

Community Support Journal

Montgomery County Community Support Program Committee *Newsletter*

January 2026

Volume 1



*CSP Logo designed by
Chris Ford*

After a rough year... Gratitude and Hope for the future

By: Kathie Mitchell, CSJ Editor

Chanel Santiago has witnessed some rough times over the past year working as a federal employee for Veterans Outreach. But she still feels grateful for her job and the work of CSP.

"I'm grateful for being able to wake up every morning," Santiago told the CSP committee at its December meeting.

"This year has been very rough for a lot of people. Being in the federal side of government, seeing people lose their jobs and have to hunt for food."

Santiago, who is the Veteran Outreach Program Specialist at the Norristown Vets Center, said she was speaking about federal employees facing challenges across the country in all facets of government. She spoke about the importance of federal programs like the Veterans Center that provided mental health support and services to the country's service men and women.

"We are on the mental side of the VA," she said. "I appreciate what we do and what our purpose is. It kept me in the game. I didn't have to worry about being furloughed. Which is pretty good being that sometimes mental health gets put on a back burner to a lot of other things in this country. So I'm grateful for that."



Santiago and other committee members started off the December CSP meeting by sharing what they were grateful for. Other sentiments included being grateful for friends, family, recovery, work and life in general.

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Norristown Hospitality Center Needs a Home

"We are in position, and we stand firm."

From

Sunanda Charles, Executive Director

December was a busy month at the Center as we focused on contingency planning. We are relieved and grateful to have received a lease extension until January 31, 2026. We sincerely thank @montcosaac for

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The members also shared hopes for the CSP in 2026. Santiago reflected on the importance of the CSP Committee's advocacy work over the years.

"My hope is that CSP continues to keep advocating and fighting for mental health in this county," Santiago said. "Mental Health is not as taboo as it was even 10 years ago. I appreciate the fight; I appreciate the advocacy."

Santiago pointed out how CSP reaches out to its members throughout the year to engage participants in budget rallies in Harrisburg or to join with other agencies on calls to mobilize advocacy around housing, homelessness and other services that affect the mental health community.

"I appreciate how much fight is in CSP. How much fight is in HopeWorx. How much fight, quite frankly, is in the federal government," Santiago said. "We didn't take a hit because mental health is so important."

The Norristown Vets Center has had about 2900 encounters this past year with vets and family members.

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional counseling to eligible Veterans, service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families. Counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life or after a traumatic event experienced in the military to include military sexual trauma (MST). Individual, group, marriage and family counseling is offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma.

For more information about the Norristown Vets Center, see the contact information below:

Chanel N. Santiago, MBA
Veteran Outreach Program Specialist
Readjustment Counseling Service (10RCS)
Norristown Vet Center
US Department of Veterans Affairs
Ph: 215-823-5245
www.vetcenter.va.gov

New number, same support.
Dial 988 then Press 1.



their generosity and support.

We appreciate [Commissioner Jamila Winder](#) for her efforts in securing our extension and for her commitment to our most vulnerable constituents. We also thank the [Greater Norristown Area Ministerium](#) and its members for their ongoing support. The community's encouragement has been invaluable, and we look forward to your continued advocacy.

There is still important work ahead. The Board and I are busy working to identify our permanent location. As we move forward with purpose, we invite everyone to join us. Whether you volunteer, advocate for our mission, or connect us with potential partners, your involvement will strengthen our impact in the community.

This week, a former client left a voicemail after seeing us on TV. She shared that she was once addicted to drugs in Norristown and that the Hospitality Center saved her life. She has been clean since 2009 and ended with, "Stay in position – God has something special for you!"

We are in position, and we stand firm.

From

Sunanda Charles, Executive Director

BACKGROUND

Article by Rachel Ravina from The Reporter - 12.15.2025

NORRISTOWN – A [Norristown nonprofit organization](#) with a mission of helping people experiencing homelessness will find themselves without a home in a few weeks.

The Norristown Hospitality Center currently operates out of the Montgomery County Senior Adult Activity Center at 536 George St. offering food, shelter, bathrooms, and case management services to roughly 60 to 75 people per day dealing with homelessness and financial hardship. The clock is ticking as the lease ends on Dec. 31, Executive Director Sunanda Charles said, and no new space has been found.

