Battering Intervention Program improves communication to increase accountability

From December 2017 through March 2018, Allegheny County Battering Intervention Program (BIP) providers and criminal system partners participated in a collaborative planning process focused on improving BIP services. All internal aspects of BIP were discussed, and on July 1, a series of improvements will be implemented to increase communication and collaboration across the BIP provider network and with system partners who refer individuals to BIP.

These improvements include standardized processes for all providers centralized in a BIP provider manual, electronic client records with additional fields for an improved BIP status report, DHS resource specialists assisting Magisterial District Judges with receiving BIP referrals and reporting client progress to the court, and the use of electronic referrals by probation officers and Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) caseworkers.

Enhancing communications between BIP providers as well as information sharing to referral sources increases accountability for BIP clients and furthers a system-wide response to intimate partner violence in Allegheny County.

Additional information on BIP can be found on the DHS website or by emailing BIP@alleghenycounty.us.

Battering Intervention Program provider change

On July 1, Wesley Family Services will become a community provider for Battering Intervention Program (BIP) in Allegheny County. Wesley Family Services is an agency created from the merger of Wesley Spectrum Services and Family Services of Western Pennsylvania (FSWPA). At this time, Wesley Family Services will maintain the same class times and locations as the previous provider, Family Resources. All clients currently enrolled in Family Resources' Battering Intervention Program will be transferred to Wesley Family Services on July 1.

FSWPA was providing BIP services in the Allegheny County Jail, and Wesley Family Services will continue this BIP programing, as well.