- Numerous studies highlight disparities collaborate to implement recommendations
- Current (and persistent) disparities are linked to systemic racism and gender discrimination

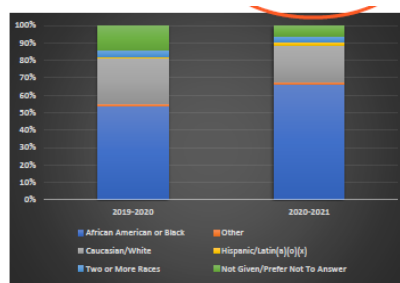
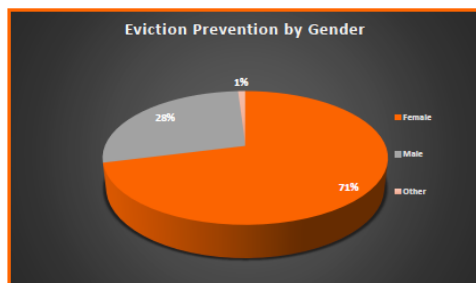
Advancing Race and Gender Equity – Advocacy & Intersectionality Lens



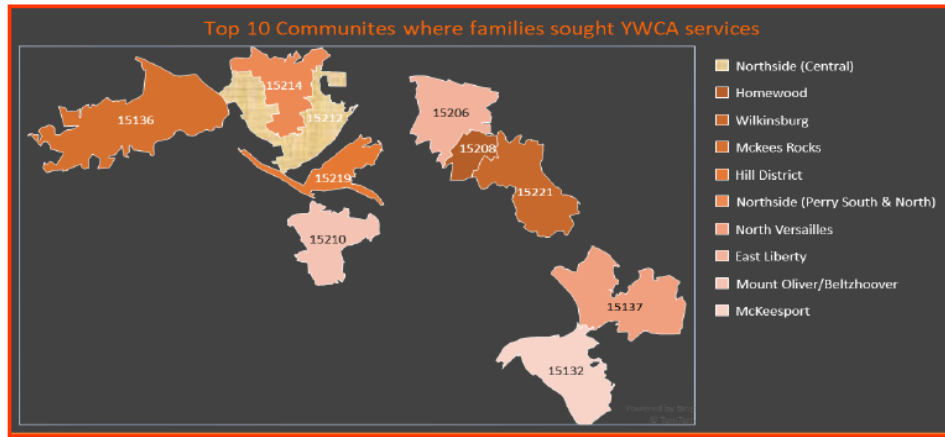
Center for Race and Gender Equity



- Intersectionality Lens
 - Early Learning and Child Development
 - Advocacy: Supporting childcare centers and workers
 - Curriculum Enhancement: Partnership with University of Pittsburgh, Office of Child Development to integrate P.R.I.D.E (Positive Racial Identity Development in Early education)
 - Youth Services
 - Curriculum Enhancement: profiling women (especially women of color) during virtual career cafes
- Meeting Basic Needs



- Increasing Economic Security - Resource Center
 - 4150 evictions prevented
- Racism is a public health crisis



- Senate Resolution 655
 - Sen. Bob Casey is a Co-sponsor
 - Introduced 7/22/20 -- currently In committee
- Opportunities to Engage:
 - Pay Equity Campaign



- In partnership with the Black Women's Policy Center and the Women and Girls Foundation
- Share your Equal Pay Day Story
- 21 Day Equity Challenge
 - In partnership with YWCA Greater Cleveland
 - March 2021- 725 participants
 - 3 to 5 five-to-fifteen-minute activities (articles, podcasts, videos)
 - Week 1: Reparations
 - Week 2: Sports
 - Week 3: Gender based Violence
 - Week 4: Environmental Racism
 - April 2022 Stand Against Racism
- Monthly Action Conversations
 - Third Wednesdays, 12 pm-1 pm on Zoom and Facebook

- September 15: Censoring Racism in American History
 - October 20: Male Allies and White Accomplices
 - November 17: Black Trans Lives Matter
 - December 15: Women of Color and Mental Health
- Week Without Violence: Beyond Resilience – From Surviving to Thriving
 - October 18-23
 - YWCA USA Global Movement
 - Women of color disproportionately affected
 - Black women 35%
 - Stay tuned: partnership with Women’s Center and Shelter
- Statewide Racial Healing Initiative
 - In partnership with YWCA Tri County (Pottstown), YWCA York and YWCA Lancaster
 - Listening sessions and Volunteer Facilitator Training
- Racial Justice Education
 - Understanding Racism
 - Cycle of Socialization
 - Sphere of Influence
 - Microaggressions in the Workplace
- Other: Fellowship program. Supporting MWBEs, Return to office

Truth Not COVID Campaign

- Ivan Juzang, MEE Productions
 - Campaign Name: United Against COVID
 - Slogan: Spreading Truth, Not COVID
 - Call to Action: Be Mindful, Be Vigilant, Beat COVID
 - YouTube Channel (and other social channels) @ TruthNotCOVID
 - Campaign Website: www.TruthNotCOVID.org

ABOUT THE UNITED AGAINST COVID CAMPAIGN	TRAUMA-INFORMED HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS
<p style="text-align: center;">Tired of COVID-19? You Might Be Done with COVID, But It's NOT Done With Our Communities!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">United Against COVID REGISTER NOW!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPREADING TRUTH NOT COVID</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Campaign Partner and Community Leader Toolkit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Digital Community Engagement Toolkit Training</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Behavioral Health Communications</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Traditional Way</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">The MEE Way</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMUNITY LEADERS AS A CHANNEL Building Trust Through Community Mobilization</p>