"Our center provides a safe and secure space during the day for people, and especially during this harsh weather, and without us, a lot of them would lose this safe space," Charles said.

The Norristown Hospitality Center saga began in July 2024 when Charles was notified the nonprofit needed to leave its original location, a space they'd previously occupied for more than two decades.

The nonprofit had a month-to-month lease and the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania relocated its headquarters to Norristown, which prompted the need for a new locale.

Center location moves

The nonprofit initially entered into a \$925,000 purchasing contract in December 2024 for a mixed use property at 336 E. Moore St. However, the proposed development was faced with staunch public opposition. Charles and other representatives sought a variance request, which brought residents out to vocalize their opinions both in support and opposition to the project.

See next page

“We have to start treating people with dignity, kindness and respect. When we say inclusion, that means including everyone, no matter what their condition,” a Norristown resident said during an April meeting.

“In our neighborhood, we can’t afford this right now,” said Norristown resident Derrick Jones, adding “we already have issues.”

Norristown Zoning Hearing Board members heard **hours of testimony and public comment**, eventually denying the non-profit zoning relief at a meeting in late May. Montgomery County officials received zoning relief that same month for **a 50-bed supportive short term housing facility at 1430 DeKalb St.**

To address growing homelessness issues, Montgomery County has begun implementing plans with a regional approach, executing leases for rooms at a Pottstown hotel and an office building in Lansdale that will soon become a 20-bed supportive short term housing facility operated by the Philadelphia-based Resources for Human Development.

Rates have been on the rise in recent years, with the county’s annual Point-in-Time Count climbing from 357 people in 2023 to 425 people in 2024. Figures for 2025 534 individuals experiencing homelessness on a cold night in January, according to the Norristown Hospitality Center’s website.

Enacting a contingency plan, Charles said the nonprofit secured a temporary lease at the senior center.

The lease took effect mid-June, Charles said. Norristown Hospitality Center was “closed for three days to move, and we resumed our services.” Acknowledging “pushback from some community members,” Charles said she attended a meeting with area residents to hear their concerns about the nonprofit operating in the new space.

“They understood that our work is important, and that we need to exist in the community, but not necessarily in that part of the community [was] what I got from her and ... we changed a few things when we moved to the senior center,” Charles said, adding the nonprofit hired security and had conversations with clients to discourage littering and loitering.

Response from Norristown, Montgomery County

Charles heard from leadership at the facility about their need to vacate when their lease expired as the property would be undergoing construction. “It was a six-month lease, I’ll give it that, but we were hoping for an extension there for at least the short term so we would have some time to get our thoughts together, take a breather and start looking for the next permanent location,” Charles said.

Charles said she’s been trying “to find a more permanent solution to our situation.” In conversations with municipal officials, Charles said “we were initially advised that our best bet would be to find a property in the heavy industrial zone,” referring to places such as Lafayette and Washington streets. Charles emphasized accessibility and walkability is crucial for clientele.

“They have listened, they have verbalized support,” Charles said. “Although there has also been some rhetoric about ‘oh people com[ing] from outside and why should it just be Norristown?’”

Charles maintained the need for open dialogue, often running prospective locations by municipal officials, after going through the zoning process with the Moore Street property.

“We had invested so much of time and money in that endeavor that we lost all that, and so to avoid another situation like that we said OK, every time we are looking at a property as a potential, we will run it by you, and get some feedback about whether this has better chances of getting zoning approval or not,” Charles said.

Norristown Municipal Council President Rebecca Smith said she was aware of conversations taking place between council members, municipal planning officials and the nonprofit.

See next page

“Obviously, I hope there’s not a large gap in services for the community. I think the hospitality center is still working out what the best, most appropriate location for their services would be, and then the municipal process and zoning approval would follow from that,” Smith told MediaNews Group.

“But then now we’re right down to the wire. We don’t have ... the luxury of time to do that,” Charles said, stressing that “even if it’s a temporary space, we need to be in a space by first of January, and so time is running out.”

