

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**Proposed Creation of New Department**

Governor Tom Wolf has proposed to create a new [Department of Health and Human Services](#) by consolidating the departments of Aging, Drug and Alcohol Programs, Health, and Human Services into one umbrella agency. This proposal is part of the governor's 2017-2018 budget. Approximately 15 other states have an integrated health and human services department.

Key items of the proposal include:

- This is a new agency.
- This is about improving the delivery of services, not cutting services.
- Programs for seniors, including those funded by the lottery, will continue.
- Staffing reductions will be minimal.

The goal is to have legislation authorizing the merger passed by the end of June and begin transitioning to a new agency on July 1. A complement freeze has already been implemented that has reduced unfilled complement spaces, and the departments continue to work toward the goal of minimal further complement reduction. There will be one secretary. The drug and alcohol program continues to be an important priority, so the governor will be creating a cabinet-level position focused on the heroin and opioid epidemic. That person will work more in a policy capacity in concert with the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

LiveHealthyPA

[LiveHealthyPA](#) is a project designed to improve health outcomes for Pennsylvanians by connecting people, communities, schools, organizations, health teams and businesses. LiveHealthyPA provides programs, statistics and resources to help address challenges in improving the health status of the population. Providers can use this website to find community-based services and programs for their patients in local areas. A LiveHealthyPA [video](#) offers an overview of the project. To become a partner, complete the [Healthy Living Practices form](#). For more information, contact [Candance Sanderson](#), population health manager, or [Eric Gormont](#), health communications manager, at the Department of Health.

**TRAIN PA**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency have established [TRAIN PA](#), the Pennsylvania affiliate for the Public Health Foundation's learning management system and network. TRAIN PA is a free, collaborative resource provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to public health organizations and academic institutions across the state to assist in their educational and workforce development efforts. [Signing up for a TRAIN PA user account is simple](#), and it offers access to thousands of trainings provided by public health agencies at all levels of government, schools of public health and other academic institutions, and many others. Existing TRAIN account users, either through TRAIN National, MRC TRAIN or CDC TRAIN, can login to TRAIN PA using the same username and password. For questions about TRAIN PA or to explore using TRAIN PA as a training provider or administrator, please contact the TRAIN PA administrator team at TRAINPAsupport@pa.gov.



OTHER NEWS



Department of Education Seeks Sponsors for Summer Nutrition Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is looking for organizations to help provide nutritious meals to children in low-income areas during the summer months through the Summer Food Service Program. The Summer Food Service Program is a federally funded child nutrition program designed to reach those who are age 18 or younger in economically disadvantaged areas. The federally-funded program reimburses participating organizations for meals served to children who live in areas in which at least 50 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program. More than 112 million meals were served to free and reduced price eligible children in Pennsylvania during the 2015-16 school year under the National School Lunch Program. However, only 19 out of every 100 students receiving free and reduced price meals during the school year accessed nutritious summer meals. In order to reach more children and narrow the hunger gap that summer may bring, more organizations and meal sites are needed throughout the state, especially in rural areas. Participating organizations must be year-round not-for-profit entities and are responsible for managing the feeding sites that provide the meals to children. For more information on becoming a participating organization or a meal site for the Summer Food Service Program, [view the website](#) or call 800-331-0129. The deadline to apply is June 15.

Collaborative Workshop on Walkable Communities

The Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and PennDOT hosted a one-day [walkable communities workshop](#) in Harrisburg in September 2016. The workshop identified existing collaborative projects, noted strategic assets of each organization and highlighted some potential next steps to advance a long-term collaborative statewide planning process to create more walkable communities. America Walks, a nonprofit national organization leading the way for walking and walkable communities, facilitated the daylong workshop. Leaders from multiple sectors participated, including state and local government, transportation planners, public health, health systems and nonprofit organizations. Workshop recommendations include:

- Establish structure for ongoing Walkable Communities Collaborative.
- Develop unified messaging that communicates benefits of walkable communities.
- Deploy partner organizations to reach out to local communities and state legislature.
- Develop and deliver appropriate training programs at multiple levels.
- Mobilize collaborative to support and strengthen new “PennDOT Connects” program.

Contact [Justin Lehman](#), Public Health Program Administrator for more information.



[PA 2-1-1](#) is a statewide collaborative for health and human service information for Pennsylvanians. It includes health, housing, substance abuse treatment, care for a child or an aging parent, and human services information. Agency information can be added or updated in the PA 2-1-1 [resource directory](#). [Legislation](#) to enhance the PA 2-1-1 system is planned to:

- secure 24/7 coverage throughout the commonwealth;
- expand access to 2-1-1 and its database through text-to-chat, mobile application and an upgraded PA 2-1-1 website;
- disburse funds to the regional 2-1-1 programs for investment in meeting 2-1-1’s national quality assurance report card metrics, which include speed of answer, maintaining accurate database records, accreditation and follow-up calls; and
- provide for startup costs to activate 2-1-1 service to the remaining 15 percent of Pennsylvanians in certain regions of Pa. who do not currently have access to 2-1-1.



May/June/July is ...

