

Area Agency on Aging achieves national accreditation

Earlier this month, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Area Agency on Aging (AAA) was notified that it had received full accreditation for case management for long term services and supports (CM-LTSS) from the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA). Previously reserved for health organizations, this is the first time that this accreditation has been awarded for case management services.

The CM-LTSS accreditation is bestowed on organizations that implement best practices for person-centered care planning and effective care transitions. The honor awarded to AAA is for a three-year accreditation, the maximum achievable time frame. In the accompanying letter, the NCQA specifically acknowledged the AAA's quality improvement efforts.

In a press release, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald stated, "This is a significant achievement for the Area Agency on Aging, and a firm acknowledgement of the quality of work performed by our service coordinators on behalf of the older adults of Allegheny County. Having the NCQA accreditation is an important designation that sets the county apart as it works to meet the needs of the state's managed care program."

DHS Director Mark Cherna added, "This achievement was earned through the hard work and dedication of our AAA staff on behalf of the county's older adults. I'm especially proud that the agency's efforts helped us to receive the highest level of accreditation possible."