Charles also noted a lack of tangential support from the Montgomery County government. While Charles said she received a phone call from a deputy chief operating officer, “to find out what’s going on. That’s as much as it was.”

“I mean it’s appalling, and heartbreaking in a way because here we are on the front lines doing this important work of supporting the community in such a huge way,” Charles said.

The matter was raised last month during the Norristown Hospitality Center’s “One Night Without Sleep” event. The organization’s website prompted a letter writing campaign to high ranking officials at the local and county levels, and Charles said hundreds have been sent.

“We wrote letters at the sleep out and that’s continued even after,” Charles said. “So people are sending letters, but there hasn’t been any communication, and I am extremely disappointed with that because everybody knows that we are going to be out of that space and don’t necessarily have a place to go in January.”



A Montgomery County spokesperson responded to Charles’ comments in a Friday afternoon statement to MediaNews Group:

“Montgomery County cares deeply about serving our residents, including those experiencing homelessness,” a spokesperson said in a statement. “Our work on transitional housing projects in Lansdale, Pottstown and Norristown demonstrates our clear commitment to helping our most vulnerable residents find permanent places to lay their heads and get back on their feet. Norristown Hospitality Center plays a vital role in that continuum of housing services, and the center is well aware that the county has proactively provided support for its mission.”

‘There is no way we will let our mission die’

Charles said the “closure of the center will cut off these lifelines, making it harder for people to get help” and strain other existing social service resources. The fate of the center is yet to be seen, but Charles’ a “diehard believer that the mission of the center will always stay alive.”

“I don’t know what it is going to be but I am going to find a way,” she said, adding “there is no way we will let our mission die. We will continue to work and operate. I just don’t know in what way ... that looks like.”

With less than a month until the end of the year, it begs the question of what happens next?

“It’s urgent. It is now and we need the county, the elected officials, the faith leaders, everyone to understand the urgency of the situation and come together to support us to find a way,” she said.

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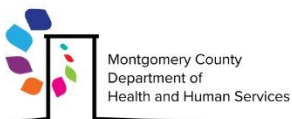


MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2026 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Thursday, January 22, 2026
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Your Way Home volunteers will be out in the community in Montgomery County to connect with and count individuals experiencing homelessness outside, so we can better understand and support your needs.

The Point-In-Time (PIT) count helps determine which services are most needed in the community and to secure funding for homelessness services and programming.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you would like to donate survival items, please visit Your Way Home's [Amazon Wish List](#).



For more information
yourwayhome@montgomerycountypa.gov

“Your Voice is Powerful!” says HHS Secretary Val Arkoosh - SNAP and Pennie Benefits in jeopardy

During a review of the 2025-26 Health and Human Services Budget, PA Health and Human Services Secretary Val Arkoosh highlighted a multitude of new services that will help PA residents including the launch of PA Navigate and Women’s Health Services, and eliminating barriers to telehealth for behavioral health.

But when it came to people living in poverty and/or using mental health services, the message was hopeful but not as positive.

Arkoosh was referring to the mental health based funds that received no new monies despite a plea from county administrators and advocates across the state to provide another \$20 million to the woefully challenged budget for community mental health.

“These funds are extremely important,” Secretary Arkoosh told the listeners on the Zoom call this month. “I am very concerned.”

When Governor Shapiro took office, he promised to add \$60 million to mental health services. He did add \$20 million the first year and \$20 million in his second year, and both of the amounts were annualized. The mental health community advocated for \$20 million in the 2025-26 budget, but it didn’t happen. Hopefully, it will be in the next budget when planning begins in February.

Meanwhile, SNAP—the supplemental food program for low income residents—took a hit last year when the HR1 Bill was signed by the President on July 4th. New SNAP regulations require recipients to work 20 hours a week and to report the work hours in order to receive the benefit.

In addition, on January 1, 2027, about 750,000 people who receive Medicaid will have their benefits re-determined and will have to provide evidence of eligibility every six months. Pennie plans will be unaffordable since the tax credits under the Affordable Care Act have expired.

Secretary Arkoosh added that under the HR1 Bill, \$21 billion will be lost from Pennsylvania hospitals and providers in 2028.

