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PCGF NEWS | SPRING 2018

Experts to Discuss ACEs and Homelessness

During the Tuesday, June 12, board meeting, the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation will welcome two experts possessing in-depth experience serving young people in need in Allegheny County. PCGF Advisory Committee members are invited to join the Board of Trustees at this and other presentations that provide educational context/news regarding the populations our grantees serve.

Abby Horn will present an overview of the County’s plan to end homelessness by 2022. Ms. Horn is a Senior Advisor for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, where she leads the County’s Bureau of Homeless Services.

She brings data-informed decision-making to drive policy change and performance improvements within the region’s homeless system.

Karen Shepherd will provide an overview of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), their impact throughout a child’s life and the relationship to the Foundation’s work. She is the Chief Executive Officer of Pace School, where she has played a vital role throughout the past two decades in expanding programming, including the development of a satellite school and establishing in-district services. Ms. Shepherd joined the Pace staff



*Abby Horn (above)
and Karen Shepherd
(right).*



in 1996 as the Education Coordinator and served as Program Director and Chief Operating Officer prior to her current role. ■

BigBurgh Updates

Congratulations to the BigBurgh team, which recently received the Children’s Court Champion for Children Award from the Allegheny County Children’s Roundtable. Members of the Roundtable include judges, Children’s Court administrators, Allegheny County Department of Human Services

representatives and advocates including Kids Voice. **Judge Kim Eaton** presented the award to BigBurgh in recognition of the outstanding community program that serves court-involved children. **Sally Stadelman**, Manager of BigBurgh and Manager of Homeless Services for the City of Pittsburgh, introduced the team and accepted the award.

Thanks to **Nickole Nesby**, Mayor of the City of Duquesne, and **Marita Garrett**, Mayor for the Borough of Wilkinsburg, for hosting meetings with their Public Safety Officers to discuss providing services to people experiencing homelessness.

The BigBurgh team is working diligently to expand the list of free services available throughout Allegheny County. ■

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Legislation Addresses Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

The National Network for Youth (NN4Y) supports these bills that are currently working their way through Congress.

- **Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act** provides community-based prevention, crisis interventions and longer-term solutions for youth experiencing homelessness. Three key pillars include street outreach; basic services (temporary shelter, counseling and family reunification); and transitional living.
- **The Homeless Children and Youth Act** restores local decision-making and improves the ability of communities to meet the unique developmental needs of youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing all forms of homelessness.
- **Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act** and the **Housing for Homeless Students Act** ensure that young people and veterans who have faced homelessness do not need to make the difficult choice between a place to call home and a good education by making them eligible for low-income housing while they attend school full time.

- **The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act** removes barriers to college enrollment, affordability and completion for homeless and foster-involved youth.
- **The Trafficking Victims Protection Act** renews measures to combat human trafficking.
- **The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act**, passed in 1974, is ready for reauthorization as the **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)**. Youth and young adults at risk of and experiencing homelessness are more likely to encounter the justice system, often because of criminalization of homelessness (such as through loitering laws) or engaging in illegal behavior to survive (such as shoplifting food). The RHYA provides foundational support to address youth and young adult homelessness across the country. NN4Y is urging Congress to appropriate \$165 million for the RHYA program.

As well, NN4Y is urging Congress to reauthorize \$85 million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, which removes barriers to enrollment, attendance and opportunity for success for homeless children and youth. ■

Kudos to...

Trustee **Bob James**, who was appointed by Governor Tom Wolf and Pennsylvania Secretary of General Services Curt Topper to serve on the Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities. Advisory Council members advise the administration on ways to improve state contracting, grant opportunities, job creation initiatives, financing/bonding programs, business assistance and professional development programs.

Jeremiah's Place — founded in 2014 by **Dr. Tammy Murdock, Eileen Sharbaugh** and **Dr. Lynne Williams** — which recently hosted a fourth anniversary celebration. PCGF is a proud supporter of Jeremiah's Place, Pittsburgh's only crisis nursery serving families in need of temporary child care and relief. ■



Bob James



Pictured from left are Jeremiah's Place founders Dr. Lynne Williams and Eileen Sharbaugh with Executive Director Lisa Perry, PCGF Board President Linda Krynski and PCGF Executive Director Pam Golden.



HEARTH Executive Director Judy Eakin

HEARTH Homes Hosts Open House

HEARTH Homes serves and empowers families in need of transitional housing because of homelessness and domestic violence and who are committed to work toward self-sufficiency. It is the only transitional care housing program for women in Allegheny County.

During the past five years, families departing HEARTH (Homelessness Ends with Advocacy, Resources, Training, and Housing) have celebrated these successes:

- 70% increased education
- 66% increased income
- 61% obtained employment
- 85% obtained permanent housing.

At a recent open house, HEARTH showcased some its 20 two- and three-bedroom apartments, the store where items ineligible for purchase with food stamps can be bought, and the home's exercise and computer rooms. ■

Beyond the Bars: Reducing the Impact of Incarceration on Children and Families

The Center for Public Service Psychiatry at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic will present Beyond the Bars: Reducing the Impact of Incarceration on Children and Families on Monday, May 14. The daylong annual conference will take place at the Hill House's Elsie H. Hillman Auditorium at 1825 Centre Ave. in the Hill District. **Anna E. Hollis**, Executive Director at Amachi Pittsburgh, will serve as keynote speaker. Amachi Pittsburgh provides child mentoring services as well as post-incarceration services for families with children in Allegheny County. Additional plenary speakers include **Amy Kroll**, Director of Justice Related Services at Allegheny County DHS, and **Kevin Jordan**, CEO of Adaptive Behavioral Services, Inc. The event also will include discussions featuring panelists

with lived experience, government/corrections leaders and behavioral health advocates.

The Center for Public Service Psychiatry, led by **Dr. Wesley Sowers** and **Dr. Robert Marin**, fosters partnerships with local communities to strengthen their quality of services and their responsiveness to the community's needs. It emphasizes service development based on public health principles, diversity and inclusiveness.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Registration is \$25 with optional CME credit for an additional \$30. Register by Friday, May 4. To inquire about registration after May 4, contact Nancy Mundy at mundynl@upmc.edu. ■

Mark Your Calendars

We ask Trustees to make every effort to attend these 2018 meetings:

Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. Presentation on Adverse Tuesday
 Tuesday
 June 12
 4 - 5:30 p.m.

5 p.m. Presentation on Allegheny County's Plan to End Homelessness by 2022 by Abby Horn

Board Meeting
 Tuesday
 September 11
 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting/Annual Meeting
 Tuesday
 November 13
 4 - 5 p.m. meeting
 5 p.m. reception

All meetings will be held at the Foundation's Office.