

Speed networking fosters connections among DHS staff

Throughout the summer, more than 200 staff members from across DHS program offices gathered at the Human Services Building (HSB) for engaging, learning and sharing as part of DHS Speed Networking. The event, coordinated by the Events and Donations Team in the Office of Community Relations (OCR), is an updated version of the speed networking sessions held in 2010.

“Every day, we pass dozens of our coworkers, often not knowing their names, their job titles, or even which floor they work on in the building,” said Ondréa Burton, events and donations manager. “Speed networking provides an opportunity to sit down and get to know your colleagues one-on-one while learning about the important work they are doing to contribute to the DHS mission of serving the residents of Allegheny County.”

Each speed networking session brought together up to 20 staff members from various program offices. Prior to the sessions, participants received a short list of questions about themselves and their work. During the two-hour sessions, participants moved around the room from person to person, spending approximately five minutes discussing the pre-selected questions and any other topics of interest.

Overall, feedback around the speed networking sessions has been extremely positive. A [HappyorNot kiosk](#) set up outside of the sessions found a 98 percent “very positive” response to the event. An electronic survey found that participants considered the sessions to be interactive and engaging, and that many would encourage their colleagues to participate. One participant stated: “Unexpected things happen when meeting new people. I discovered a connection important to my work and was able to get some important feedback for an initiative I am working on.”

Because of the event’s popularity, additional sessions will be held in early 2018 at HSB (downtown), the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office (South Side), and 810 River Avenue (North Side). For additional information, or to register for an upcoming session, please contact the Events and Donations Team at eventanddonationsteam@alleghenycounty.us.