

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



August 2018

Staffing changes at DHS

Over the last few months, the Department of Human Services has welcomed two new deputy directors as well as a senior leader for equity and inclusion to its staff.

After previously serving as assistant deputy director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families, Jacki Hoover has assumed the position of CYF deputy director. Jacki started in CYF as a caseworker 23 years ago, and her prior roles have included co-founder and manager of the Teaming Institute for DHS, Independent Living supervisor, DHS Executive Office program manager, Family Group Decision Making manager and resource specialist. She has worked extensively with various family engagement strategies designed to improve system integration, and has presented nationally regarding the use of peer support, as well improving physical and behavioral health outcomes for children in foster care.

Abigail Horn is the deputy director of the newly re-constituted Office of Community Services (OCS). Abby joined DHS in 2013 after working for the Pew Charitable Trusts. She's worked in program management, applied research and program evaluation for several national organizations and higher education institutions over the years. Most recently, Abby worked in the office of Data Analysis, Research and Evaluation (DARE) as senior advisor, Bureau of Homeless Services. She will continue this work as OCS deputy director and assume responsibility for other programs and initiatives that improve access to services, including the Allegheny Link, Homeless Services and Supports, and CYF prevention programming. Abby will also lead the continued focus on family support, home visiting and early childhood education.

Finally, Jessica Ruffin will serve in the newly-created position of senior leader for equity and inclusion. Previously, Jessica worked at Carlow University where she was the inaugural director of the Social Justice Institutes. In her new role, Jessica will work with program offices and providers in designing and implementing strategies to address equity issues in staffing and services to clients. Jessica's work will include furthering the mission of several DHS programs and initiatives including the DHS Immigrants and Internationals Initiative, which works to help immigrant and refugee families in our area, and SOGIE, which works to improve outcomes for LGBTQ youth in the child welfare system.