

What Connects Us

Allegheny County Department of Human Services



2/24/2022

Provider Briefing

Agenda



4:30 – 4:45 PM:

Policy & Legislative Update / Solicitations

4:45 – 4:50 PM:

Announcements

- HSB Renovations: Client Experience Space
- Live Healthy Discount Program
- Gainey Transition Team Forums
- Women's History Month Opportunity
- Local Tax Preparation Resources
- Laptops and Wi-Fi Hotspots for DHS Clients
- Locating Covid-19 Vaccines

4:50 – 5:30 PM:

The Future of Peer Support

- Rev. Paul T. Abernathy, Neighborhood Resilience Project
- Misty Woody, Allegheny Family Network
- Yesmina Salib, Jewish Family and Community Services
- Julius Boatwright, Steel Smiling
- Tierra Thorne, Youth Support Partner Unit



Join the DHS Team!

<https://alleghenycounty.bamboohr.com/jobs/>



Policy and Legislative Update

Federal Policy and Funding



- **Funding for Federal government programs for the current fiscal year (FY 2022) extended until March 11th at same funding levels as last year**
 - Congress extended the continuing resolution (CR) that ended February 18th allowing more time for negotiations on a full-year bill. The current short-term CR is the third since the new federal fiscal year began on October 1, 2021.
 - A new bill, rather than a CR, would enable the Democratic-led Congress and the current White House to influence funding levels.
- **The State of the Union is scheduled for March 1st – expect to hear more about Administration priorities.**

State – Opioid Abuse Child Impact Task Force



- **Governor Wolf signed HB 253 into law in late January, establishing a task force on the opioid epidemic's impact on infants and children.**
- **The task force is responsible for:**
 - identifying strategies and making short and long-term recommendations to make prevention of substance-exposed infants a priority
 - improving outcomes for pregnant and parenting women attempting to recover from addiction
 - promoting the health, safety and permanency of substance-exposed infants and other young children at risk of child abuse and neglect or placement in foster care due to parental use of alcohol and drugs
 - ensuring the state is in compliance with the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
- **Task force's report is due in one year.**

State – Proposed ARPA Spending Plan



- **Gov. Wolf and leading state Democrats proposed a \$1.7 billion spending plan using American Rescue Plan Act dollars, including:**
 - \$40 million for the behavioral health workforce to expand county mental health programs
 - \$500 million for the PA Opportunity Program to assist families and workers with the increasing costs of living, while providing opportunities to complete a degree, credential or license
 - \$204 million for a one-time bonus rebate to double existing rebates for low-income renters and homeowners
 - \$225 million to offer grants to small businesses economically impacted by the pandemic
- **Gov. Wolf indicated this spending plan is separate from his proposed FY 2022-2023 budget.**
- **State House and Senate Republicans have rejected the plan in favor of keeping the ARPA funds in reserve for this fiscal year.**

State Budget



- **Governor Wolf proposed his eighth and final budget totaling \$43.7 billion, an increase of \$6.2 billion (16.6%) over the current fiscal year budget.**
- **Republican leaders were quick to reject the Governor's budget as irresponsible overspending.**
- **Some relevant proposals included in the Governor's Budget:**
 - \$36.6 million of additional funds for counties to support behavioral health services
 - \$75 million for recruitment and retention payments to qualifying home and community-based service providers
 - Investments in training certified peer specialists, trauma treatment modalities, telehealth and crisis response
 - \$667,000 for additional staff within the Department of Aging to strengthen older adult protective services
 - \$300,000 to create regional crisis response positions for the Office of Children, Youth and Families to provide a higher level of support to counties
 - \$35 million in grants and technical assistance through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for community-led gun violence prevention efforts
 - \$1 million for re-entry services to assist women by giving them the best opportunity to start fresh and reduce recidivism
 - A \$1.25 billion increase in funding for K-12 education and \$200 million in special education funding
 - Increasing the state's minimum wage to \$12 per hour effective July 1, 2022, with an annual increase of \$0.50 per hour until all minimum wage employees earn \$15 per hour

State Budget Hearings



- **General Assembly budget hearings on the Governor's proposed budget began this week and will continue through March 10th covering each department.**
- **The Department of Aging's budget hearing took place on February 15th**
 - [Secretary Torres' testimony](#)
 - [Video of the hearing](#)
- **Upcoming budget hearings:**
 - Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs: March 3rd at 10 am
 - Department of Human Services: March 9th at 10 am
- **Hearing information and link to the live stream:**
<http://www.pahousegov.com/budgethearings>



Active Solicitations

Active Solicitations



[DHS Solicitations Webpage](#)

RFP for Case Management for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

- Due Date: Friday, February 25, 2022

RFQ for Forensic Psychological and/or Psychiatric Evaluators

- Due Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2022

RFP for Out-of-School Time Programs

- Due Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2022

RFP for Out-of-School Time Capacity Building through the Department of Children Initiatives

- Due Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2022

RFP for Teen Programming

- Due Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Active Solicitations



[DHS Solicitations Webpage](#)

