

## Justice Related Diversion Services

Justice Related Diversion Services are an array of supports designed to work with the Allegheny County Jail, Magisterial District Courts, Service Coordination Units and other community providers to assist persons with mental illness and/or mental and substance use disorders who encounter the criminal justice system.

Staff provide coverage at the Allegheny County lock-up/jail intake area; coordinate services for individuals released from the Allegheny County Jail prior to or at the preliminary hearing; develop and present service plans to the Magisterial District Courts (which may include housing, treatment services and links to community service coordination).

Staff may also refer individuals whose charges are held for trial to the Justice Related Support Services or Mental Health Court.

### Justice Related Services 412-301-8220

Justice Related Services (JRS) in the Department of Human Services Office of Behavioral Health provides coordination with courts, community services, and local providers to divert individuals with mental illness or cooccurring mental and substance use disorders from incarceration or avoid extended jail stays.

### DHS IS

responsible for providing and administering publicly funded services to Allegheny County residents.

### DHS PRINCIPLES

All services will be

- high quality, comprehensive, and accessible.
- individualized and designed to be respectful of the unique cultural characteristics of each individual and/or community
- integrated and offered through a team approach that recognizes the capacity of individuals and families to identify their own strengths, needs, and goals; create relationships with natural supports; and take steps necessary to accomplish these goals.



### Office of Behavioral Health

**Rich Fitzgerald**

ALLEGHENY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Erin Dalton**

DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Phone: 412-350-4456

Fax: 412-350-3880

[www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/obh](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/obh)

Human Services Building  
One Smithfield Street, Suite 300  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2221

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of a protected class including: race; color; religion; national origin; ancestry or place of birth; sex; gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; disability; marital status; familial status; age (40 and older); use of guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness, or physical disability.

*DHS funding information is available at [www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx)  
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## Office of Behavioral Health

### Justice Related Services

To advocate for the least restrictive but most appropriate alternative to or transition from incarceration for individuals with mental illness or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders who encounter the criminal justice system, by creating an accessible, culturally-competent, integrated array of forensic services and ensuring that individuals have choices to accept recovery-focused and effective supports and services.



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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## **Justice Related County Support Services**

Justice Related County Support Services provide service coordination for persons with mental illness and co-occurring mental and substance use disorders from the point of formal arraignment to the time of sentencing, including those with a probation violation. Justice Related Support Specialists develop and present service plans, which include treatment and other supportive services, and work with the Allegheny County Jail, Court of Common Pleas, Service Coordination Units and other community providers, to ensure a smooth transition into the community.

## **Justice Related State Support Services**

Justice Related State Support Services provide service coordination for persons with mental illness referred from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections at the expiration of a maximum prison sentence for up to 90 days after release from a State Correctional Institution.

Services include working with the local Service Coordination Units and other community providers to ensure a smooth transition into the community or to a state hospital, if necessary, as well as contingency funds for food, clothing and transportation.

## **Mental Health Court**

The Allegheny County Mental Health Court (MHC) is designed to promote community-based treatment in lieu of incarceration for persons with mental

illness who have been charged with a misdemeanor and/or non-violent felony in Allegheny County.

MHC is a voluntary activity whereby an individual is required to follow stipulated treatment and receive probation supervision. The court will approve a service plan which participants are expected to follow during the probation period.

Individuals are monitored closely by the Court, MHC staff and a MHC Probation Liaison, who also provides on-going support for compliance with the service plan, until the probation expires.

## **Drug Court**

The Allegheny County Drug Court is designed specifically for persons who are actively using illegal substances and involved with the criminal justice system.

Drug Court candidates are identified by the Office of the District Attorney (DA) or may be referred by a defense attorney to the DA's office for consideration.

Candidates must meet certain eligibility criteria and be willing to plead guilty to charges. If accepted and court-approved, individuals are placed on Restrictive Intermediate Punishment, followed by a period of probation and enrolled in intensive drug treatment, as an alternative to incarceration.

## **DUI Court**

The Allegheny County DUI Court is intended to serve persons who have had three DUI's in a ten year period. The focus is on treatment and rehabilitation in lieu of incarceration.

DUI Court candidates are identified by the Office of the District Attorney (DA) or may be referred by a defense attorney to the DA's office for consideration.

Candidates must meet certain eligibility criteria and be willing to plead guilty to charges. Individuals are then sentenced to a period of Restrictive Intermediate Punishment followed by a period of probation.



## **Justice Related Independent Living (IL) Services**

Justice Related IL Services provide service coordination for persons who are transition-age (18-21 years) within Allegheny County that are charged in Adult Criminal Court and also are eligible for Independent Living Support/ Services within Allegheny County. JRS IL works with transition-age individuals eligible throughout all stages of the criminal justice system (pre-arrest to Court of Common Pleas). JRS IL develops and presents service plans, which include treatment and other supportive services. JRS IL works with the IL team on the most appropriate plan for each individual.