



## Allegheny County Department of Human Services

Marc Cherna, Director



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### Administration

Patricia L. Valentine  
DHS EXECUTIVE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR  
INTEGRATED PROGRAM SERVICES

Denise Macerelli  
DHS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OBH

Mental Health/Intellectual Disability  
Advisory Board

Drug and Alcohol Planning Council

Pa. oversight: Department of Public  
Welfare, Office of Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse; and the Department  
of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol  
Programs

### Mission

Provide Allegheny County residents  
with a coordinated, community-  
focused system of high quality and  
cost-effective mental health and  
substance abuse services including  
prevention, crisis intervention,  
treatment, case management and  
community-based services.

**resolve Crisis Services:**  
1-877-YOU-CAN  
(1-877-796-8226)

**After Hours Access to Drug and  
Alcohol Services Line**  
(For Community Care Behavioral  
Health Medical Assistance members):  
1-800-553-7499

**OBH 24-hour Emergency Line:**  
412-350-4457

## Department Overview

Persons served* – CY 2019	<p>~63,845 – OBH overall (unduplicated)</p> <p>57,703 – Only Mental Health</p> <p>12,540 – Only Drug and Alcohol</p> <p>6,398 – Both MH and D&amp;A</p> <p>15,242 – Children (0 through 17 years)</p> <p>5,666 – Early Intervention Services (0-3 years, duplicated, not included in total)</p>
OBH filled positions (a/o 01/2020)	73 (county)
Contract Providers † (FY 2019–2020)	<p>56 – Mental Health only</p> <p>25 – Drug and Alcohol only</p> <p>15 – Mental Health and Drug/ Alcohol</p>
Total Budget (FY 2019–2020)	<p><b>\$139.3 million</b></p> <p><b>Mental Health: \$106.6 million</b> <i>Federal: 13.1%    County: 1.9%</i> <i>State: 85.0%    Other: 1.9%</i> <b>95% to providers</b></p> <p><b>Drug/Alcohol: \$15.1 million</b> <i>Federal: 60.5%    County: 2.1%</i> <i>State: 36.0%    Other: 1.4%</i> <b>88.1% to providers</b></p> <p><b>Early Intervention: \$15.1 million</b> <i>Federal: 7.6%    County: 9.7%</i> <i>State: 82.7%    Other: 0%</i> <b>91.4% to providers</b></p>
<p>94% of total OBH budget goes to contracted agencies Additional \$425 million – Allegheny HealthChoices Program</p> <p>*includes registered clients who had a services rendered record within the year. This is a new definition of people served.</p> <p>†All clients receiving services were served by at least one contracted provider.</p>	

### Legal Mandates

Operates under authority and within  
constraints of the:

- Pennsylvania MH/MR Act of 1966;
- Act 212 (1990) – Early  
intervention;
- Acts 53, 63 & 64 (1972) - Drug  
and Alcohol;
- Pa. Mental Health Procedures Act  
of 1976;
- Stewart B. McKinney Act (1987)  
– behavioral health services and  
systems and persons who are  
homeless

OBH collaborates with the following  
organizations to educate the  
public about mental illness:

- Allegheny County Community  
Support Program (CSP)
- Mental Health Association  
Allegheny County
- National Alliance on Mental  
Illness (NAMI), SW Pa.
- Peer Support and Advocacy  
Network
- Allegheny County Coalition for  
Recovery

### For Early Intervention,

Operates under the authority and within constraints of:

- PA Act 212 (1990)
- (Federal) IDEA, Amendments of 1997, part C  
Medicaid Waiver for Infants, Toddlers, and Families

## **Background**

Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) is the County's public office responsible for providing Allegheny County residents with a coordinated community-focused system of high quality and cost-effective mental health and substance abuse services including prevention, crisis intervention, treatment, service coordination/case management. In 1997, the Office of Behavioral Health was created, along with four other service offices, as part of an overall human services restructuring. These combined offices, along with administrative offices, form an integrated Department of Human Services for Allegheny County.

The Office of Behavioral Health programs reflect a commitment by Allegheny County to the Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP), the Community Support Program (CSP), System of Care and Recovery and Resiliency principles. Building on these foundations and principles, and with input from key stakeholders including individuals served, their families, providers, advocates, and community representatives, OBH developed a values statement to reflect this commitment. OBH views individuals who utilize the behavioral health services as partners in the development of their individual plans of services and care; and as well, values their participation in the development, monitoring and governing of a plan for the delivery of countywide behavioral health services.

