

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



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Kudos: Bryn Elizabeth Albee

Bryn Elizabeth Albee, caseworker 3 in the Mon Valley Regional Office (MVRO), was selected as the 2018 recipient of the Georgia Hernandez Award for Excellence in Child Welfare Practice. She received the award at the CYF all-staff meeting held on September 13.

Bryn's nominator stated that Bryn "serves our families from a place of humility, primarily through recognizing and utilizing the family's expertise about themselves – particularly their strengths and needs." The nominator continued, "What I believe truly sets Bryn apart is her commitment to her colleagues, which mirrors her commitment to the families she serves. Throughout the last year, Bryn has been instrumental in designing, advocating and implementing a mentoring model being utilized throughout each of CYF's regional offices... It's evident that Bryn's motivation behind taking on this type of initiative is to thoughtfully share her experience and expertise with her fellow caseworkers, which can ultimately lead to children and families who are better served."

Helen Calahane, who was Bryn's advisor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work echoed these sentiments, stating, "I can attest to Bryn's sincere devotion to the field and her commitment to giving back to the child welfare system. Bryn has not only a quest for learning, but also a drive to help others around her. Bryn [has a] giving nature and [contributes] towards creating an organizational atmosphere that is grounded in best practice, mutual support and positive working relationships."

Betsy Caroff, regional office director of MVRO, added, "In everything that Bryn does she is focused on the family or child. Even when she is pulling data or talking system changes, it is centered on the wellbeing of the families we serve. She always is pushing and questioning the status quo. We need thinkers like Bryn to move our work to the next level while focusing on specific families and children."

The Georgia Hernandez Award for Excellence in Child Welfare Practice is presented annually to one caseworker who exemplifies excellence in case practice; a commitment to the DHS vision and guiding principles; and who consistently demonstrates CYF core competencies such as cultural competence, a client focus, adaptability and trustworthiness.