



DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



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DHS receives funding from Staunton Farm to improve BH services

DHS's Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Staunton Farm Foundation to help behavioral health providers better serve transition age youth. On average, more than 8,300 transition age youth, ages 16 to 25, are served each year through behavioral health services in Allegheny County.

The grant funding will be used to establish a part-time position designed to provide training and technical support to behavioral health providers with the primary goal of supporting transition for these youth into the adult-serving system and improving engagement and continuity of care. New materials will be created for providers, caregivers and youth to guide individuals through this transition process. OBH is also looking to strengthen the involvement of youth and family support, and seeks to form a learning collaborative for providers.

"As youth turn 18 and reach the legal status of 'adulthood', they must move from the child/adolescent services mental health system to the adult-serving system. This can be a challenging time of transition for our youth and their families," said Denise Macerelli, OBH deputy director. "Ultimately, our goal is to better support the youth and their families during this transition while also supporting the provider system to best serve them. We are excited to receive this funding and look forward to this opportunity."

To learn more about this project, contact Renee Patten at Renee.Patten@alleghenycounty.us.