

What Connects Us

Allegheny County Department of Human Services



6/23/2022

Provider Briefing

Agenda



4:30 – 4:40:

Welcome / Policy, Legislative and Solicitations update

4:40 – 4:50:

MEE Productions User Experience Research / Data
Collection Process

4:50 – 5:25:

Panel Discussion - Using collaboration to strengthen
quality, reach and impact: Allegheny County's
Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

5:25 – 5:30:

Announcements



The July meeting will be superseded by the "State of Human Services" address on July 28, 2022 from 4:30-6 pm. The next regular provider briefing will be held on August 25, 2022.



Policy and Legislative Update

Federal Updates



White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health

- The White House released the conference pillars of the upcoming [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health](#), which will be hosted in September.
 1. Improve food access and affordability
 2. Integrate nutrition and health:
 3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
 4. Support physical activity for all
 5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

Medicaid and Public Health Emergency

- During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), certain Medicaid and CHIP requirements were waived, preventing people from losing coverage during the pandemic. The PHE is set to **expire on July 15th**, unless extended again by the Biden administration.
- ***Because the Biden administration has not formally indicated when the "unwinding" will begin, and due to advocacy by hospitals around COVID cases, it is possible the PHE will be renewed for another 90 days in July, but there has been no formal announcement yet.***

State Updates



- State lawmakers are now in session and working on the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget negotiations in Harrisburg, with a funding deadline of June 30th.
 - With over \$2.3 billion dollars in ARPA money to spend by the end of 2024, as well as \$4.9 billion in extra revenue from the current fiscal year, a lot of the negotiations are focusing on how much of this money to spend in the budget.
 - House and Senate Leaders have cancelled legislative sessions for today and Friday of this week to focus on closed door budget negotiations with the deadline looming next week.
- In a win for harm reduction policy, a bill decriminalizing the use of fentanyl test strips made it out of the House on Monday and is now in the Senate.

State Updates



- **Major changes are coming to PA's Medicaid HealthChoices physical health plans available across the state beginning September 1, 2022.**
 - Consumers can choose a new plan beginning this week (June 20th). Those who need to choose a new plan but do not do so by **August 16th** will be auto-assigned into a plan.
 - Starting this week and going through July 7, mailings explaining the new plan choices will go out to all Medicaid consumers.
 - One major change is that Aetna will no longer be available as a physical health HealthChoices insurance option statewide.

Local Updates



The Gainey Administration recently announced the [Stop the Violence Impact grant program](#).

- Poise Foundation will oversee the program, which is the first phase of Gainey's announced Peace Plan.
- Grants are between \$15k-\$90k, and examples of potentially eligible projects include: Family-strengthening activities, parent/guardian support, mentoring for youth and adults, development of support communities for traumatized individuals, re-entering citizens and their families, and culturally sensitive mental health counseling for high-risk individuals.

Legislation passed on Tuesday by Pittsburgh City Council authorized the Mayor to create [a program to give temporary employment with the City to persons recently released from jail](#).

- Pay is \$11/hr to aid the City in maintaining a variety of sites, and individuals are provided career development services to help them win full-time employment.



Solicitations

Active Solicitations



[DHS Solicitations Webpage](#)

RFP for Equity Training

- DEADLINE EXTENDED! Due Date: Wednesday, July 6, 2022

RFP for Systematic Therapeutic Assessment Resources and Treatment (START)

- Due Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022
- [Virtual Information Session: Wednesday, June 29, 2-3:30 p.m.](#)

RFI for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Eliminate the Need for Group Placement Initiative

- Due Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022

RFP for Community-Led and Community-Operated Informal Mental Health Supports

- DEADLINE EXTENDED! Due Date: Monday, August 8, 2022
- [New virtual office hours session: Thursday, June 30 at 9:30 a.m.](#)

Active Solicitations



RFP for Short-Term Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities

- Due Date: Friday, July 29, 2022
- RFP through Community Care on behalf and in conjunction with DHS

HHS Announces Its First-Ever Behavioral Health Recovery Innovation Challenge

- The goal of this challenge is to identify innovations developed by peer-run or community-based organizations, and entities that may partner with them—such as local or state governments, health systems, hospitals, or health plans—that advance recovery.
- The deadline for submission is July 15, 2022. The purse prize is up to \$400,000. The competition will offer up to 10 awards.

