

Community Support Journal

Montgomery County Community Support Program Committee Newsletter

December 2025

Volume 12



CSP Logo designed by
Chris Ford

How Montco is helping the homelessness crisis

- From: Montgomery County Commissioner Jamila Winder
November 28, 2025



November (was) Homelessness Awareness Month, it's a reminder of both our progress and the work still ahead to ensure every Montgomery County resident has a safe place to call home.

Earlier this year, we broke ground in Lansdale on a new short-term supportive housing facility opening in January, which will offer up to 20 residents shelter and wraparound services.

In Pottstown, I visited the Days Inn site, where temporary housing is already helping residents find stability.

And in Norristown, our team advocated for the approval of a 50-bed emergency shelter, a critical step toward creating 24/7, year-round support.

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We need your input! Needs Assessment Survey

From the CSP November Minutes

The CSP Committee along with the county Office of Mental Health is conducting a Needs Assessment Survey to capture input from the community about needed services that will be prioritized in future planning.

Sue Shannon, Executive Director of HopeWorx, explained that the

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Commissioner Jamila Winder visited the Days Inn site, which now serves as temporary housing for residents experiencing homelessness. During the visit, she met with staff and residents to hear firsthand how this collaborative initiative is helping individuals rebuild stability and hope in the community.

POTTSTOWN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

There is still more to do, but every step brings us closer to creating a county where every neighbor has safety, dignity, and a place to call home.



Montgomery County Clears Hurdle For New Norrisrown Homeless Shelter

The Norristown Zoning Board Approved the county's zoning variance request for a new shelter on DeKalb Street that will provide wraparound services to up to 50 people



NORRISTOWN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

survey is conducted every few years and is a very important tool that the county assesses the mental health needs in the county.

In the survey, there's a list of 16 services from which participants can choose and decide on five services they would like to see prioritized. The services include housing, residential, advocacy, co-occurring support, crisis, hospital, employment, education, caregiver support, forensic/justice, transitional age support, older adults, LGBTQ+ support, peer support, therapy/treatment, recovery coach/case management and wellness tools and prevention.

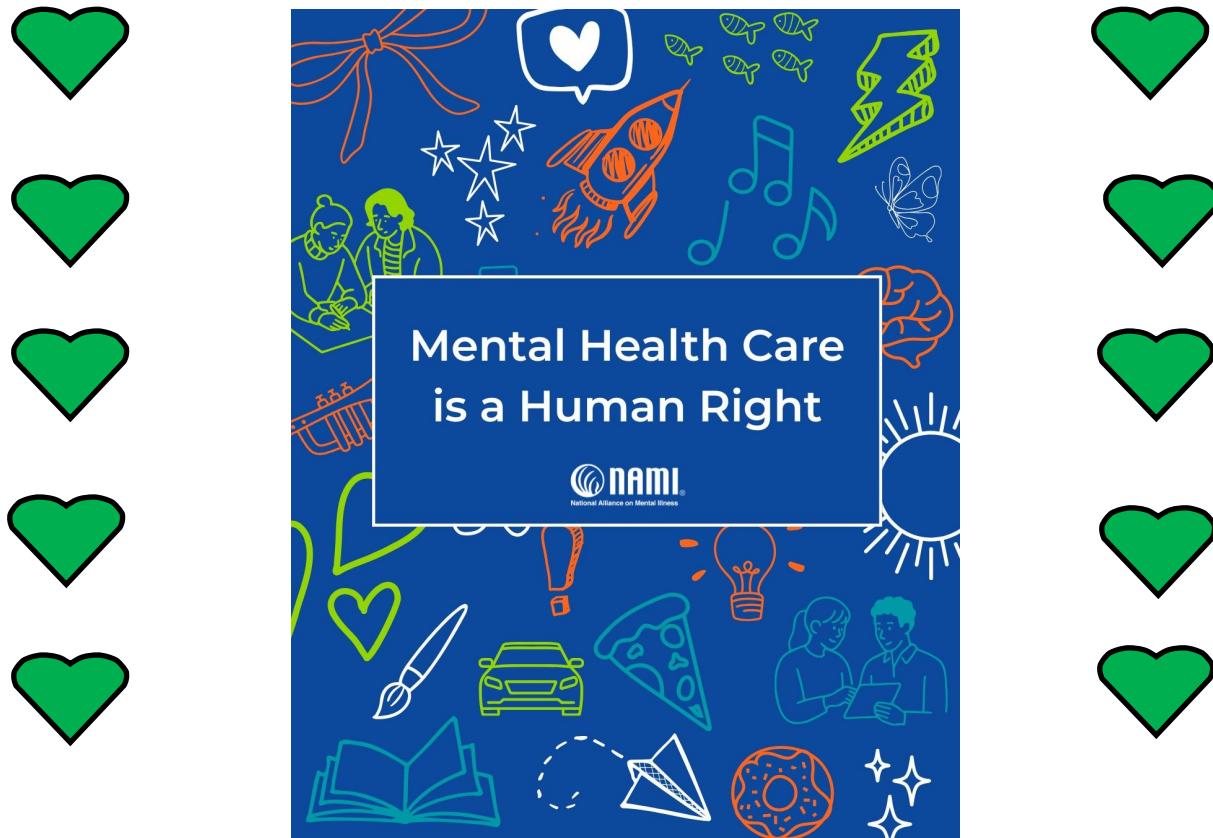
Once the top five priorities are identified, there will be an opportunity to provide more feedback.

