



# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



June 2021

## **Cherna Fellowship established at Pitt**

The University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics, in partnership with the University's Graduate School of Social Work, recently announced the creation of the Cherna Fellowship which will honor Marc Cherna's legacy.

Samantha Balbier, director of the Institute of Politics, said, "The Cherna Fellowship program will be designed to offer highly motivated and visionary Pitt graduate social work students an opportunity to address critical societal issues with an intent to improve upon public policy, economic realities, and the funding contexts that impact the quality of life for our most vulnerable residents."

Samantha added, "The Cherna Fellowship will emulate the characteristics we have all seen in Marc these past few decades. It will celebrate intellectual curiosity; courageous thinking; the power of mentorship and interpersonal connections; the voices of those who are served; and the ambitious goal of creating system changes at the federal, state, and local levels for a better and more just world for all families and children."

Thanks to generous support of the Casey Family Programs, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the local foundation community, the University of Pittsburgh will fund the first Cherna Fellow in the 2022 academic year. An emphasis will be placed on recruiting students who have lived experience with the human services system.