OBH directly contracts for and monitors approximately 150 community-based agencies which provide an array of services designed to meet the mental health and substance abuse services needs of County residents. Under certain conditions, OBH may also support, on a restricted and limited basis, behavioral health medication. In addition, OBH contracts with Community Care Behavioral Health and Allegheny HealthChoices, Inc. for operation and oversight of the behavioral health managed Medicaid services. Services are designed to effectively respond to any immediate and longer-term behavioral health needs of children and youth, individual adults, and families who are living with the challenges of a mental illness, or mental health and/or substance use related disorders.

Consistent with the principles of recovery and resiliency, service plans and interventions are built upon strengths and natural supports while assisting each person to achieve their goals, maximize their potential and live a full and successful life in the community.

## **Emergency and crisis numbers**

### **Information, Referral and Emergency Services (IRES) 412-350-4457 or 911**

The Office of Behavioral Health supports the Allegheny County Information, Referral and Emergency Services (IRES). This number answers 24 hours a day, seven days a week and puts a person in touch with Allegheny County staff who can: authorize and assist in arranging an involuntary emergency examination and treatment (302); provide information or assist with finding ongoing help.

### **resolve Crisis Services 1-888-7-YOU-CAN (1-888-796-8226)**

Round-the-clock telephone crisis intervention, walk-in crisis intervention and mobile behavioral health crisis intervention services are available for all Allegheny County residents – children, adolescents, adults and older adults. Insurance coverage is NOT required.

Callers are put in touch with professional behavioral health counselors to receive immediate confidential crisis counseling, emergency support, and/or be referred to someone for ongoing help. In addition, a mobile crisis team that can travel to the site of the crisis is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Walk-in services and short-term overnight services are also available. Specialized teams are available for child, adolescent and family interventions. Resolve Crisis Services are made possible through the partnership of Allegheny County, Community Care Behavioral Health and Western Psychiatric Hospital (WPH) of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC).

### **Pittsburgh Mercy (Mercy Behavioral Health)**

Walk-in crisis intervention and crisis stabilization, including: assessment, the Central Recovery Center (CRC), as well as diversion beds for people with mental health problems and/or alcohol and other drug addiction are also available through Mercy Behavioral Health at **1-877-MERCYBH (1-877-637-2924)**.

### **After Hours Access to Drug and Alcohol Services Community Care Behavioral Health (medical assistance)**

**Members: 1-800-553-7499**

**resolve Crisis Services, 1-888-796-8226 (1-888-7-YOU-CAN)**

After-hours drug and alcohol services are also available for individuals who experience a crisis involving substance use at resolve, located at 333 N. Braddock Avenue.

### **Non-Emergency Questions:**

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Drug and Alcohol, 412-350-3328

Mental Health, 412-350-4456

### **Warm Line**

In partnership with the Peer Support and Advocacy Network (PSAN), the Office of Behavioral Health and Community Care Behavioral Health also support a Warm Line for people not in crisis but in need of peer support and information. The hours of service are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., seven days a week. The number is **1-866-661-WARM (9276)**.

## **Organization**

The Office of Behavioral Health is composed of two bureaus: Bureau of Mental Health Services (with a unit focused on adult mental health services and a unit focused on child and adolescent mental health services) and the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services.

### **Bureau of Mental Health Services**

**Crisis Intervention - resolve Crisis Services**

**1-888-7-YOU-CAN (1-888-796-8226)**

### **Adult Mental Health Services**

**Outpatient Community Treatment Services** are offered to those individuals who want mental health treatment services, but who are not in need of an inpatient level of care. These services may include assessment, evaluation, diagnosis, collaborative treatment planning, medication prescription and management; and individual, group, family and play therapies. Community treatment services are available in many forms and locations, including people's homes, schools, workplaces or other community settings, as well as in community mental health centers. Community treatment services are known by many names, depending upon their focus, location, intensity and frequency. Some community treatment services are known as Outpatient, Partial Hospital, Family-Based Mental Health, Mobile Therapy or Community Treatment Teams/Assertive Community Treatment Teams; Enhanced Clinical Service Coordination; Mobile Medication Services.

