

# Community Support Journal

## Montgomery County Community Support Program Committee *Newsletter*

April 2024

Volume 4



CSP Logo designed by Chris Ford

### Your Voice. Your Power. Your Vote

By: Kathie Mitchell, CSJ Editor



Bill England from the Pennsylvania Health Access Network known as PHAN, had an important message to give members of the Southeast Regional CSP Committee at a recent meeting.

“Make your plan,” England urged the meeting participants. “I always encourage people to think about how you are going to vote. Think about what will work in your schedule. Our democracy is dependent upon us participating in it and that is acting to vote for the candidates of your choice.”

England said PHAN was the largest statewide healthcare consumer organization and their work is pushing on improving access to healthcare and making healthcare more affordable and easier to get and to hold on to. PHAN also provides assistance to people to enroll in the Marketplace, Medicaid, CHIP and other public health insurance programs.

England presented information at the March regional CSP meeting about the rights of citizens to vote under the Constitution with a presentation called “Your Voice. Your Power. Your Vote.” He explained how government works and the importance of voting.

There are three branches of government: the Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

- In the Executive Branch, Governor Shapiro serves as executive and has many responsibilities – managing state agencies, signing laws passed by General Assembly and providing a state budget for consideration by the GA. Currently the GA is holding hearings and considering the budget. There are opportunities for public input with thoughts and concerns. All services are overseen by the Executive Branch, i.e., Environmental Protection, Human Services, Voting, etc.

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### Advocacy for staff funding needed

By: Kathie Mitchell, CSJ Editor

County Administrator Pam Howard urged CSP members recently to consider funding for staffing as one of their budget talking points.

“Staffing really plays a huge role in helping people to access supports and services,” Howard said. “It’s something our office has been paying attention to and are trying to be supportive to providers and push on any levers we can push on.”

Continued on page 2

Howard, who is the Administrator of the Montgomery County Office of MH/DD/EI, Health and Human Services, said creating awareness of needs to the state and even up to the federal level was very important. While the county does have oversight of the Medicaid (HealthChoices) dollars, they don't have oversight over Medicare dollars.

Howard said some individuals might have difficulty in accessing services that are funded differently. For some services like peer support for case management which is not paid for by Medicare, the county uses HealthChoices dollars to fund them.

Until last year when the state gave \$20 million to counties for community mental health services, there was no cost of living adjustment (COLA) for 15 years. Some services, such as clubhouses, were closed as providers felt the pinch of increasing operational costs but no additional funding.

"Slowing but surely we are seeing providers doing better with recruitment and retention with staff," Howard said. "There's some places and spaces in the system where there are certain requirements by the insurer that make it a little more challenging for providers to have as many therapists accessible. We are looking at raising those issues to the state whenever possible."

Howard added that the county was looking at other places where they have been better with staff retention and use different strategies for the different spaces in the system. The county hopes this gets better and better over time.

Noting the strength of the CSP Committee through its stakeholders and advocacy efforts, Howard urged the committee to continue raising the issue of more mental health funding. This year, Governor Shapiro has included another \$20 million for mental health in his budget. But that funding has to be approved by the legislators, she said, and it has to be shared with all of the 67 counties in the state.

"It's so important...to be helping legislators understand it's really not enough," Howard said. "We are very, very grateful for the \$20 million in the Governor Shapiro's budget last year. But there are 67 counties across the state. When you start to break that up among the 67 counties, it's not that big of an amount."

The PA County Commissioners Association recommended a \$250 million increase in base mental health dollars based on an analysis they conducted looking back to 2008 when funding stopped and addressing the ramifications of a 10 percent cut in 2012.

"I'm working on someone getting you talking points," Howard said. "My job isn't to tell you to do these things but to give you some facts and help legislators understand the transition of care from the state to the counties."

When she started her career, over 1,500 state hospital beds served the southeast region. Today there are 30 beds that serve that region.



**Continued on next page**

“That’s fantastic in many, many ways,” Howard said. “We have assisted people to move out of institutions and live a life in the community that all of us would want for ourselves or our loved ones. But we really do need the correct services and supports to help them have those meaningful lives.”

