

# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



October 2018

## **New speaker series educates staff, family members**

This month, DHS held the first sessions of a two-month speaker series designed to educate behavioral health and child welfare workers, as well as family members, on various aspects of trauma and trauma-informed care.

Topics for the speaker series, which were selected through surveys and brainstorm sessions, include the intersection between trauma and secondary traumatic stress; therapeutic storytelling; race, trauma and mental health; trauma-informed screening and assessment practices across systems; and trauma-informed practice approaches for LGBTQ+ youth. Each topic will be presented a minimum of two times at 810 River Ave in the North Side, the Human Services Building downtown or the Mon Valley Regional Office in North Versailles.

"We're so fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from leading national experts in trauma-informed care. By participating in these workshops, participants will come away with increased knowledge of the impact of trauma, as well as meaningful applications of trauma-informed principles. Ultimately, this helps us lay the groundwork for a more trauma-informed system – and that means better services for the children and families of Allegheny County, and improved well-being for the workforce," said Joe Martin, assistant manager of integrated assessments and engagement practices.

While attendance for these sessions is limited, each workshop is being filmed and will be made available to staff who are unable to participate in-person. After the workshops have concluded, participants will convene to discuss how strategies and ideas learned from the series can be implemented to enhance DHS's services and support the workforce.

To learn more about the speaker series or the DHS Trauma Think Tank, contact Joe at [joseph.martin@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:joseph.martin@alleghenycounty.us) or 412.323.2106.