[Mental Health Month](#) (May)

[National Physical Fitness and Sports Month](#) (May)

[National Women's Health Week](#) (May 14 - 20)

[World No Tobacco Day](#) (May 31)

[Men's Health Month](#) (June)

[National Safety Month](#) (June)

[National Cancer Survivors Day](#)® (June 4)

[Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month](#) (July)

[National Cleft & Craniofacial Awareness & Prevention Month](#) (July)

[World Hepatitis Day](#) (July 28)



EVENTS AND TRAININGS

Building a Healthier Future Summit

Partnership for a Healthier America will hold its [Building a Healthier Future Summit](#) on May 10-12 in Washington, D.C. The summit brings together public, private and nonprofit leaders to focus on creating meaningful solutions and commitments to develop strategies to end childhood obesity.



National Network of Public Health Institutes

The National Network of Public Health Institutes [annual conference](#), Navigating Uncertainty, Spanning Boundaries, Improving Health, will be held May 17-19 in New Orleans. The conference theme is exploring the role of public health institutes and systems partners in creating shared value between public health and health care, fostering cross-sector collaboration and developing meaningful metrics for improving the public's health.

Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference

The [Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference](#) will be held May 30-June 2 in San Diego. The conference theme is Good Health for All: Addressing Equity where we Live, Learn, Work, and Play. Topics will include issues of health equity and working together towards creating equitable outcomes so that all children can attain their highest level of physical and mental health.



Build Power for Health Equity: Strategic Practices for Local Health Departments

A [webinar](#) on advancing health equity from Dialogue4Health, a project of the Public Health Institute, that will describe a set of strategic practices that public local health departments can use to advance equity. June 1 at 1 p.m. Eastern Time.



Addressing the Health Care Needs of Amish and Plain Communities

The Center for Appalachia Research in Cancer Education will hold its [biannual conference](#) for Amish and Plain community members, researchers and health care providers June 7-9 in Perrysville, Ohio. The conference promotes best practice and community-led initiatives to improve the health of the Amish and Plain communities. Sessions will address an overview of Anabaptist history and culture, impact of the social determinants of health on the Amish/Plain culture, innovative partnerships to bridge the gaps between communities and health care delivery organizations, cultural competency in

health care service delivery, and improving the relationship between hospital systems and the community.

APHA Annual Meeting

The [APHA Annual Meeting](#) theme is Creating the Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health. The conference will be held Nov. 4-8 in Atlanta. APHA is the largest public health conference with thousands of public health professionals coming together on a wide variety of topics.



Call for APHA Awards Nominations

The American Public Health Association is accepting nominations for its annual awards, which will be presented at the 2017 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo. The awards recognize individuals who have exemplified outstanding contributions to public health. Nominations are due May 5.

Conference: Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers is holding its annual conference on Oct. 3-5 in Lancaster. Last year, over 550 health center leaders, staff and partners attended the event. Topics planned for presentation include:

- Medical, dental or behavioral health
- Quality, transformation and risk management
- Administrative policies and practices
- Outreach and enrollment
- Human resources
- Finance and billing
- Legislative and policy
- Customer service
- Marketing and public relations

More information about the conference is available at the [PACHC website](#).



RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Administration for Community Living

Diversity, cultural competency and other resources for people with disabilities and older adults is available from the [Administration for Community Living](#) in the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services. Material addresses personal identification, language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, values and institutions that are often specific to ethnic, racial, religious, geographic or social groups, as well as the concerns of older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals.



National Bike Challenge

The [National Bike Challenge](#) will welcome over 60,000 riders to pedal a combined 30 million miles between May 1 and September 30 for improved health, fitness and fun. Riders are encouraged to form teams at their workplace or school to motivate their colleagues to log more miles or to start commuting for the first time.

DATA AND STATISTICS

500 Cities

The [500 Cities Project](#) provides city- and census tract-level small area estimates for chronic disease risk factors, health outcomes and clinical preventive service use for the largest 500 cities in the United States. The cities from Pennsylvania included in the project include Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Erie, Reading, Scranton and Bethlehem.



Sample Data from the 500 Cities Project

Diabetes Outcomes – Age-Adjusted Prevalence, 2014

Philadelphia	13.2%
Pittsburgh	11.0%
Allentown	13.2%
Erie	11.7%
Reading	16.1%
Scranton	10.5%
Bethlehem	10.6%



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grant Webinar

The Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health will offer a [webinar](#), “Overview of the Federal Grants Process” on May 25 at 9 a.m. Information presented will include the process for identifying federal grant opportunities, tips and tools for writing federal grants, and technical assistance resources.

Workforce Education and Training

A [funding opportunity](#) is available from the Health Resources and Services Administration, the “2017 Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program.” Its purpose is to develop and expand the behavioral health workforce serving populations across the lifespan, including rural and medically underserved areas. Applications are being accepted until June 12.



Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Grant

A [grant](#) is available from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, “Expanding Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders in the Context of the SAMHSA Opioid STR Grants (R21/R33).” Its purpose is for testing approaches for expanding medication assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD) in the general health care sector or linking individuals with OUDs who receive naloxone for the reversal of overdose to MAT in the context of states’ plans for use of the funds authorized under the 21st Century Cures Act. Applications are due June 20.

COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please send any comments or suggestions for this and future newsletters to ra-dhhipp@pa.gov. Your input is valued and appreciated.

Let us know about your community health improvement initiative and we will feature it in a future edition of the newsletter. Also, if you get a program funded through a grant program you learned here, please let us know.

Disclaimer:

The information provided in this newsletter is intended to be of general information to Pennsylvania's HIPP partnerships. It is not intended as an endorsement or recommendation of any specific process, service, product, company, or funding source outside of the Department of Health auspices. Further examination and research of information is recommended.

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