"The county Office of Mental Health takes this very seriously," Shannon said. "They use this to do all the planning. Take survey everywhere. I challenge everybody to go out to all the groups you work with. Take it anywhere you can think of. If mental health affects you, you are a member of the CSP community. That's everybody. Try to get the word out. Ask your legislators to fill out the surveys, too."

CSP is comprised of people **who use mental health services, providers, family members, supporters and county staff and their mission is to improve mental health services in Montgomery County**. By filling out this survey you will enable the CSP Committee, in partnership with the Office of Mental Health, to better voice your thoughts and concerns for future planning. Everything you have to say is valued and the Committee and the County appreciate your input and insight regarding the **mental health services** that are currently being provided to individuals.

The deadline to return the surveys is December 31, 2025.

To see the online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8H338G>.



Help Us Help You

CSPStories@hopeworxinc.org

Voicemail messages 267-989-1798

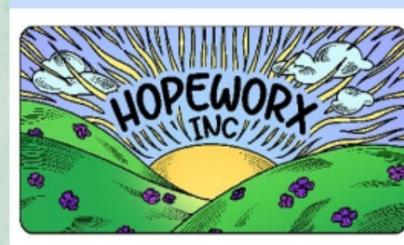
During these times of change and uncertainty, the CSP Advocacy Committee invites you to share your story on how the budget cuts have impacted you or a family member.

Your lived experience is important to us! You are not alone in this and together we can make a difference.

We encourage you to share this with people who have also been impacted by these cuts. Every voice needs to be heard and we are here to listen.



Anonymous
and
Confidential



Adults age 65+ can travel FREE!

Adults age 65+ can travel FREE on all SEPTA transit routes and Regional Rail if their departure and arrival stations are in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with the SEPTA Senior Key Card.

Learn more about the SEPTA Senior Fare Program: <https://www.septa.org/fares/senior-fare-card/>

Visit our mature driver webpage to find where you can make an appointment to apply for a card or renew your membership: montgomerycountypa.gov/MatureDriver



A HopeWorx Friendsgiving

By: Erin Villarose, Adult Programs Supervisor & Ameika Malcolm, Martha's Community Programs Mgr.

Erin said this past Friday, we had a really wonderful Thanksgiving party in CommunityWorx, where HopeWorx and Martha's Community Farm teamed up to put on a beautiful event! There was a TON of food, lots of people from all around, and an overall great sense of community. It was so awesome to serve beside each other, eat together, dance together, and celebrate together.