**Inpatient Psychiatric Services** are available for persons who are acutely ill. The goal of inpatient services is to stabilize symptoms so that people can continue their recovery in their homes and communities, with community-based treatment and supports. Individuals whose symptoms pose a danger to themselves or others may be mandated for an inpatient psychiatric evaluation and, if necessary, inpatient treatment.

**Extended Acute Care (EAC) Services** are provided for individuals needing longer periods of time in an intensive 24-hour treatment service. These services are provided in the Transition to Recovery Unit (TRU) EAC at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic and McKeesport Hospital, and the Mercy Behavioral Health Glen-Hazel EAC and Residential Treatment Facility for Adults (RTF-A).

**Residential Services** provide a 24-hour residential program designed to help adults and children in recovery. Services vary from intensive treatment to skills acquisition. Examples of these services include: residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents, long term structured residences, residential treatment services for adults, comprehensive mental health personal care homes, community residential rehabilitation (CRR), bridge housing for person with severe and persistent mental illness, domiciliary care, and supported housing.

**Diversion and Acute Stabilization (DAS)** is a residential that provides respite/treatment services for persons who can be diverted from inpatient care or are stepping down from inpatient care.

**Rehabilitation services** are another treatment support option designed to help people in recovery. Rehabilitation services provide vocational (including facility based and supported employment services), social and psychiatric rehabilitation services (including drop-in centers), certified peer support, as well as housing support, for individuals with mental illness.

**Justice Related Services (JRS)** are available to persons with mental illness, substance use disorders or both involved with the legal/judicial systems. The Justice Related Services unit provides mental health assessments, short-term supports and services. Services for individuals in Allegheny County Jail or currently involved in the Allegheny County Courts include: Justice Related Diversion Services, Justice Related County Support Services, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, Drug Court and DUI Court. There is also the Justice Related State Support Services that provides up to 90 days of service coordination (case management) for persons with mental illness who are referred from the State Department of Corrections. Justice Related Services also provides drug and alcohol assessment, referral and service coordination at Children's Court.

**Community Services** are for Allegheny County residents with a behavioral health disorder, including co-occurring disorders, to assist them to live, learn, work, and participate fully in their chosen communities.

**Community Support Program (CSP)** brings people served, families, providers and community members together to plan and advocate for implementation of recovery and CSP principles in the behavioral health system. Achievements include: educating the community in the principles of CSP, producing a housing resource booklet, being an employment advocate, monitoring and approving county mental health plans, monitoring legislative action and monitoring the impact of managed care.

**Service Coordination** helps to ensure that the services of many supports systems available to individuals with mental illness is coordinated so that persons receiving those services obtain maximum benefit. Each of these systems is focused upon a specific area and may have differing eligibility and or service requirements. These systems include education, work, physical health, Social Security, Medical Assistance, Medicare and other government systems. Service Coordination is available to anyone who has a mental illness in Allegheny County and can vary in intensity, depending on the needs of the individual. Specialized Service Coordination is available for persons with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system.

**Peer Support and Consumer Driven Services:** Peer support is a crucial component in the recovery process. Adults with mental illness help each other in many ways through Peer Support services. Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) are individuals with lived experience with mental illness and have received training to work with peers in the community. CPS assist people with social network development, development of community roles and natural supports, individual advocacy, self-help, self-improvement, and crisis support. There are also informal opportunities for peer support at drop-in centers, in programs, or by phone. Through the Peer Support and Advocacy Network (PSAN), Allegheny County residents with mental illness have access to a system of support and advocacy operated by their peers.

## **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services improve outcomes for children, youth and their families involved in multiple systems by facilitating collaboration across systems, with providers and for families. Mental health care, prevention and early intervention services for children and adolescents are provided through a network of contracted providers; services are designed to respond effectively to immediate needs and, utilizing the strengths of individuals and families, empower people with mental illness and children/adolescents with serious emotional disturbance to live successfully.

### **Early Intervention**

Early Intervention Services are designed to improve long-term outcomes for young children who are experiencing or at risk of a delay in one or more developmental areas by providing early, appropriate, and intensive interventions. Services include screening and evaluation, family training and counseling, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological services, audio and visual services, and social work. The Early Intervention Coordinator of the Office of Behavioral Health monitors early intervention providers in Allegheny County.

### **Prevention**

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) makes available on-site screenings and assessments as well as consultations with teachers, principals, guidance counselors and parents in every school district throughout Allegheny County. Community education about mental illness and mental health services is also available for children and their families. Mental health advocacy groups as well as support groups and self-help groups in the community do much of this work.

