

DHS honored with youth award

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services has been named the Older Youth Services Agency of the Year by the Pennsylvania Older Youth Retreat Steering Committee. The award, now in its fifth year, is given to an agency that has a positive impact on the lives of older youth and alumni of the child welfare system.

The Pennsylvania Older Youth Retreat Steering Committee is composed of representatives from agencies across Pennsylvania offering independent living services, as well as stakeholders from SWAN and the PA Office of Children, Youth and Families. Each year, they organize a week-long summer retreat for foster youth to socialize and share experiences.

In her letter announcing the honor, Meghan O'Hare, Program Development Specialist with the University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work and the facilitator of the steering committee, said that DHS was recognized for its efforts "to go above and beyond for youth, to assist them in identifying and working toward their goals, to provide a location (412 Youth Zone) for them to practice life skills, and for positively impacting the lives of the youth [served]."

The award will be presented at a banquet in August.