Sue Shannon, Executive Director of HopeWorx, thanked Howard for compiling facts in talking points for the committee to use. There is a huge statewide advocacy event on May 15th at the Capitol where this information could be disseminated. The goal is that everybody can get services in the way they need them.

“There’s not one size that fits all,” Howard agreed. “That’s something we always believed. I really think that Montgomery County’s vision would be is that we have options.”

Telehealth and in-person services should be options. Howard said the county didn’t have enough services prior to the pandemic and the pandemic knocked them back. “This is Montgomery county and we want it all.”

Several committee members raised questions about the lack of clubhouses in the county. Howard said the closure of clubhouses was directly tied to budget issues.

“Our office didn’t cut funds, but when budgets don’t grow, it’s like taking a cut,” she said. “It just gets really challenging for providers.”

Howard encouraged CSP to advocate for funding for clubhouses if more individuals find them helpful. Some members felt that clubhouses would help people stay connected and might prevent them from using crisis services.

Currently, a major part of the county funding pays for residential services and housing supports, followed by funding for crisis services. County funding is also used for people who are not insured or underinsured. They fund six adult Behavioral Health Centers and one children’s.

Howard said they decide many services based on the stakeholder feedback. Sometimes it takes a while to actually get the services up and running. Stakeholders had advocated for crisis services for many years so the county put money toward crisis services. Now people are asking about clubhouses.

“We listen to what people are saying is important to them,” Howard explained. “If there were new dollars and a lot of people want clubhouses that would be something we would pay attention to.”

Howard, who started her career at a clubhouse, said she agreed that clubhouses offer connection—a place to be every day. They help connect people to work and those things help keep people out of crisis services.

*Vote from page one*

- For the Legislative Branch, the PA General Assembly has two chambers, the House and Senate. This branch writes and passes laws approved by both chambers which then go to the governor for signature. It has responsibility for funding all state activities. A wide range of organizations - business, non-profits, other government units – spend a lot of time advocating the Legislature on issues that are important to them. PHAN, for example, is currently working on two big issues: eliminating medical debt for things that are covered by insurance, and dealing with the cost of prescription drugs. The Governor has allocated money in this year's budget to buy medical debt. England said it shows how strange and broken the country's healthcare system is. Health services delivery is very complicated. There is a need for real change at the state and national level regarding how healthcare is paid for and services that aren't covered. PHAN visits the capitol, holds press events and meet with legislators trying to push this issue. We have out of control prescription drugs. Americans pay more for prescription drugs than anywhere else in the world. The President signed an Executive Order that capped the cost of insulin for older adults at \$30 a month. It can cost \$1,000 to \$2,000 a month. We're working on all prescriptions. We don't want people cutting pills to make them last, or not take them as directed. Some people ration or skip medications.
- The Judicial Branch includes the PA Supreme, Superior, Commonwealth, Common Pleas and magisterial courts. Lower level courts deal with arraignment for crimes, civil lawsuits and it is often where court engagement begins. Court of Common Pleas handles civil offenses that are higher in costs. Appellate courts are Superior and Commonwealth. Supreme Court is the ultimate justice on laws and crimes in PA. All judges are elected to these courts and have different terms of office. Lately we've been hearing a lot about federal courts. PA is part of the US Court System. They operate under the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Everything in PA courts has to follow federal law.

On voting, England said every year in PA, there are two elections, the primary and general elections. Each year different offices are up for election. Voting is both a right and a responsibility. This right is guaranteed in the US Constitution under the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment: ***"The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of age."*** We live in a democracy and we all have the opportunity to vote. This is a presidential year. We have incumbent President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris and they are being challenged by people who do not currently serve in the capacity of president. Everyone who is registered has the opportunity to vote. In the primary, a voter has to be a member of the two recognized parties. Republican and Democrats can vote in the primary. If there are ballot initiatives anyone can vote on the initiatives.

Also one of the U.S. Senators is up for reelection, Bob Casey, for a 6-year term. At state level, representatives of Congress are up for election—Attorney General, Auditor General, State Treasurer, some of the PA State Senators and all members of House Representatives are up for election. To learn more, go to [www.ballotpedia.org](http://www.ballotpedia.org). Click on 2024 election and see information. It's a great source on candidates. In PA, you must be a U.S. citizen, live in state for at least 30 days before election, and be 18 years old or older to register to vote. Easiest way is online: [www.vote.pa.gov](http://www.vote.pa.gov). If your name or address has changed, you can go on this website and update your ballot. Voter registration can be done on paper, state stores, offices of legislators. You can vote by mail.

