



DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



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Kudos: Justine Walz (Georgia Hernandez Award Winner)

Justine Walz, caseworker in the Mon Valley Regional Office (MVRO), was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Georgia Hernandez Award for Excellence in Child Welfare Practice.

Justine was recognized for her patience, professionalism, caring nature and communication skills. Her nominator stated, "[Justine] is sensitive to the emotions of others and shows empathy for the diverse clients she serves and also for her team members. Justine will always assure that her working relationships remain strong and supportive, no matter the situation. Justine has showed patience and compassion for her clients who are going through a difficult time while continuing to assure that they understand that process and her willingness to help them through."

Betsy Caroff, MVRO regional office director, added, "She engages in difficult discussions, formally and informally, and brings a passion to her work that families praise her for. It has been really exciting to see her get out of her comfort zone and grow. We are lucky to have her at Mon Valley and CYF as a whole."

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.