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY LEADER TRAINING

Digital Community Engagement Toolkit Training

THIS TOOLKIT TRAINING WILL ENABLE YOU TO:

**BUILD YOUR
COMMUNITY
"VILLAGE"**

**LEARN
VALUABLE
COMMUNICATION
SKILLS**

**INCREASE
YOUR SOCIAL
MEDIA PRESENCE
AND IMPACT**

**GAIN
ACCESS TO
PROMOTIONAL
MATERIALS**

- Why community leaders are critical to behavior change
 - Can engage skeptical residents with low levels of trust and confidence in “the system” (authority; government)
 - Addressing risky behaviors in low-income communities requires “dialogue” with the target audience
 - In OCC, the receiver (Contemplating Behavior Change) has the right to challenge the “sender of the message”
 - Community partners are critical for that engagement
 - Messages reinforced by people the audience knows and trusts (have more credibility/impact)
 - In advertising terms: channel credibility
 - Humanology vs. Technology
 - Through dialogue & discussion, arguments get countered (i.e., awareness increases; attitudes & norms change)
- Why Community Engagement Is Essential
 - Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Trusted, Community Identified Leaders Have Credibility to Hold Behavior Change Dialogue with Local Resident
 - Have an immediate impact on your community’s health
 - Community Engagement Increases Connectedness and Social Fabric Among Community Residents
 - Building “Village” is a CRITICAL protective factor (wellness) for families
 - Community Engagement Builds the Community’s Capacity to Address Other Health Disparities & Underlying Health Conditions ... Beyond COVID
 - Put valuable professional skills into communities (sustainability)
- Have an Immediate Impact on the Health of Your Community
 - COVID-19 is here, but it doesn’t have to be here to stay.
 - Be that factual source of the best ways to prevent COVID 19 for your community!!

- If we work together, we can reduce the harm we experience from the pandemic as individuals, as a family and as a community.
 - Make sure your community gets the best tips and practices on staying safe at home, at work and when you're out, along with equal access to high quality medical resources.
 - Connect your community to high quality medical resources.
- Build Your Community's Village (Capacity) Beyond COVID
 - As a community leader, the POWER of Change is in your hands.
 - Working together as a community has always been our source of strength during times of struggle.
 - Only by seriously looking out for each other will we all be able to live our best (possible) lives.
 - We will always be stronger together!
- Learn valuable professional skills
 - Get the knowledge you need to protect yourself and others ... at home, at work and in the community.
 - Upon completion of the Toolkit training, you will be officially certified for helping save lives in your community by really knowing the science and truths around COVID.
 - The communications and outreach skills you gain in the training are things you can put on your résumé and be proud about.
- Earn Community Credits After Completing Each Level of the Training
 - Incentives for taking the training seriously and completing each level include earning "Community Credits." These credits can be exchanged for free promotional items, giveaways and safety signage.
 - We will add your community to a special list for consideration to receive expanded or new County services related to COVID 19.
 - You will also be acknowledged and recognized by the County as a community leader who went above and beyond to represent their community.
- Build Capacity for Increasing Access to Address Health Disparities
 - Community Network
 - The long-term goal is to build a network of community based organizations and community identified leaders who can build the necessary bridges that will acknowledge (not discount) the deep seated barriers of community mistrust while assisting communities with navigating health services.
 - Building Capacity to Address Health Disparities

- The MEE Team will provide trainings and technical assistance (TA) to assist the most credible community leaders in being active “message senders” to increase their impact in their communities.
- MEE’s ongoing Community Engagement TA over the next six months will provide a deeper understanding of the importance of community mobilization and how community engagement strategies lead to stronger, more vibrant and resilient communities.
- Training Topics:
 - Trauma Informed Health Communications 101: Targeting Low Income Communities of Color
 - Community Engagement Concepts That Counter Trauma, Disparities and Lack of Trust

Resources

- **Suicide Prevention Resources**
 - [Creating Hope Through Action Resource Guide](#)
 - The Jana Marie Foundation, Aavidum , Prevent Suicide PA, Pennsylvania Network for Student Assistance Services (PNSAS), and Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Youth Suicide Prevention Grant
 - Trans lifeline: 1-877-565-8860
 - A 24/7 hotline staffed by transgender people for transgender people
 - [The Trevor Project](#)
 - A non-judgmental hotline with LGBTQ-sensitive trained counselors you can contact during a mental health crisis and/or suicidal thoughts
 - Lifeline (24/7): 1-866-488-7386
 - 24/7
 - Textline (Thursday-Friday 4PM-8PM EST): Text “Trevor” to 1-202-304-1200
 - Chat Portal (Monday – Sunday 3PM-9PM)
 - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 (Veterans Crisis Line: Option 1)
 - A 24/7 hotline for anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress
 - Youth Helpline: 1-800-448-3000
 - Your Life Your Voice
 - A teen-specific suicide prevention lifeline available 24/7 via phone, text, or email
 - COPLINE: 1-800-267-5463
 - 24/7 National Law Enforcement Officer crisis intervention hotline for LEOs and their families

- **Key Contacts**

- Provider questions for [Allegheny County Health Department](#)
 - Email DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us: Use the subject field to indicate if your question is about CYF, Aging, BH, CYF, ID, Community Services, or DHS operations (e.g., contracting, payment)
- 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
- Basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries: call the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services available.