Taking Charge of Your Child's Mental Health – A Parent's Guide is available to help parents make informed decisions about a child's mental health, to relieve some of the confusion regarding the mental health system, learn about voluntary treatment and support options and how to access the culturally competent, integrated and comprehensive human services available to help meet the mental health needs of your child.

### **Crisis Intervention**

The Office of Behavioral Health supports the Allegheny County Information, Referral and Emergency Services (IRES). This number, 412-350-4456, answers 24 hours a day, seven days a week and puts a person in touch with staff who can provide information or help arrange involuntary examination and treatment, if necessary.

resolve Crisis Network 1-888-7-YOU-CAN (1-888-796-8226)

Service Coordination is provided to help ensure that services and supports are coordinated appropriately and in the best interest of children, adolescents and their families. Service levels vary in intensity and specialization. They are available to residents of Allegheny County who have a mental illness.

### **Treatment**

Short-term Inpatient Services are psychiatric services for people with acute illness, with the goal of stabilizing symptoms so that clients can continue their recovery in the home and community. Individuals whose illness may pose a danger to themselves or others may be mandated for a psychiatric evaluation.

**Outpatient Treatment Services** are community-based services including evaluation and diagnosis; treatment planning; medication management; and individual, group, family therapies. Families with children at-risk of out-of-home placement may benefit from intensive home-based treatment such as Family-Based Mental Health Services.

**Residential Treatment Facilities** are 24-hour psychiatric residential programs designed to help children and adolescents in recovery from serious emotional disturbance. Services vary from intensive treatment to skills acquisition.

## **Community- and School-based Services**

Community- and school-based outreach services are designed to decrease the fear and stigma associated with mental illness and emotional disturbance and increase access to mental health services by providing county level representatives in the community. These services are conducted through liaisons and consultants who specialize in navigating the network of child serving systems. They can provide consultation and technical assistance for families, DHS program staff, and community-based service providers, schools, and the juvenile justice system. They work to resolve complex issues that create barriers to appropriate assistance and provide community education and information. To make a referral you may call 412-350-4977 for one of the mental health liaisons/consultants:

**School-based Services** are site-based consultation to families, schools, special education centers, and other child-serving systems. Serves as a link between the schools in Allegheny County, City of Pittsburgh and the child serving systems, ensuring comprehensive services to children, adolescents and families in need. The liaisons work with the school Student Assistance Programs (SAP) to identify children who are experiencing mental health problems and provide follow-up for students throughout the year. They are the Allegheny County SAP coordinators. They monitor the development and maintenance of student assistance programming in schools

**Juvenile Court Liaison** – assists the Juvenile Court with mental health and substance abuse resources, identification of behavioral indicators of serious emotional disturbances, facilitates referrals and acceptance to treatment and also assists with mental health commitments for juvenile consumers involved with the juvenile justice system; Court of Common Pleas, Family Division, and the Department of Human Services.

**Juvenile Justice Liaisons** - provide liaison services and specialized case management for adolescents who are involved in the Juvenile Justice System. Liaisons collaborate with the Shuman Detention Center and its academic and support programs, juvenile probation officers, and families to coordinate linkages to ensure that youth with behavioral health and juvenile justice involvement experience continuity of care and coordinated services.

**Education Liaisons** - support parents and schools in the development of appropriate Individualized Plans. Consultants work with families and educators to resolve complex issues and educational concerns for children who may need emotional support in the academic setting. Consultants attend IEP meetings with families and participate in other school related meetings.

**Behavioral Health Specialists** are licensed clinicians who work with the DHS Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) to assist caseworkers with navigating the behavioral health system, diagnoses, treatment interventions and support services. They help to resolve complex mental health issues for CYF-involved children and families.

**Continuity of Care Specialist** assists in the process of scheduling a County Integrated Planning meeting. The specialist contacts families and young adults to notify them of the scheduled County Integrated Planning meeting, educates them about the process, and conducts interviews to obtain information about the reason for the review. Additionally, the specialist works with transition aged youth to help support successful transition from the child serving system to adult services.

