



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FREE FORENSIC TRAINING OFFERED FOR HOMELESS PROVIDERS, CASE MANAGERS  
AND SERVICE COORDINATORS**

PITTSBURGH — The Allegheny Engagement Network, in partnership with Allegheny County Justice Related Services, Operation Safety Net<sup>®</sup>, and Mercy Behavioral Health, will host “From Arrest to Treatment: Behavioral Health and the Criminal Justice System,” a free forensic training for homeless providers, case managers and social service coordinators, **Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009**, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Allegheny County Human Services Building, Liberty Room, Lower Level, One Smithfield St., Downtown.

Participants will learn more about the judicial process and from arrest to court-mandated treatment for adults in Allegheny County as well as available resources.

The program is free and open to the public. Registration is required by **Monday, Nov. 23.**

(MORE)

For more information or to register, call Stephanie Chiappini, MSW, Program Manager,  
Operation Safety Net, at 412-232-5896 or [schiappini@mercy.pmhs.org](mailto:schiappini@mercy.pmhs.org).

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### **About Allegheny Engagement Network**

In 2007, Operation Safety Net<sup>®</sup>, a legacy program of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, was designated the lead agency to develop the Allegheny Engagement Network, a collaboration of providers for the homeless in Allegheny County. The network coordinates available services and care for the medical, housing, mental health, substance abuse, and nutritional needs of area individuals who are homeless.

### **About Operation Safety Net<sup>®</sup>**

Operation Safety Net<sup>®</sup> (OSN) is a health, housing, and supportive service to the street homeless population of Pittsburgh and surrounding communities. OSN was established in 1992 by Dr. Jim Withers. The program is a legacy ministry of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, part of Catholic Health East and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. OSN's mission is to provide direct care to and to advocate for individuals living on the streets, as well as to provide pathways to healthier lives. OSN treats individuals who are homeless and living on the streets in their own environment. Services are provided by walking teams of clinicians, social workers and outreach members, and via a mobile medical van. In addition, case managers assist clients with benefits, housing, and treatment. OSN is also the leading provider for the Allegheny Engagement Network and the Allegheny County Severe Weather Emergency Shelter. For more information, visit <http://www.pmhs.org/operation-safety-net/>.

### **About Mercy Behavioral Health**

Mercy Behavioral Health (MBH) provides a full continuum of recovery-oriented, community-based mental health, mental retardation, and drug/alcohol treatment and prevention services. Established in 1969, Mercy Behavioral Health strives to empower people to overcome barriers and to lead healthy and successful lives in the community. Mercy Behavioral Health is part of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System and Catholic Health East, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. For more info, visit [www.pmhs.org](http://www.pmhs.org).