She encouraged people to engage with state and federal legislators and tell them how these cuts will adversely affect their lives.

“Nothing moves the needle more than that,” Secretary Arkoosh said. “They need to hear from you. Share your stories.”



For more information about the SNAP requirements, go to: dhs.pa.gov/work or call or visit your county assistance office. To find volunteer opportunities that qualify as work, go to PA-Navigate.org.

30th Montgomery County CPS Class Graduates!

By: Tracey Riper-Thomas

Mental Health Coordinator of Peer Support and Career Services



On December 12th, fifteen individuals choosing to share their lived experience with Mental Health challenges, graduated as a part of Montgomery County's 30th Class of Certified Peer Specialists. Congratulations, CPS'! These incredible individuals will use their own lived experience to walk alongside others to assist with goals, filling an indispensable role in the mental health system.

Peer Support Services consist of agency employees with Mental Health lived experience helping others with Mental Health challenges. Pam Howard, Administrator of the Office of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, Early Intervention, within the Department of Health and Human Services, shared how Peer Support has grown in the County (Currently having Peer Specialists employed in 35 programs)!

Recovery stories and other important information were shared in support of a long-standing Montgomery County service. Peer Specialists are often "the light at the end of the tunnel" for the peers they serve. Recovery happens in the community by engaging in work, having a holistic support system and by setting an example for others who are struggling. If you know someone who may be interested in the training and a rewarding career, and to learn more about the program, visit our webpage: www.montgomerycountypa.gov/CPSTraining



Montgomery County Office of Mental Health Career Centers

Requirements/Access:

- **Individual must have a mental health challenge**
- **Have a personal interest/goal of employment, and/or education**

Career Centers are staffed by Employment/Education Specialists, many of whom are also Peer Specialists (CPSSs), who have mental health lived experience. The below listed Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs) have a Career Center. Their services provide **evidence-based interventions that help support individuals in getting and keeping a job** (“supported employment”) or achieving their educational goals (“supported education”).

How to connect with Career Center Services:

Please call the CBHC, and request the Career Center/Peer Support Supervisor. For a map of Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs) catchment areas:

[Getting Started with Services | Montgomery County, PA - Official Website](#)

Central Behavioral Health Norristown

(610) 279-9270

Central BH Abington

(267) 818-2220

Creative Health Services

(610) 326-2767

Lower Merion Counseling

(610) 520-1510

Merakey

(215) 716-9001

In addition, the below services also provide some employment support:

Pottstown Recovery & Education Center

Pottstown: (267) 507-3525

Goodwill Keystone Area

All of Montgomery County: (267) 414-0678

Join Us for NAMIWalks Montgomery County PA — May 16, 2026

**Won't you join the joy of this year's most important
mental health fundraising event?**

We're excited to invite you to NAMIWalks Montgomery County PA, taking place on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Temple University Ambler Campus (580 Meetinghouse Rd., Ambler, PA 19002).

By registering, walking, or supporting a team, you play a vital role in advancing NAMI's mission and moving us closer to a future where Mental Health for All is not just a vision—but a reality.

<https://www.namiwalks.org/montcopa>



TOGETHER
we are
NAMIWalks
Montgomery County PA

2026

Ready to Rally?

Together we're going to make NAMIWalks 2026 the best one ever!

Temple University Ambler Campus
580 Meetinghouse Rd.
Ambler, PA 19002

The graphic features several circular inset photos: two people holding green pom-poms, a large group of people at a rally, a person holding a 'MENTAL HEALTH for all' sign, and a young girl with face paint. The background is a mix of green and blue with decorative swirls and arrows.



Montgomery County PA

**JOIN US! NETWORK &
RESOURCE FAIR
VENDOR
REGISTRATION**

JANUARY 30TH, 12PM-2PM

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS CENTER
2506 N. BROAD STREET
COLMAR, PA 18915**

**PARTICIPATING VENDORS
WILL BE ALLOTTED A 2–3
MINUTE PRESENTATION SLOT
TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW
OF THEIR ORGANIZATION.**



Montgomery County PA

Volunteers Needed

Join the National Alliance on Mental Illness (Montgomery County PA) as a volunteer and be part of our mission. Your time and skills can create a positive change in our community!

