

# NEWS



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## Department of Human Services

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Anne Marie Ambrose, Commissioner

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### *DHS Selects Community-Based Agencies to Manage Cases in North-Central and Northwest Philadelphia*

**Philadelphia**—Taking another step toward the historic transition to community-based service delivery and stronger protection for vulnerable children, the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) selected two new Community Umbrella Agencies (CUAs). DHS has now chosen providers to manage child welfare cases in seven of the city's 10 coverage areas. It is expected that the remaining three CUAs will be selected by the end of this year.

Tabor Northern Community Partners (TNCP) will manage cases in Northwest Philadelphia extending to the city limit. Additionally, NET Community Care, which was the first CUA chosen in July 2012 to serve a section of eastern North Philadelphia, has now added an adjacent section extending through the north-central part of the city.

TNCP is a newly formed partnership comprised of Tabor Children's Services and Northern Children's Services. From its founding in 1907 as a residential home for children in Philadelphia, Tabor has developed a wide range of community-based, child welfare and behavioral health services. Northern was founded in 1853 serving as a refuge for children facing extraordinary challenges. The agency transitioned in the 1990's with the expansion of community based, family based and behavioral services.

"TNCP is looking forward to building upon the resources of both parent organizations to develop a unique CUA that is a true community partnership. We are excited to work with the Department of Human Services in implementing this innovative model for the Germantown, Roxborough, Mt. Airy and Manayunk communities said TNCP Co-Chair Tracey Lavallias. "We will work closely with DHS, network partners and community stakeholders to build on family and community strengths to improve outcomes for children."

"NET has shown itself to be an outstanding partner to DHS during its first year of work. That record of performance combined with a solid plan for the adjoining CUA made our decision easy,"

said DHS Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose. “The two organizations that have formed TNCP also have long histories of providing social services to Northwest Philadelphia and we are confident they will add excellence to our network doing this vitally important work.”

NET’s history includes over 20 years of experience offering child welfare and juvenile justice services. The organization provides in-home interventions, all levels of resource home care, adoption, and various levels of dependent and delinquent residential services.

“We are committed to strengthening families and communities in order to keep youth safely at home and reduce placements,” said NET President and CEO Regan Kelly. “In our first year as a CUA, we have demonstrated this commitment while also adapting in an environment of significant change. We are delighted that DHS has again shown this level of confidence in us.”

The shift to community-based service delivery is part of DHS’ groundbreaking initiative *Improving Outcomes for Children (IOC)*, which will be implemented over a four year period. The initiative aims to eliminate duplication of service and improve monitoring and oversight of child welfare cases. A primary component of the initiative is the transition of all case management services to ten carefully selected community-based service providers called CUAs while DHS workers assume greater responsibility for monitoring, oversight, training and support. DHS will maintain ultimate responsibility for the children within its care and will continue to operate the DHS Hotline, perform intake and conduct investigations.

Earlier this year DHS received a 2013 United Nations Public Service Award for the IOC initiative in the category of Improving Service Delivery. The Department was the only winner in the European and North American region.

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*The Philadelphia Department of Human Services is the City agency charged with protecting children from abuse, neglect, and delinquency; ensuring their safety and permanency in nurturing home environments; and strengthening and preserving families by enhancing community-based prevention services. In partnership with community organizations, DHS provides services to strengthen the overall well-being of Philadelphia children, youth, and families using a customer focused approach that is responsive to evolving community needs.*