RFP for Countywide Support for Violence Prevention

- Due Date: Friday, March 4, 2022

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans for High-Priority Areas

- Letter of Intent Due Date: Friday, March 4, 2022
- Proposal Due Date: Friday, May 6, 2022

RFI for a Racial Equity Training and Support Directory

- Due Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022



AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY INITIATIVE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Up to \$30,000 grants for
Innovative HIV Testing Projects
in Allegheny County, PA**

**Applications due by 5pm EST on
Thursday, March 31, 2022**



For more information,
please contact JT Stoner at stoner@jhf.org



Announcements

Announcements



Renovations to the DHS Human Services Building at 1 Smithfield Street Client Experience Space



Live Healthy Discount Program



- Allegheny County residents are eligible to participate in Live Healthy, a prescription, health and dental discount program available through the County's partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo).
- Residents can visit www.LiveHealthyCard.com to enroll – all that's needed is name and email address - and download/print their Live Healthy card.
- Benefits seem most relevant for individuals who are uninsured or under-insured.
- The Live Healthy program is NOT insurance.
- Details on next slide...

Live Healthy details...



- **Prescription discounts available at no cost at participating pharmacies. Prescriptions for pets included.**
 - Save up to 80%* on generics and up to 40%** on brand-name prescription medications
 - Program participants can expect to save 10% (up to \$10) per visit at MinuteClinics.
 - For a cost, individuals can sign up for additional health and dental discounts. Discounts available on vision, hearing, diabetic supplies, lab services and diagnostic imaging, plus telemedicine consults.

Program	Monthly Individual Cost	Annual Individual Cost	Monthly Family Cost	Annual Family Cost
Prescription	No Cost	No Cost	No Cost	No Cost
Health	\$5.95	\$59.00	\$7.95	\$69.00
Dental	\$5.95	\$59.00	\$7.95	\$69.00

Announcements



Pittsburgh Transition Community Forums “Building a Pittsburgh for All”

Mayor Ed Gainey and his Transition Team want to hear from the community in four areas:

- Equitable Development - Co-Chairs: Monica Ruiz & Bob Damewood
- Community Health and Safety - Co-Chairs: Dr Kathi Elliott & Wasi Mohamed
- Infrastructure and Environment - Co-Chairs: Christine Mondor & Dr Jamil Bey
- Education and Workforce Development - Co-Chairs: Dr. Regina Holley & Darrin Kelly

Two sessions have already occurred. The remaining sessions are:

- Community Health & Safety, Monday, February 28th 6pm ([Register Here](#))
- Infrastructure & Environment, Wednesday, March 2nd 6pm ([Register Here](#))

You can also share your ideas with the Transition Team ([Click Here](#)) or get more information about the Transition Team at gaineytransition.com

Announcements

Women's History Month

"Providing Healing, Promoting Hope"

Please join us in honoring women in your organization whose ceaseless actions provided healing and promoted hope during the on-going pandemic, whether as frontline workers or devoted caregivers.

It's quick and easy. Just log onto the [DHS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH KudoBoard](#), and add a note of praise and an optional photo or graphic.

Then, check back throughout March to see all the ways women have been beacons in our community throughout the past two years.



Announcements

Task Preparation Resources

- Free tax preparation services are available for low-income residents through 2-1-1.
- The PA Dept of Revenue offers free tax preparation services at various sites throughout PA counties. Local sites:
 - **Body & Soul Health and Wellness Center** (209 13th St., Sharpsburg)
 - March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29; April 5 & 12
 - **Highland Senior Center** (704 East Second Ave., Tarentum)
 - March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30; April 6 & 13
 - **Turtle Creek Center** (519 Penn Ave., Turtle Creek)
 - March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31; April 7 & 14




IRS-CERTIFIED TAX PREPARERS


FLEXIBLE OPTIONS THROUGHOUT SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

2020 brought many challenges, but we're prepared to make filing your taxes simple.

United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania wants to help you get the best tax return possible for your family. It's money you earned; we're here to help you keep more of it.

• **New** tax preparation methods are available this year for everyone's safety, with the same quality and individual attention from our trusted volunteers:

 **Virtual.** Upload your materials; our tax experts will prepare and review your return.

 **Hybrid.** Come in for two brief appointments to provide information and review your return.

Or file on your own at www.MyFreeTaxes.com



GET STARTED AT PA211SW.ORG 
OR CALL 211 OR TEXT ZIP CODE TO 898-211

FIND OUT IF YOU QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL TAX CREDITS SUCH AS THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)!



United Way of
Southwestern Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania | Southwest

Announcements



Laptops and Wi-Fi Hotspots for DHS Clients

- Available to any Allegheny County resident who has received services from any DHS-affiliated provider in the past 6 months
- Chromebooks and T-Mobile hotspots are currently available within about 2 weeks.
- DHS pays the monthly bill for the hotspots, which are active for one year.
- To request a laptop or Wi-Fi hotspot:
https://alleghenycounty.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eInE3Uh0xKP6y3P.
- After you submit the form, you will receive an email from DHS-Covid19Supplies@alleghenycounty.us about the status of the request and distribution details.