MEE Productions



Wendy Verna and Ivan Juzang, MEE Productions



MEE[®]
MOTIVATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT

ERAP Panel Discussion



Using collaboration to strengthen quality, reach and impact:

Allegheny County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Panelists:

Kyle C. Webster – ACTION-Housing

Chuck Keenan – DHS

Richard Morris – Urban League

Sarah Dittoe – YWCA

Abby Rae Lacombe – Rent Help PGH

Alex Payton – Kingsley Association

Diana James - AJAPO



A Massive Partnership



Allegheny County

City of Pittsburgh

ACTION-Housing, Inc.

The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

The YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh

Dollar Energy



Additional Partners



AJAPO

Catapult

Civically

Focus on Renewal

Greater Valley Community Services

Gwen's Girls

Hazelwood Initiative

Hill District Consensus Group

Hilltop Alliance

Homewood Children's Village

Kingsley Association

Lawrenceville United

Brashear Association

Mon Valley Initiative

Operation Better Block

Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corp.

Pittsburgh United

Project Destiny

RentHelpPGH

South Hills Interfaith Movement

SisTers PGH

The Wellness Collective

Wilkinsburg Family Health Center



Drop-In Centers

Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance Program: Drop-In Centers

Please follow CDC protocols at all drop-in centers. Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth, stay 6 feet away from others and stay home if you are sick.

1. Focus on Renewal

420 Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks PA, 15136
Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,
Tues: 11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

2. Gwen's Girls

711 W. Commons 3rd Floor, Pittsburgh PA, 15212
Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wed: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

3. Kingsley Association

6435 Frankstown Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

4. Wilkinsburg Family Support

807 Wallace Avenue, Pittsburgh PA, 15221
Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wed: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

5. Greater Valley Community Services

300 Holland Avenue, Braddock PA, 15104
Hours: Mon, Tues: 12 p.m. – 7 p.m., Wed, Thurs,
Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

6. South Hills Interfaith Movement - Bethel Park

5301 Park Avenue, Bethel Park PA, 15102
Hours: Mon: 12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Tues, Wed: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Thurs: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