"It's quick, it's easy, it makes it easier for you to participate in the upcoming elections," England said.

Key dates for Primary Election: April 8, 2024 last day to register to vote at [vote.pa.gov](http://vote.pa.gov); April 16, 2024 – last day to apply for mail-in or absentee ballot; April 23, 2024 – Election Day. Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm. April 23, 2024 – Mail-in and Absentee Ballots must be received. Contact Bill at [Bill@Pahealthaccess.org](mailto:Bill@Pahealthaccess.org).

COME JOIN US!

Please join us for the

# 11th Annual CSP Conference & 46th Annual Mental Health Awards Reception

## Tuesday, May 14, 2024 10am- 2pm

Martha's Community Farm  
1350 Pawlings Road  
Audubon, PA, 19401

“ A celebration of 20 years of Peer Support in  
Montgomery County”

Speakers  
Art Show  
Music  
Educational Workshops  
BBQ Lunch  
Networking  
Awards  
Fun Games  
Activities  
Breakfast

This celebration will be **FREE, but registration is required.**

Please register *HERE*:

[Montgomery County CSP Conference and Awards Ceremony 2024 Tickets.](#)

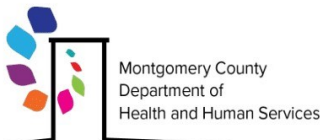
[Tue, May 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)



18 years and over only

For Montgomery County Residents and Providers

Donations and sponsorship opportunities are available and appreciated!



Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor of the 2024 CSP Conference and Mental Health Awards Reception!

Need help finding resources?



**Call: 1-(800)-753-8827**

To find out more about the Pennsylvania Link to Aging and Disability Resources, go to:

<https://www.aging.pa.gov/local-resources/pa-link/Pages/default.aspx>

## Thank you to our Gold Sponsor of the 2024 CSP Conference and Mental Health Awards Reception!

# When it comes to health, Magellan cares

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc. is proud to support the Montgomery County CSP Conference.

We share the fundamental belief that we can make a difference in the lives of children, adults and families in our community by supporting them on their journey to recovery, building resilience in their lives and securing a healthier future.

Health care is about people, and we never lose sight of the people entrusted to us. Caring is more than our business at Magellan; it's our passion.

[www.MagellanofPA.com](http://www.MagellanofPA.com)

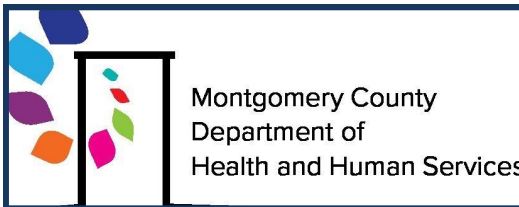


**Magellan**  
HEALTHCARE®

The CSP Committee wishes to thank our sponsors of this year's CSP Conference and Mental Health Awards Reception!



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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, LLC  
A DIVISION OF RHA HEALTH SERVICES



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



**ACCESS SERVICES**  
*unlocking potential*

peer support  
& teent@klines

**Hope 4 Tomorrow** 

You can be a sponsor of the CSP Conference. You can also display your ad in our Conference Program. Please see the flyer on the next page for more information about sponsorship. To donate online, please go to:

<https://www.hopeworxinc.org/how-to-help/donate.html>







**Information for Sponsors for the  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Montgomery County CSP Conference &  
44<sup>th</sup> Montgomery County Mental Health Awards Reception**

Please consider sponsoring this annual event, which brings together the Mental Health community in Montgomery County for a lovely picnic, activity sessions, and the annual awards reception!

All sponsors of this year’s conference will be acknowledged in the Conference Program.

Thank you so much for your support. This conference costs approximately \$40 per person and we are planning for 300 attendees. Your generosity enables us to share this celebration with everyone in the Montgomery County mental health community, regardless of their ability to pay. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and promote recovery and holistic health within the entire community.