Ameika - What an incredible day of fellowship, joy, and true community. It wasn't just about food — it was about creating a space where everyone felt safe, seen, and connected.

Huge shout-out to our amazing volunteers for decorating, prepping, and bringing this event to life.

Deep gratitude to Creating Increased Connections (CIC), HopeWorx and their staff, and Martha's community. We're so grateful for this partnership. And thank you to everyone who showed up and brought something to share — you helped make this gathering truly meaningful.

We look forward to creating even more spaces for connection and belonging.







Montgomery County CSP needs Assessment Survey 2025

Montgomery County needs your feedback!

This survey will enable CSP in partnership with the Office of Mental Health, to better voice your thoughts and concerns for future planning!!

Please take a few minutes to complete survey so your voice is heard!

Use link below or QR code

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8H338G>



If you complete a paper survey instead, please return the completed survey to
Penny Johnson via fax: 610-270-9155; email: pjohnson@hopeworxinc.org
Or Mail to: HopeWorx, Inc. 1210 Stanbridge Street, Suite 600, Norristown, PA 19401

Thank you for your input! For more information about our CSP committee, please visit our website at www.montcopacsp.org.



JOIN US AT

CHESTER COUNTY CSP



JANUARY 17, 2026
11AM | EXTON LIBRARY

What is CSP?

A forum for peers, families, providers, and allies to connect and help shape a recovery-oriented mental health system in the community.

Contact us:
ChescoCSP@gmail.com

Sign up:





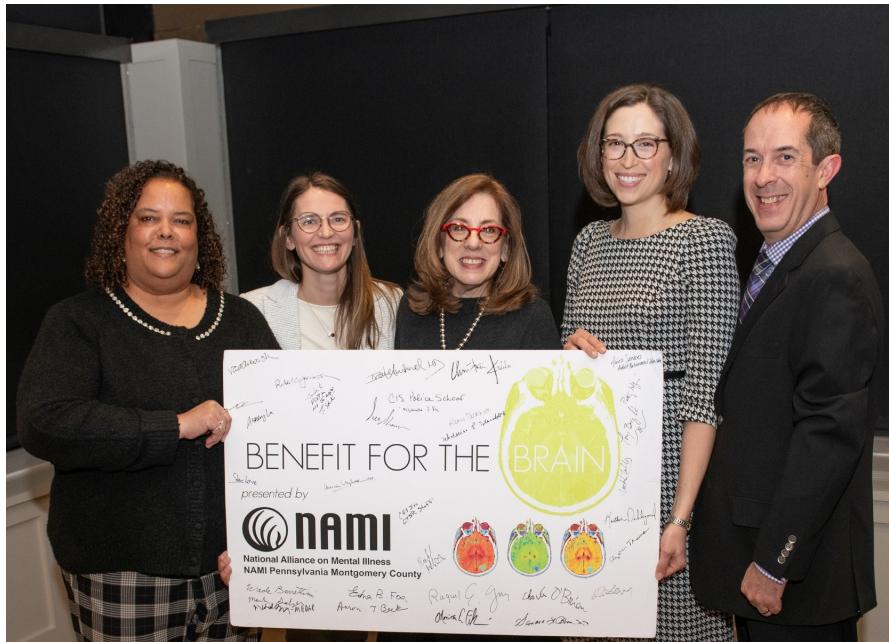
NAMI Montgomery County—Annual Benefit for the Brain



Thank you to everyone who joined us on Thursday, November 20th, at Cedarbrook Country Club for an unforgettable evening of delicious food, networking, and community celebration as we honored this year's outstanding award recipients:

- Scientific Research Award – Dr. Katharine B. Dalke, MD, MBE
- Larry A. Real Award – Dr. Katya Tatarchuk, MD
- Impact Award – Creative Health Services Long Term Structured Residence (LTSR)

Thank you to our generous sponsors, supporters, and attendees for helping make this night both meaningful and memorable. Your support fuels NAMI's mission and helps us continue providing free education, support, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by mental health challenges.



