

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



January 2019

Two DHS offices receive recognitions

DHS's Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and the Behavioral Health (BH)-CYF Community of Practice have both been recognized for their work.

In September, two members of the SAMHSA team visited DHS to learn more about the BH-CYF Community of Practice, which is supported by SAMHSA's System of Care grant. Recently, DHS received the results of that visit.

In a letter, SAMHSA identified many significant strengths in DHS's systems, including racial equity trainings for child welfare staff and behavioral health providers; the discrimination and inclusion policy highlighting SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression); the Stand Together anti-stigma campaign; and engagement of youth and families. The letter concludes, "Allegheny County has made significant gains to expand their system of care grant... We look forward to supporting [your] efforts as you move forward."

The Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) was recognized by the state for "the best licensure [they] have had in many years." The state's feedback also stated that there was "much improvement in documentation - contacts were very thorough and addressed the safety and risk of the child." Most importantly, the state said that "children in Allegheny County are safe."