

**COUNTY OF**



**ALLEGHENY**

July 10, 2020

To: Individuals and Families  
Education/School District Partners

**Office of Intellectual Disability Name Change**

We are pleased to share that, over the next several weeks, the Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability (OID) will become the Allegheny County Office of Developmental Supports (ODS).

This change is the result of responding to feedback from individuals, families, and the community entities that offer support to them in terms of what is needed from this office to assist in leading a full, meaningful, productive life.

Our office will continue to register individuals with intellectual disability and/or autism. However, we often encounter families who express the needs of their household. If these needs are met, the family can stay together. We are shifting from simply connecting people to paid services to also promoting the importance of community resources – those unpaid, natural resources that benefit the family, not just the individual with the diagnosis.

This is accomplished through the current connection to Supports Coordinators (case management) along with the use of the Charting the Lifecourse Planning Tools. The Office of Developmental Supports has incorporated the philosophy of the Lifecourse framework that begins with a core belief that “All people have the right to live, love, work, play, and pursue their own life aspirations.”

Lifecourse tools are designed to help organize ideas and goals, as well as to problem solve, navigate, and advocate for supports. These all work to help a person build a vision of and achieve their best life.

Our office will also continue to provide the other administrative supports we have for many now including approval and authorization of Individual Support Plans (ISPs), management/planning of the waiting list, Provider support, and incident management.

In addition, our department now includes the Allegheny County DHS Multi-System team. This team was previously under the Office of Integrated Program Services. Its sole purpose is to provide support and resource options to those individual cases that are active across DHS Program offices.

We are excited for the next chapter and believe that this new name will reflect all that we continue to be as well as were we hope to go in engaging individuals, families, and community partners in meeting the needs of those they are proud to serve.

You will see more about this as we will continue to change our letterhead, brochures, and the website to reflect this change.

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