This season, I
allow myself
to experience
whatever I'm
feeling
without
judgment.





FAMILY TO FAMILY

A free, 8-session education program for family, friends and significant others of adults with mental health conditions. This class provides information about mental health conditions, alongside topics like communication, problem solving, treatment and recovery.

**From 6:30pm - 8:30pm,
starting on October 20th
via Zoom**



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1735591192979?aff=oddtdtcreator>



Dual Diagnosis Support Group

**COME JOIN THIS SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY OF
PEOPLE LIVING WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
AND A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION**

**EVERY 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH AT 6:30PM**

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM



 **NAMI** Montgomery County PA
National Alliance on Mental Illness



★★★

VETERANS *Support Group*

A **free** support group
for our veterans



1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the
Month at 7:30pm
Location: Zoom



Scan the QR Code to register now!





Montgomery County PA

LGBTQIA+ SUPPORT GROUP



**Come join this free virtual support
group for members (18+) of the
LGBTQIA+ community**



**Every 1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month
1:00pm**

Pennsylvanians, Don't Lose Your SNAP Benefits!



Keep your address up to date with DHS by calling the Customer Service Center or updating your address through COMPASS



AND (You must do both!)



Keep your address up to date with the United States Postal Service so you don't miss any important mailings about your benefits!

Learn more  dhs.pa.gov/work





Creating Increased Connections
A program of Resources for Human Development

CREATING INCREASED CONNECTIONS (CIC) GROUPS



TAKING BACK OUR POWER

Taking Back Our Power is a peer support group for individuals with lived experience of sensory phenomena (like hearing things others don't hear) and unusual beliefs

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope is peer-to-peer led discussion group. Join us for lively conversation about how we are feeling, our successes and challenges, our recovery, and how we maintain our wellness. Everyone is welcome.

WALK AND TALK

Every 1st and 3rd Friday
11:00AM-12:30PM

King of Prussia Mall

Meet at Food Court on 1st Floor

Join us for a time to work on our wellness, and enjoy each other's company as we exercise together.

Enter between KPOT and Bonefish Grill

160 N Gulph Rd

King of Prussia, PA 19406

MONDAYS

2:00PM-3:00PM

Hopeworx

1210 Stanbridge St #600,
Norristown, PA 19401

TUESDAYS

2:30PM-4:00PM

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

625 Montgomery Ave
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

THURSDAYS

1:00PM-2:00PM

Trinity Reformed Church

60 N. Hanover St
Pottstown, PA 19464

LIVE ANOTHER DAY

TUESDAYS

12:30PM-1:45PM

Lansdale Library

301 Vine St
Lansdale, PA 19446

Alternatives to Suicide groups are intended as non-judgmental spaces where people can share some of their darkest thoughts without being assumed to have an illness or being assessed for involuntary interventions. Openly exploring these thoughts - and the feelings and experiences underneath them – is often the key to moving toward something different.

WOMENS IDENTITY AND EXPERIENCES GROUP

This group was created for women as a safe environment to voice & openly share our life stories as women & to empower ourselves to find greater meaning & purpose in life.

WEDNESDAYS
3:00PM-4:30PM

Teams Link

<https://teams.microsoft.com/Womensgroup>

For More Information Contact Sheila.HallPrioleau@RHD.org 215-906-0453

www.ciconnections.org

Subcommittee Reports from November 2025

Advocacy Subcommittee – Didn't meet. Co-chairs not available. Sue said they set up phone line and email for people to share stories how budget cuts impact people. We will keep that active. No stories so far.

Montco CSP Website moving from its independent site to the HopeWorx site. Same website domain but no extra charges for CSP website.

Community Outreach – 3 different holiday parties. NAMI, Fortneiter on Dec 18. Meet at library if you need ride. At Senior Center. CIC will have holiday party on Dec. 12th at new office. Discussed starting a walking group at VF Park on Dec. 14th. Sundays from 1-2. Second Sunday of every month. Event called Wild Lights at Elmwood Zoo fun to go with Community Connections Grant. To cover \$15 for ticket to make accessible.

