

## Pittsburgh Recovery Walk

On September 10, the Department of Human Services (DHS) was one of the many partner organizations that participated in the first Pittsburgh Recovery Walk.

While DHS provider Message Carriers has held recovery walks for the last several years, the 2016 Pittsburgh Recovery Walk marked the first local, large-scale walk of this kind, and was planned by a steering committee comprised of DHS, city and county officials, and behavioral health organizations. Held during National Recovery Month, the walk celebrated individuals in recovery and anyone whose life has been touched by addiction and recovery. More than 1,000 people attended this event, which featured not only a walk from Liberty Avenue to Market Square, but also empowering speeches from elected officials, musical entertainment, family-friendly activities, and resource tables.

“Too often, people have stereotypical views about addiction. One of my favorite things about the walk was that it included people in all stages of recovery and showed the tremendous support that their families – and the community as a whole – can offer. The walk really conveyed a positive message of hope; no one is going through this journey alone,” said Dr. Latika Davis-Jones, administrator of the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). “We look forward to continuing our work with the Recovery Walk Steering Committee to create another empowering, successful event for 2017.”