

# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



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## **DHS Racial Equity Summit encourages conversations, action around racial disproportionality**

On July 11, more than 100 leaders and direct service staff from the Behavioral Health Community of Practice and the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) gathered for the inaugural DHS Racial Equity Summit. The event's theme was "Data exposes racial disproportionalities. Equity is the antidote to inequalities."

The DHS Racial Equity Summit included local and national experts in the fields of behavioral health, child welfare and racial equity. Jacki Hoover, CYF acting deputy director, delivered opening remarks and was followed by a compelling spoken word performance from Twanda Clark, CYF trainer. After the performance, Michelle McMurray from the Pittsburgh Foundation spoke on racial disproportionality in behavioral health. Joyce James, racial equity consultant, and Angela Steele, CYF diversity and inclusion officer, concluded the morning session with an overview of racial disproportionality in child welfare and DHS's [efforts to combat it](#).

The afternoon featured four workshops designed to integrate racial equity into practice, with an emphasis on conferencing and teaming and father engagement.

"To achieve the best outcomes for our children and families, it is essential that social serving systems have a common understanding of institutional and structural racism, and the impact on our families and communities. The research and data are clear that racial disproportionality exists in all social serving systems. We must work together to eradicate systemic barriers to equity," said Angela.

To learn more about DHS's efforts to combat racial disproportionality, contact Angela at [angela.steele@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:angela.steele@alleghenycounty.us)