



# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



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## **Five questions with Gabe Krivosh**

Gabe is program supervisor in the Office of Community Services (OCS) field unit. He can be reached at [Gabriel.Krivosh@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Gabriel.Krivosh@AlleghenyCounty.US) or 412-287-0434.

### **1. What was your path to Allegheny County/DHS?**

I had been working with Western Psych's permanent supportive housing programs when coordinated entry was first implemented. I had also spent several years working with people with disabilities prior to that. Being very interested in both coordinated entry and supporting people with disabilities, I applied for the Allegheny Link thinking that it would be a great fit for my skillset and experience. I was very excited at the opportunity to come to DHS, and continue to be similarly excited to continue my efforts to support the people we are all dedicated to serving.

### **2. Tell us a bit about the work you do.**

I oversee a team of eight staff that work in the community to support people experiencing homelessness in accessing services. One of our essential roles is bringing coordinated entry into spaces where folks might be who are otherwise not able to access the other channels for this service, recognizing that, at times, those who are most vulnerable and most in need of these services are the least likely to actively and assertively seek them. Our support does not start or end with coordinated entry-related services. We offer flexible case management to people experiencing homelessness. This includes additional supports in accessing housing resources outside of the formal homeless system, benefits, behavioral health services, food, or just about any other identified need that a person presents us with. Our team also has a diversion specialist that works diligently alongside single adults in emergency shelters in order to access housing options when it is very unlikely that the individual will self-resolve or be able to access the formal Continuum of Care. This work also helps to inform the development and implementation of broader efforts to support people experiencing homelessness.

### **3. How does your work help to support DHS's mission and goals?**

Our team is set out to identify and support the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in our community. We pride ourselves on our individual-focused and person-driven service provision. No person's path entering into homelessness is the same, so everyone's solution is going to be different. I like to say that we serve people, not populations. A person's experience in life, including in a housing crisis, does not rest soundly within one line of services or domain of need. We fully embrace DHS's efforts

and initiatives toward integration of these different services and domains, and find ourselves constantly jumping between different systems and trying to bridge them together in order to provide the best experience possible for the people we support.

**4. *What most excites you about your work?***

One of the things that most excites me about our work is how significantly it can positively impact someone's life. We have seen tremendous positive outcomes for people who had, at the onset of our engagement, little to no faith in us or our system. Another really exciting aspect of our work is our team approach to creative problem-solving. We have a lot of flexibility in how we approach situations, so there's no shortage of frontal lobe gymnastics that we perform. Honestly, I think we have a lot of fun.

**5. *What is most important thing DHS staff should know about your role?***

If you find yourself driving past a person experiencing homelessness, if you have a neighbor who you think might be living in a space that's uninhabitable, if you are wondering if anyone is trying to help someone panhandling that you chatted with on your lunch walk – please reach out to me. There's certainly a chance we're already connected to them, but there's also a chance that we aren't. For people experiencing homelessness, being connected to supports is often critical to their success and survival, and we strive to ensure that these connections are available to all.