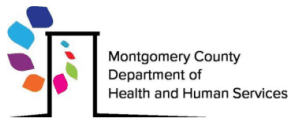
Opportunities:

- Lead a Family or Peer Support Group
- Facilitate a Class about Mental Health
- Share Your Mental Health Journey with Schools and First Responders
- Write Supportive Letters to Patients at Behavioral Hospitals
- Fight the Stigma around Mental Health!



Interested? Use the
QR Code to Register
as a Volunteer!





Sponsored by The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

SE Regional Mental Health Services Coordination Office

Announcing 2026 Winter/ Spring Mental Health First Aid Classes

2026 Training Schedule

Adult Blended MHFA 2/27/2026

8:30-3:30 , at the Flux Space
56 Buttonwood St. Norristown, PA
19401

Older Adult MHFA 3/20/2026

8:30-4:30, at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1000 West Main Street Lansdale, PA 19446

Youth Blended MHFA 3/18/2026

8:30-3:30 at The Ambler YMCA
1325 McKean Rd, Ambler, PA 19002

Adult Blended MHFA 5/15/2026

8:30-3:30 at Penn Foundation
807 Lawn Ave, Sellersville, PA
18960

Youth Blended MHFA 5/13/2026

8:30-3:30 at the Spring Valley YMCA
19 W. Linfield Trappe Road

Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. In this course, participants learn the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, the importance of early intervention and, most importantly, how to help someone experiencing a mental health or substance use emergency.

- For all MHFA classes you will complete a 2-hour, self-paced online class, followed by a 6.5 hour (including lunch and breaks) Instructor-led training. Certification is for 3 years.

Sign Up for a Class today at:

www.fivecountymh.org

For More information email
regionalmentalhealthfirstaid@pmhcc.org



SCAN ME



**"BE THE ONE TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE!"**



**Mental Health
FIRST AID**
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
MENTAL WELLBEING



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

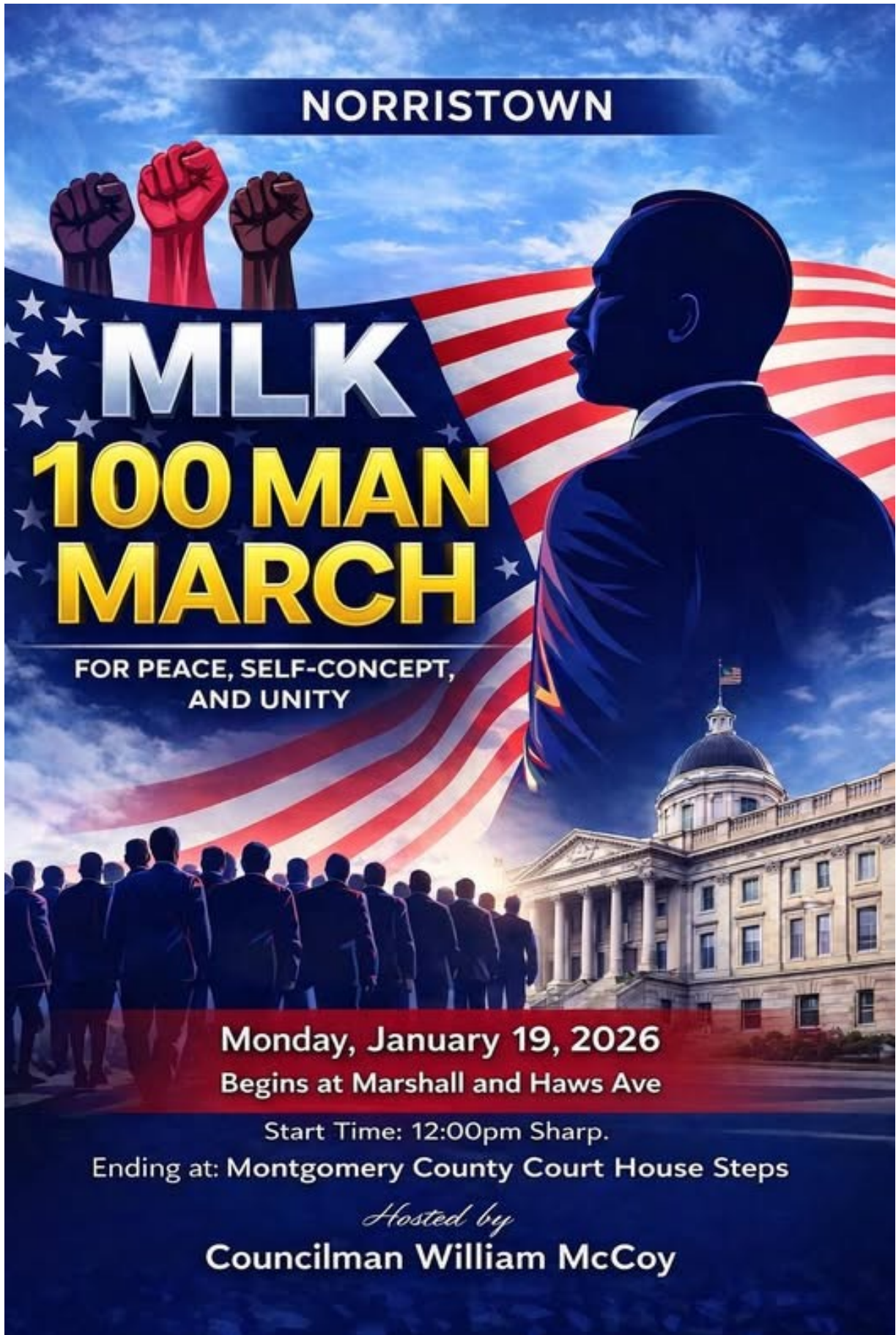
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8H338G>