Conference Subcommittee: Harry said \$4,000 to use venue at Variety Club. No renting tents and paying for traffic control. Indoor and outdoor facilities. Tour first week of December. Would save several thousand dollars. Tuesday wouldn't work. It would have to be Wednesday. Will use AAA catering again.

CSP MEETING CALENDAR 2025-26

Meetings are held every third Thursday, monthly from 12: 00-2:30pm

The next meetings will be:

December	18
January	15
February	19
March	19

Meetings are held in person and via Zoom.

Montgomery County CSP Executive Committee

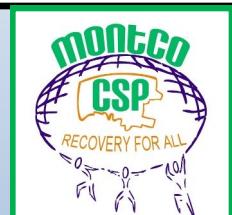
2024/2025 Tri-Chairs

Provider Member: Jim Markey

Person in Recovery: Morgan Killian-Moseley

Family Member: Vacant

County Liaison -
Tracey Riper-Thomas



2024/2025 Sub-Committee Chairs

Community Outreach: Erin Villarose

Advocacy: Cindy Todd & Christine Stutman

Conference: Harry Bowles & Justin Chamrin

Fiduciary - HopeWorx, Inc.

1210 Stanbridge Street,
Suite 600
Norristown, PA 19401
610-270-3685

2024/2025 Treasurer

Erin Anguish

CSP Principles

- * Person Centered/ Person Empowered
- * Culturally competent
- * Designed to Meet Special Needs
- * Community Based with Natural Supports
- * Flexible
- * Coordinated
- * Accountable
- * Strengths-Based

Organizations who regularly send representatives to CSP:

Central Behavioral Health, AdvocacyWorx, Community Satisfaction Team of Montgomery County, Magellan Health Services, Montgomery Co. Department of Behavioral Health, Montgomery County Emergency Services (MCES), NAMI Montgomery County, Norristown Vet Center, Resources for Human Development, Salisbury Behavioral Health

Meetings:

12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

3rd Thursday of each month

Montgomery County Community College
Blue Bell, PA

In person & Zoom

Kathie Mitchell, Newsletter Editor

Join our Mailing List!

We have an email list as well as a regular mailing, to join:

Send an e-mail to:

pjohnson@hopeworxinc.org

Or send your contact info to this mailing address:

Community Support Journal

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CSP Mission Statement:

Montgomery County's Community Support Program (CSP) brings together individuals that receive mental health services, their family members, providers and the Department of Behavioral Health in an equal partnership to promote recovery and excellence in the delivery of community-based mental health services.

The committee strives to include a balance of people who use services, people who provide services, family members, and interested members of the community at large. The CSP initiatives continue to grow state, regionally and county wide. As the involvement increases CSP has become a place that feedback can truly be given to the county from individuals that receive services and information can be given that suits the needs and requests of those that attend.

CSP Subcommittees:

- * **Advocacy Subcommittee**—Works on legislative, policy, communication, budget, voter education and other issues related to mental health services in the county, statewide and at the federal level when relevant. At the direction of the CSP Committee, the Advocacy Subcommittee gathers information on issues, plans advocacy events and creates a monthly newsletter to provide information to the stakeholder network as well as the community at large about the work of CSP. The newsletter also provides updates on new and changing mental health services provided in Montgomery County. The newsletter editor can be contacted at: kathiemitte18221@gmail.com.
- * **Community Outreach Subcommittee**—Works on facilitating opportunities for people in the CSP community to be more involved in the Montgomery County community. This includes implementing the Community Connections grants, which provide funding for people to participate in a variety of activities. The committee also implements transportation grants that provide gas cards and SEPTA day passes to CSP community members. The annual CSP Poster Art contest is also organized by this committee.
- * **Conference Subcommittee** – The conference subcommittee will plan and fundraise for the annual Montgomery County CSP Conference.

We invite all peers, family members and providers/professionals to attend.

Website: www.montcopacsp.org

<https://www.facebook.com/montcopacsp/>