## **Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services**

**After-hours access to Drug and Alcohol Services — 1-800-553-7499** this toll-free number is staffed by Community Care Behavioral Health which can assist with accessing drug and alcohol treatment services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Non-emergency drug and alcohol questions: **412-350-3328, TTY/TDD 412-350-3467** (work hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Warmline for emotional support from peers: **1-866-661-WARM (9276)**

## **Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services**

A variety of community-based drug and alcohol out-patient treatment, residential and hospital and non-hospital-based services are available to eligible Allegheny County residents. These services include, but are not limited to: screening and assessment, specialized professional medical consultation, physical examinations, psychiatric evaluations, lab tests, treatment planning, methadone maintenance, therapy (individual, group and family) and aftercare planning and follow-up.

Some programs are specifically designed for priority populations: women\*, women with children, pregnant women, pregnant women with children, intravenous drug users, members of the LGBTQ community, and adolescents.

\*Providers serving priority populations are required to offer immediate assessment and admission to treatment. Preference shall be given to the following: pregnant injection drug users, pregnant substance abusers, injection-drug users, overdose survivors and veterans

### **Outpatient Treatment Services**

A variety of community-based drug and alcohol outpatient treatment services such as partial hospital-based services (a minimum of 10 hours of treatment a week over the course of at least three days), intensive outpatient services (five to nine-and-one-half hours of treatment a week) and out-patient services (one to four-and-one-half hours of treatment a week) are available. Clients at these levels of treatment will receive additional assistance in accessing services for vocational assessment, job readiness and placement, GED preparation and testing, literacy and basic education tutoring, parenting skills, legal, medical and dental care, general health education, budgeting, credit restoration, housing assistance, income support, transportation support and social activities.

### **Detoxification Services (Withdrawal Management)**

Detoxification services for people struggling with addiction include: evaluation, elimination of the addictive substance and reduction of physical dependency, as well as minimizing health risks from substance withdrawal, and providing motivational support for people to seek on-going treatment.

### **Residential Services**

A variety of 24-hour programs within housing facilities with various levels of structure, professional support, and access to other services (e.g., medical care) and available to assist people in their recovery. Services may be short- or long-term and range from intensive treatment to facilitating the acquisition of life skills and integration of acquired skills into daily activities.

### **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

FDA-approved medications, to be used in conjunction with substance abuse treatment, designed to assist in recovery.

### **Recovery Housing**

A recovery house is a safe and supportive environment where residents in recovery live together as a community. Any individual receiving recovery house funding must be screened, and if appropriate, receive a level of care assessment. The individual's referral to recovery housing must come from the SCA or one of its treatment providers.

### **Recovery Support Services**

Recovery Support Services (RSS) are non-clinical services that assist individuals and families to recover from alcohol and other drug problems. These services complement the focus of treatment, outreach, engagement and other strategies and interventions to assist people in recovery in gaining the skills and resources needed to initiate, maintain, and sustain long-term recovery. RSS are not a substitute for necessary clinical services.

Listed below are the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs approved recovery support services:

Mentoring Programs in which individuals newer to recovery are paired with more experienced people in recovery to obtain support and advice on an individual basis and to assist with issues potentially impacting recovery (these mentors are not the same as 12-step sponsors);

Training and Education utilizing a structured curriculum relating to addiction and recovery, life skills, job skills, health and wellness that is conducted in a group setting;

Family Programs utilizing a structured curriculum that provides resources and information needed to help families and significant others who are impacted by an individual's addiction; Telephonic Recovery Support (recovery check-ups) designed for individuals who can benefit from a weekly call to keep them engaged in the recovery process and to help them maintain their commitment to their recovery;

Recovery Planning to assist an individual in managing their recovery;

Support Groups for recovering individuals that are population focused (i.e. HIV/AIDS, veterans, youth, bereavement, etc.);

Recovery Housing, and

Recovery Centers where recovery support services are designed, tailored and delivered by individuals from local recovery communities.

### **Case Management/Coordination of Services**

Individuals in treatment for drug and alcohol abuse or addiction often are involved with several systems (for example, education, physical health, mental health, insurance, government, juvenile justice, or criminal justice) that must be coordinated to achieve best results. Case management/service coordination helps people access the needed systems and ensures that the providers of service function in a coordinated manner.

### **Pention Services**

Informational and educational programs on the dangers of substance use and abuse, and compulsive gambling, as well as services to help individuals who have use and/or abuse or compulsive gambling concerns, are delivered through schools, media, family and/or community agencies and centers, and other civic organizations.

