

# 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**

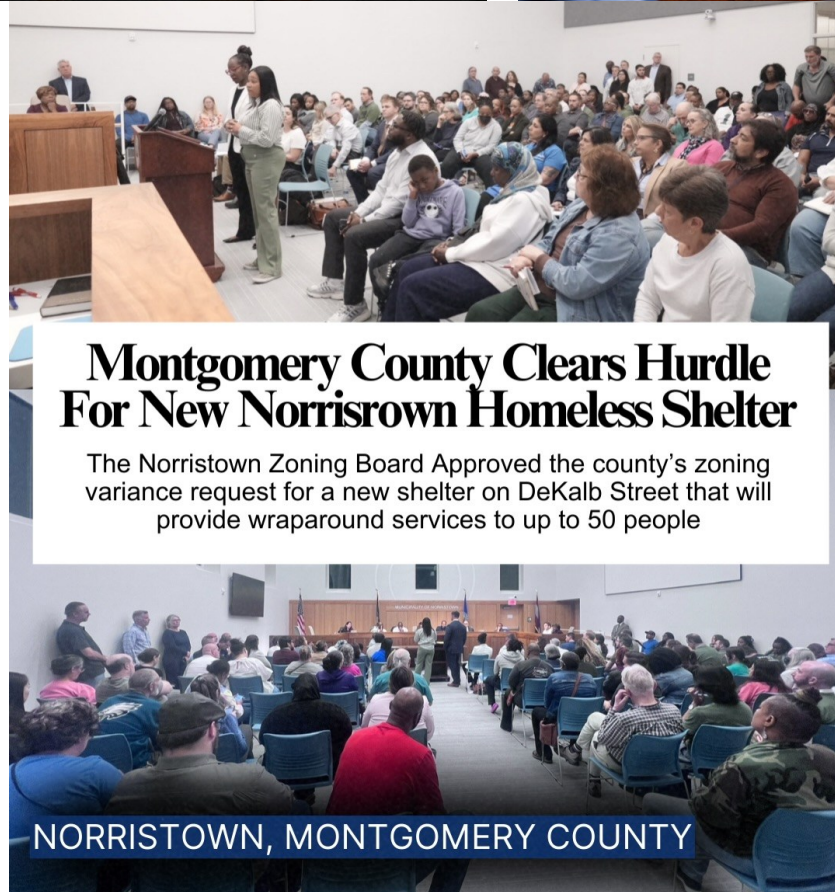
The CSP Committee along with the county Office of Mental Health is conducting a Needs Assessment Survey to capture input from the community about needed services that will be prioritized in future planning.

Sue Shannon, Executive Director of HopeWorx, explained that the

*Continued on page 3*



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.





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](http://montgomerycountypa.gov/MatureDriver)



**PA residents age 65 and over ride FREE with the SEPTA Senior Fare Program**

**Make an appointment to receive your SEPTA Senior Key Card**

Montgomery County  
Department of  
Health and Human Services

**Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services**



## 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.





## Ways To Combat Seasonal Depression



Reach out to friends or family



Practice self-care



Make a comfort food



Call Mobile Crisis

MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
**MOBILE  
CRISIS**  
SUPPORT  
1-855-634-HOPE  
(1-855-634-4673)





## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:ChescoCSP@gmail.com)

Sign up:



# HAPPY HANUKKAH

FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY



A very Merry Christmas to All and  
a Happy New Year!

From Montgomery County CSP



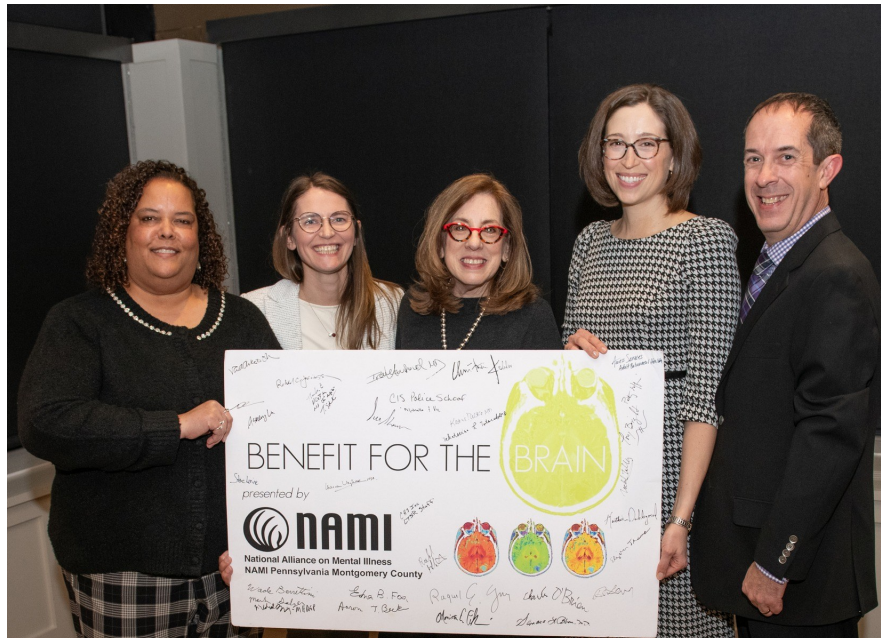
## NAMI Montgomery County—Annual Benefit for the Brain



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.



Montgomery  
County PA

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





**nami** | Montgomery  
County PA  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

## 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 20<sup>th</sup>  
via Zoom



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



# Dual Diagnosis Support Group

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

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

**VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM**



**WE HAVE  
MOVED**







National Alliance on Mental Illness

**nami**

Montgomery  
County PA



# VETERANS *Support Group*

A **free** support group  
for our veterans



1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](https://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



### 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



## 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.



**WEDNESDAYS**  
**1:00PM-2:00PM**

Hopeworx  
1210 Stanbridge St #600,  
Norristown, PA 19401

**THURSDAYS**  
**10:30AM-12:00PM**

Hopeworx  
1210 Stanbridge St #600,  
Norristown, PA 19401



## 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.

## 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



## 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)

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



For More Information Contact [Sheila.HallPrioleau@RHD.org](mailto:Sheila.HallPrioleau@RHD.org) 215-906-0453  
[www.ciconnections.org](http://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. 12<sup>th</sup> at new office. Discussed starting a walking group at VF Park on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 CALENDER 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

## **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.

## **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

## 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: [kathiemitchell8221@gmail.com](mailto:kathiemitchell8221@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.

## **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](mailto:pjohnson@hopeworxinc.org)

Or send your contact info  
to this mailing address:

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

**Website:** [www.montcopacsp.org](http://www.montcopacsp.org)

[https://www.facebook.com/  
montcopacsp/](https://www.facebook.com/montcopacsp/)