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.



A vibrant poster for the 'MLK 100 Man March'. The background features a large American flag with its stars and stripes. In the upper left, three raised fists are shown in shades of brown and red. On the right, a large silhouette of a man in a suit, likely Martin Luther King Jr., is shown in profile, looking towards the left. At the bottom, a line of silhouetted men is seen from behind, walking towards a large, classical building with a dome, which is the Montgomery County Court House. The sky is blue with white clouds.

NORRISTOWN

MLK
100 MAN
MARCH

FOR PEACE, SELF-CONCEPT,
AND UNITY

Monday, January 19, 2026
Begins at Marshall and Haws Ave
Start Time: 12:00pm Sharp.
Ending at: Montgomery County Court House Steps
Hosted by
Councilman William McCoy

STATE SERVICES ON THE MOVE!

*Bringing constituent services to your community!
Visit Senator Collett's office staff at our mobile office hours:*

1/13

Upper Moreland Library

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1/14

Horsham Library

10 AM - 12 PM

1/20

Greater Plymouth Community Center

10 AM - 12 PM

1/20

Wissahickon Valley Library

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

1/21

Hatfield Township Building

10 AM - 12 PM

1/27

Huntingdon Valley Library

12:30 PM - 2:30 PM



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



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 215-906-0453
www.ciconnections.org

Subcommittee Reports from December 2025

Advocacy Subcommittee – The committee discussed getting traction on flyer for shared stories. Will reach out to Robin Stelly because they are doing something similar. And invite her to next meeting. Advocacy needed for the Hospitality Center scheduled to shut down end of December leaving people without a place to go due to NIMBYism. CSP can write a letter and ask local paper to put in editorial page. Check with Buxmont Collaborative for housing. Need more information on SNAP changes in January.

Community Outreach – The committee discussed engagement. Reach out to Tikva. Community Connection grants – create a flyer to let people know about grant money – what it is and what it isn't. They are grants to help people to get out into the community. Questions to Penny or Erin. Grants are not for rent or security deposits.

Conference Subcommittee – Harry confirmed Variety Club for conference. Aiming for May 13th or 20th. Waiting for confirmation from commissioners. Next month food options will be discussed. Get word out about fundraising.

CSP MEETING CALENDER 2026

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

The next meetings will be:

January	15
February	19
March	19
April	16

*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.
- * **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

Or send your contact info
to this mailing address:

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

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