### **Student Assistance Program (SAP)**

SAP is a mechanism to facilitate early identification and intervention for students in secondary schools who experience barriers to learning due to a mental health issue, substance abuse, family discord and/or other behavioral health problems. The Bureau of Drug and Alcohol (D&A) Services contracts with qualified D&A and mental health services providers to deploy trained SAP liaison/consultants to assigned schools. The liaisons provide consultation on individual cases (students) who are referred to the SAP by teachers, counselors, nurses, parents, and others significant figures such as coaches or school resource officers. Students may also make self-referrals to the program.

### **Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC)**

Allegheny County's recovery-oriented system of care (ROSC) is a framework to promote recovery by recognizing that substance use and mental illness can be lifelong challenges best addressed by services that are person-centered, culturally competent, and strength-based. ROSC utilizes evidence-based prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, and wellness strategies. This approach uses information and stakeholder input to promote innovation and improvements to the recovery system.

### **Additional Activities**

**The Allegheny County Integrated Services Planning (formerly known as Interagency Review Process) / Multi-system Rapid Response Team** provides an opportunity for families and children to meet with various staff involved with their care as well as county representatives, to collaborate and develop a mutual plan of action to resolve complex issues and barriers to successful treatment and recovery. Interagency teams include the child or young adult, family members and persons identified by the family as natural supports as well as the service system professionals working to help the families. The team plans and implements a tailored set of services for each person's physical, emotional, social and educational needs and can include clinical, community, educational, vocational, employment and facilitating social support and self-help resources. Referrals are taken at 412-350-3374.

### **RESPOND**

RESPOND is a highly specialized residential and treatment program that provides intervention for individuals diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance and intellectual disability for whom other community-based services have proven unsuccessful. The program is a joint venture between residential providers and a five-member treatment team.



**Mental Health First Aid** is an internationally certified training for non-mental health professionals and members of the community which introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental illnesses for adults and youth age 12 to 18, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common supports. These courses use role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to offer initial help in a mental health crisis and connect people to the appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help care. The programs also teach the common risk factors and warning signs of anxiety, depression, substance use disorders, and psychotic disorders. In addition to increasing awareness about mental and substance use disorders, the courses hope to decrease stigma toward adults and youth with mental illness. Like any medical first aid class, the intent of the training isn't to turn trainees into professionals like counselors or psychiatrists but to give them knowledge and tools to support a person while encouraging him/her to seek appropriate help. The adult and youth trainings are eight hours in length and are usually divided into two four-hour sessions, but other configurations are possible.

### **Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery (ACCR)**

Recovery is defined as “a self-determined and holistic journey that people undertake to heal and grow. Recovery is facilitated by relationships and environments that provide hope, empowerment, choices and opportunities that promote people reaching their full potential as individuals and community members.”

The Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery was formed in 2001 and consists of people who have lived experience with mental or substance use disorders, family members or friends, behavioral health professionals, and government funders. The mission of ACCR is to increase awareness of behavioral health recovery and to promote the use of recovery principles and practices in behavioral health services in Allegheny County. ACCR has been working since its inception to increase the public's recognition that people can and frequently do recover from serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The ACCR sponsors a variety of events designed to reach out to the general public, users of behavioral health services, and providers of those services, with information and resources about the recovery process and recovery-focused services. The Coalition has been an important force in the transformation of behavioral health services to a recovery-oriented system of care in this county.

### **Stand Together**

Youth with behavioral health disorders often fail to seek help due to stigma and a lack of knowledge about treatment options and resources. Stand Together is an anti-stigma initiative utilizing a peer-to-peer, student-driven service learning model to train middle and high school youth to act against stigma toward peers with mental and substance use disorders by having students design educational and inclusion activities for the student body over a school year. In addition, students are encouraged to reach out to a trusted adult if they become concerned about themselves or their peers. By de-stigmatizing the school culture, Stand Together encourages more students to seek help, lessening or eliminating the negative effects of stigma on students such as ostracism, impaired academic performance, poor school attendance, behavior problems, social isolation, and suicide.

### **Administration**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Behavioral Health is overseen by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Health/Division of Program Licensing, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The operation of OBH is the responsibility of the DHS deputy director for behavioral health. Oversight and consultation is also provided by the Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board and the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council. Policies/procedures are implemented by DHS deputy director for behavioral health, bureau administrators, managers and supervisory personnel and by contracted human service agencies. OBH is under the authority of the county executive, the county manager, the DHS director and the DHS executive deputy director for integrated program services.