



DBHIDS' Peer Support Work Spotlights at National Conference

Members of our [Peer Culture and Community Inclusion unit](#) were featured presenters during the International Association of Peer Supporters' 11th annual Peer Support Conference, which took place in Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 16-18. The conference, which had the theme, "Recovering and Sustaining Peer Support: Creating a Path for Our Future," attracted hundreds of peer supporters from as far away as Singapore. With more than 60 workshops, the conference provided the most up-to-date information in the field of peer support.

Pennsylvania had a good turnout to the conference and DBHIDS Peer Culture and Community Inclusion Manager Sean Brinda and CPS Training Coordinator Cathy Washington gave a presentation on our [Peer Support Toolkit](#), highlighting our innovative contributions to peer culture, support, and leadership. The conference was a great opportunity to network, get re-inspired, and to obtain continued education and support for occupational wellness.



Telling The Philadelphia Story

DBHIDS was well-represented at the Institute on Psychiatric Services (IPS): The Mental Health Services Conference, which took place in New Orleans Oct. 19-22. During the annual gathering, [Chief Medical Officer Dr. Lawrence Real](#) led a presentation on the [Evidence-based Practices and Innovation Center](#), “Bringing EBPs to the People: the Philadelphia Story.”

Organized by the American Psychiatric Association (APA), this annual conference helps healthcare professionals identify and improve mental health disparities in the community. The Philadelphia Story gave attendees an opportunity to see the integral role DBHIDS plays in improving access to mental health services and reducing stigma often associated with behavioral health challenges. Joining Dr. Real for the presentation was Ronnie Rubin, Ph.D., director of EPIC with community Behavioral Health; and former DBHIDS Commissioner Dr. Arthur Evans.



Pitching In to Help Puerto Rico

In the wake of the devastation to Puerto Rico caused by Hurricane Maria, DBHIDS staff stepped up to help our brothers and sisters whose lives have been negatively impacted by the natural disaster. Led by Iris Lozada, along with her colleagues Eddie Collazo, Director of Multicultural Affairs, and Ramon Cruz, Assistant to the Special Liaison of the Deputy Commissioner of [Community-Based Services Development](#), the DBHIDS efforts to support Unidos PA PR included collecting donations throughout the department and an opportunity to participate in a major volunteer initiative on Nov. 4 at the UnidosPaPR warehouse. There, DBHIDS staff and community members gathered to sort and pack items like canned goods and toiletries that will be sent to Puerto Rico as people rebuild.

For more information on how you can support this effort, please visit elconcilio.net/donate. You can also send monetary contributions, payable to Concilio-Unidos PaPR, to El Concilio, 141 East Hunting Park Avenue, Phila., PA 19124.

Health Promotion Working to Provide Holiday Help

As the holidays approach, we know that it could be a difficult time for some people. From the loss of a loved one to the loss of a job, celebrating the beauty of the holidays might not be as easy for some as it is for others. That's why Health Promotion is launching a new awareness campaign, "I Pledge to Check-In." This initiative is designed to encourage people to take the time to check in on those around them who might be facing difficulties during the holiday season as well as do a personal *Check-Up from the Neck Up* so they can be empowered to beat the holiday blues.

The signature event of the campaign will be the first "Mind Your Holidays." On Friday, Dec. 15, join Health Promotion in Jefferson Station (underground near the 12th and Filbert streets entrance) from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There, people will be encouraged to stop by our table to get free behavioral health screenings and resources.

We look forward to seeing you on Dec. 15! Stop by and sign the pledge or take a screening. Interested in volunteering for the Mind Your Holidays event on Dec. 15? Please contact [Health Promotion](#).

DBHIDS Staffer Honored By Local Organization

On October 3, Terence Young, Health Program Analyst Supervisor for the DBHIDS Office of Behavioral Health, received the Outstanding Contract Administrator award at the 30th anniversary Founders Award ceremony of the AIDS Library of Philadelphia. The Outstanding Contract Administrator award recognizes those who have given outstanding service and encourage a dynamic and safe space for education and empowerment. The AIDS Library serves

the community through delivery of information on HIV, such as treatments, nutrition, and history of the pandemic, and referrals to regional and national resources.

Congratulations Terence!

All Staff Meeting – Share Your Thoughts!

We're still hearing great feedback regarding *One System, One Team: The 2017 DBHIDS All-Staff Meeting!* We hope you found the meeting both informative and enjoyable. There's still time to offer your input so that we can plan for an even better employee experience next year! Please take a moment to complete the brief [All Staff Meeting Survey](#) and share your thoughts on what worked well and what can be done differently in the future. We thank you for your time and look forward to working with you to carry out the mission of DBHIDS!

Mandatory Language-Access Training for All Frontline Staff

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, the Office of the Managing Director will provide a training on language-access services. Access to city services should not be made more challenging because of language-access issues. This training will provide frontline, public-facing, customer-service staff, and managers information on the growing need for interpretation and document translation when providing City services. Training will include information on recent charter changes, City requirements, and a walk-through on how to obtain and utilize language services effectively.

[Please register to reserve your spot.](#)

In Case You Missed It:

It was a busy month, as usual, here! Check out photos from some of our October events.

[Lunch & Learn: Breast Cancer Awareness](#)

[All Staff Meeting: One System, One Team](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Peaceful Surrender 2017

Friday, Nov. 10 – Sunday, Nov. 12

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Criminal Justice Center

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

As the nation recognizes veterans during this weekend, DBHIDS will participate in the First



Judicial District's Peaceful Surrender, an opportunity to allow low-level offenders with outstanding warrants to turn themselves in and have their matters resolved immediately without being detained and spending time in custody. For more information, please contact [Mary Harper](#).

BEYOND Expectations: Legendary! by Kemar Jewel

Monday, Nov. 13

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Underground Arts

1200 Callowhill St, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123

The next generation of the ball culture comes alive with dance and storytelling as international headliner Leiomy Maldonado teams up with viral choreographer Kemar Jewel and the Xcel Dance Crew to bring you a night full of performance that is fun, fashionable, and fierce. This is the fifth BEYOND Expectations event focusing on males of color and mental health. Held in conjunction with our Engaging Males of Color initiative, this event will use the arts to tell the story of queer men dealing with depression, living with HIV and other challenges while demonstrating the strength to advocate for the reduction of stigma around mental health issues that often prevent people from living their best lives. [Register now](#) for this FREE event.

November is...

[National Runaway Prevention Month](#)

[Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week](#) Nov. 12-19

[The Great American Smokeout](#) Nov. 17

[International Survivors of Suicide Day](#) Nov. 18

DBHIDS IN THE NEWS

WHYY 91 FM [Does Trump's health emergency declaration do enough to address the opioid crisis?](#)

Fox 29 [President Trump declares the opioid crisis a nationwide public health emergency](#)

NBC10 [Learn to Save Lives with Free Narcan Training](#)





To have information about your area included in the December 2017 issue of At Your Best: DBHIDS News, please email us by Wednesday, November 22. If you have questions about this publication or ideas for future issues, please contact Monica Lewis-Wilborn at 215-685-5475.

For DBHIDS resources visit DBHIDS.org/contact/resources
[DBHIDS Team Highlights Archive](#)