

## DHS hosts naturalization ceremony

A naturalization ceremony held at the Human Services Building (HSB) on September 22 celebrated a new start for 19 people as they became U.S. citizens.

Candidates from Australia, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burma, People's Republic of China, Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, and South Korea gathered in the Liberty Conference Room for the ceremony, which included welcoming remarks from Barbara Murock, Immigrants and Internationals Initiative manager, and a keynote speech from Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. A moving rendition of the national anthem was sung by the Office of Behavioral Health's (OBH) Randolph Thomas. The highlight of the event, however, occurred at the end of the ceremony when each candidate received a small flag and his or her citizenship certificate.

The naturalization ceremony held at DHS marked one of the 240 naturalization ceremonies held during Welcoming Week. Between September 16 and 23, more than 38,000 individuals were welcomed as new citizens nationwide.