



# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



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## Five questions with Christopher H. Powell

Christopher is Jail Collaborative monitor/contract lead in the Analytics, Technology and Planning's (ATP) Planning and Innovation (P and I) team. He can be reached at 412-350-6902 or [Christopher.Powell@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Christopher.Powell@alleghenycounty.us).

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

I graduated from University of Phoenix with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice administration. I initially was hired by Diversified Care Management (DCM) as a care transitions coach for the Area Agency on Aging's (AAA) Community Care Transitions Program (CCTP). After a year, I was promoted to program supervisor for CCTP. After approximately two years working in that capacity, I was hired by Great Lakes Behavioral Research Institute (GLBRI) as the Jail Collaborative monitor in Integrated Program Services (IPS). After a little over a year, I took on the responsibility of Jail Collaborative contract lead and switched program offices to ATP – P and I shortly thereafter.

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

My work includes being a liaison between Jail Collaborative-contracted providers and the Jail Collaborative which is made up of leaders from DHS; Allegheny County Jail; and Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, including Allegheny County's Adult Probation Office. I often create, collect, analyze, evaluate, present, and maintain Jail Collaborative qualitative and quantitative statistics. I also monitor relationships of system partners with providers to identify barriers and develop action plans to address matters impeding program operations; provide technical assistance to providers to address matters of concern and assist in the correction of deficiencies in programs and/or operations; identify and develop linkages between providers, other services, and programs supported by the Department of Human Services; and review and manage Jail Collaborative annual contracts and monthly invoices.

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

My work supports DHS's mission and goals by ensuring the vulnerable population of medium- to high-risk individuals have access to high-quality programs and services that will help them reach their educational, vocational, economic, and mental and behavioral health goals.

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

I am most excited to see formerly incarcerated individuals given a second chance and an amazing support system to help the individual become a productive member of the community.

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

Although the role that I play within DHS is thought-provoking, difficult, and mentally exhausting at times, I can rest easy knowing that I have a team of caring, devoted team members that will support me in any situation.