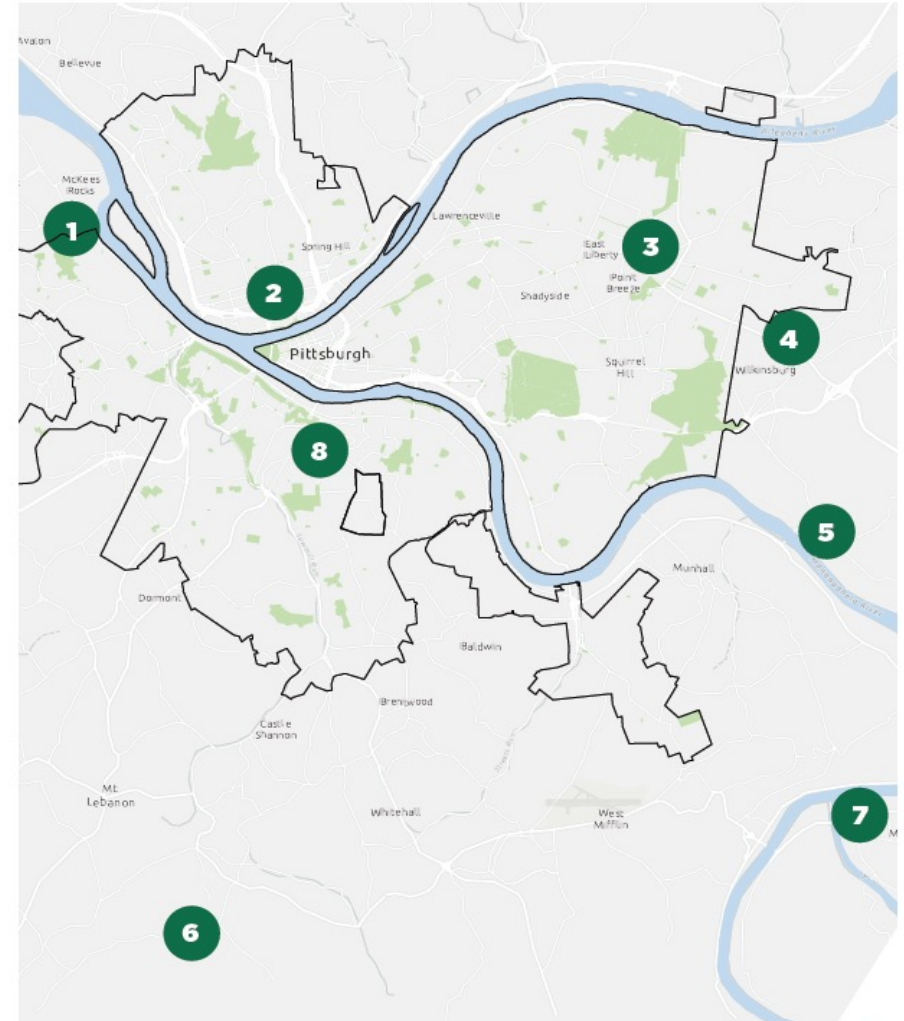
7. The Wellness Collective

337 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport PA, 15132
Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thurs: 12 p.m. – 8 p.m., Fri: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
(closed Thursdays from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

8. Brashear Association's Neighborhood Employment Center

Opens March 22, 2021

730 E. Warrington Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15210
Hours: Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.



Questions? Contact ACTION-Housing at 412-248-0021 or rentalassistance@actionhousing.org.

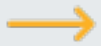
UPDATED 3/14/2021



The Process



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



Inventory of
applicant
documents

Outreach to
tenant
*YWCA and 17
partner agencies*

Eligibility
determination

Outreach to
landlord/ pivot
to tenant
Urban League

Payment
and letter





Announcements

IRS Mileage Rate Increase



- The **IRS recently announced** that due to high gas costs the mileage reimbursement rate would be increased from 58.5 cents per mile to 62.5 cents beginning on July 1st and going to the end of 2022.
- Allegheny County is following the IRS reimbursement rate change.



THE STATE OF HUMAN SERVICES



Wednesday, July 27th from 11:30am – 1pm

Join on your computer or mobile app:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84136302284>

Or call in (audio only): +19292056099,,84136302284#

Thursday, July 28th from 4:30 – 6:00pm

Join on your computer or mobile app:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83895826869>

Or call in (audio only): +13017158592,,83895826869#

Webpage for more information: <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/News-Events/Meetings-Hearings/Community.aspx>



COVID-related funding for computers and Wi-Fi Hotspots is no longer available.

DHS's Digital Divide Program has come to an end.

Other resources are available.

Digital Divide Resources



The Federal Affordable Connectivity Program

Offers reduced price broadband access and vouchers toward discounts on laptops

<https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>

Carnegie and Allegheny County Libraries

Offer public computer labs and free Wi-Fi. Many also allow users to borrow "Chromebook bundles" which include laptops and hotspots. Be advised that bundles often have a waitlist.

<https://www.carnegielibrary.org/services/computers-wifi-printing/>

Computer Reach

Local City non-profit which refurbishes computers for low-cost sale. They also raffle off free computers every month.

<https://www.computerreach.org/>

Metamesh

Local non-profit has a program called "Every1 Online" that offers free-Wi-Fi to residents in need who reside within their network areas. Serves residents in Homewood, Wilkinsburg, New Ken, Coraopolis and more.

<https://www.metamesh.org/>

Provider Briefing Survey



It's been a while since we asked for input about the provider briefings and we want to keep them relevant and useful.

Please take this brief [Qualtrics survey](#) to let us know:

- What time of day is most convenient
- What frequency of meetings works best for you
- Any other feedback you'd like to provide

This link will also be available in the video recording that will be sent following the meeting. Please share it with those of your staff who attend (or might attend) the briefings.

Basic Needs & Stability Fund



The Basic Needs and Stability Fund, launched in March 2022, distributed about \$1.5M in the form of gift cards, concrete goods and payments for specific services (e.g., utilities, childcare) to thousands of Allegheny County families.

The fund has now been depleted and no further requests are being accepted.

DHS is investigating the possibility of replenishing the fund and will keep you posted.

9-8-8 Roll-out



9-8-8 crisis line officially launches nationally on July 16th:

- BUT the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) is still in operation and will continue to be.
- AND we are not conducting a broad communication campaign at this time while local crisis capacity is being enhanced.

Callers from Allegheny County to either number will be linked directly to Resolve's crisis line.



Join the DHS Team!

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



The July "State of Human Services" address on July 28th from 4:30 – 6 pm will supersede the July 28th Provider Briefing.

Please note that the link to this presentation is NOT the same as the Provider Briefing link.

Next Provider Briefing

8/25/22

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting notices and reminders will come from the staff of the Office of Equity and Engagement. Monthly meetings can be accessed at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81751270241>.

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
- Provider Briefing Questions: DHS-OEE@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.