Announcements

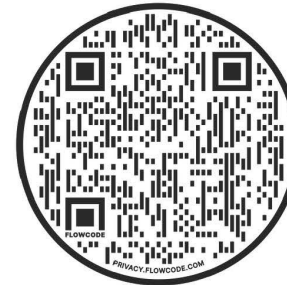
Locating Covid-19 Vaccines



COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE: **LOCATING COVID-19 VACCINES**

Scan the QR code or use the website link to learn more about COVID-19 vaccines offered by the following providers

PEDIATRIC OFFICES



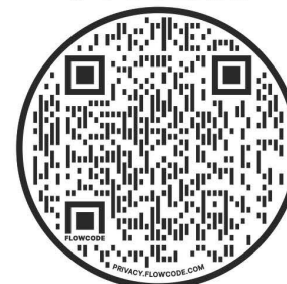
<https://tinyurl.com/PedOfficeCOVID19Vax>

RETAIL PHARMACIES



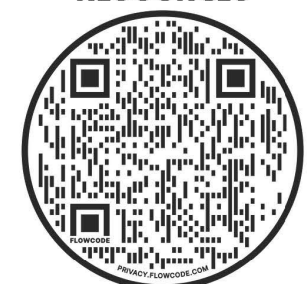
<https://tinyurl.com/PharmacyCOVID19Vax>

HOSPITAL SYSTEMS



<https://tinyurl.com/HospitalCOVID19Vax>

NATIONAL/STATE/LOCAL RESOURCES



<https://tinyurl.com/GovResourcesCOVID19Vax>

UPMC | **CHILDREN'S**
HOSPITAL OF PITTSBURGH



The Future of Peer Support

Allegheny Family Network – Misty Woody

Jewish Family and Community Services – Yesmina Salib

DHS Youth Support Partners – Tierra Thorne

Steel Smiling – Julius Boatwright

Neighborhood Resilience Project - Rev. Paul T. Abernathy

Family Peer Support Services at Allegheny Family Network



- Serving high-risk and families in need throughout Allegheny County since 2006
- Family Run Organization: All Staff have lived experience as a parent raising a child with mental health or behavioral health challenges
- Free service, no income requirement, can self-refer, must be a parent to receive services
- Offer direct support, support groups, parent trainings, social events, and connect parents to providers and resources
- Family Support Providers work 1-on-1 with parents to connect to services and providers, meet obligations / requirements, navigate insurance, medical and court systems, provide peer support during stressful or traumatic seasons in the family
- Parents can join support groups located in their community or virtually (groups are parent-led)

Family Peer Support Services at Allegheny Family Network



- FSPs and AFNs training sessions help reduce mental health stigma, connect families to wellness services and programs and clarify questions and confusion about services, systems and health concerns
- Parents are connected to other parents in the community for additional support, to reduce isolation, stigma and depression/mental health complications and learn how to advocate for change in their communities and the mental health/behavioral health systems

How to Connect

- Providers can submit a referral to AFN and we can contact parents directly
- Parents can call the Parent Support Line at 1-888-273-2361 to self-refer or get connected to providers/resource available for their needs
- Contact Misty at mwoody@alleghenyfamilynetwork.org or 412-246-2030 or visit www.AlleghenyFamilyNetwork.org

Together, we can make great change for families through peer support and provider services!

Refugee & Immigrant Support Groups at JFCS



- Began in 2015
- Bi-lingual community members as paid group leaders
- Groups meet for 8 weeks, virtual/in-person/hybrid
- Flexibility to focus on topics/activities which are relevant to the community
- Active groups:
Iraqi (men & women's), Bhutanese (senior & women's), Venezuelan, Latine (parenting), Ugandan

Contact Yesmina Salib (ysalib@jfcspgh.org) to make a referral to a group or with any interested new leaders

Youth Support Partner Unit



Mission

To be positive role models who support, empower and motivate youth, families and other professionals by using our experiences as a guide.

With a shared vision, we can all learn from each other. Then, with open communication, collaboration and advocacy, we can improve outcomes and independence.





Next Meeting

3/24/22

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting notices and reminders will come from the staff of the Office of Equity and Engagement.

Here is the link to sign up to receive those notices:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/Uvw6IMX/ProviderBriefings>

Or email us at DHS-OEE@AlleghenyCounty.us

Key Contacts



Questions for the Allegheny County Health Department

- <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/index.aspx>

Questions for DHS about Covid-19 or to Request a Lock Box for a Client

- DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us
- Use the subject field to indicate the category of your question (e.g., child welfare vaccine requirements, behavioral health masking policy, lock box request).

Key DHS staff

- Payment inquiries: Dan Evancho Dan.Evancho@alleghenycounty.us
- Contract inquiries: Jennifer.Wernert@alleghenycounty.us or Laura.Brigido@alleghenycounty.us

United Way 2-1-1

- For basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries call the 24/7 COVID19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services available.