**Sponsorship Levels:**

<b>Sponsor 5 Attendees</b>	\$200 (includes ¼ page color ad in the program and recognition on the CSP Website and social media)
<b>Workshop Sponsor</b>	\$500 (includes ¼ page color ad in the program and a sign at the specific activity you sponsored and recognition on the CSP website and social media)
<b>Silver Sponsor</b>	\$750 (includes ½ page color ad in the program and recognition on the CSP website and social media)
<b>Gold Sponsor</b>	\$1,000- \$2,500 (includes full page color ad in the program and recognition on the CSP website and social media)
<b>Platinum Sponsor</b>	\$3,000 or more (includes full page color ad in the program and front page “sponsored by” acknowledgement, and acknowledgment on the event flyer and invitation)

\*If your organization is interested in organizing an entire activity or workshop, please contact

**Harry Bowles at (610) 270-3685 EXT.128** or [hbowles@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:hbowles@hopeworxinc.org) for more information. Your organization can plan and implement and pay for an entire workshop/activity (such as a photo booth) or organize an event and the committee can provide the supplies, if there is enough notice to raise the funds.

All checks should be payable to HopeWorx, Inc., and reference the “Montgomery County CSP Conference”. For more information or for an online payment option or donation, please contact **Harry Bowles at (610) 270-3685 Ext. 128** or [hbowles@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:hbowles@hopeworxinc.org).

# TELL THE COUNTY WHAT YOU NEED!

The Montgomery County Office of Public Health and community partners want to learn about your experiences, the health issues you care about, and your ideas to make our community healthier.

Please tell us what matters most to you by filling out the confidential Montgomery County Community Health Assessment. [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHA2024](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHA2024)

Information about the survey can be found here: [www.montgomerycountypa.gov/CHA](http://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/CHA)

Results of the survey will be available to the whole community later this summer. This information will help to create more opportunities for Montgomery County residents to achieve their best health.



## Community Health Assessment

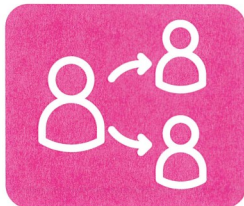
TELL US WHAT YOU NEED



### Why Participate?

Help us better understand the most important health issues facing you and our community. Your responses will help shape our Community Health Improvement Plan and direction of public health in Montgomery County for years to come.

- 1 Take the anonymous survey by April 25
- 2 Share the survey with a friend
- 3 Check our website for what comes next



You can also type this address in your web browser [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHA2024](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHA2024)

### Contact Us

- [publichealth@montgomerycountypa.gov](mailto:publichealth@montgomerycountypa.gov)
- [www.montgomerycountypa.gov/CHA](http://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/CHA)

Complete by April 25, 2024



**Creating Increased Connections**  
A program of Resources for Human Development



# CREATING INCREASED CONNECTIONS (CIC) GROUPS



## 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.

**THURSDAYS**  
**1:00PM-2:00PM**  
Trinity Reformed Church  
60 N. Hanover St  
Pottstown, PA 19464

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**10:00AM-11:30AM**  
Willow Grove Baptist Church  
3600 Welsh Rd  
Willow Grove, PA 19090

**THURSDAYS**  
**10:30AM-12:00PM**  
Hopeworx  
1210 Stanbridge St #600,  
Norristown, PA 19401

## 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

**TUESDAYS**  
**2:30PM-4:00PM**  
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Ave  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

**MONDAYS**  
**3:00PM-4:30PM**  
Haws Avenue United Methodist Church  
800 W Marshall St  
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.

## COMPAÑEROS (AS) CON VALOR Y EXITO

CIC se enorgullece de ofrecer nuestro grupo de discusión Compañeros Con Valor y Éxito. Únase con nosotros para una conversación animada sobre cómo nos sentimos, nuestros éxitos y desafíos, su recuperación y cómo mantenemos nuestro bienestar. Todo lo que se dice en grupo es confidencial y todos son bienvenidos.

**Pronto**

## 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**

[Zoom Link](https://rhd.zoom.us/j/83638683076)  
<https://rhd.zoom.us/j/83638683076>

For more information Contact [Sheila.HallPrioleau@RHD.org](mailto:Sheila.HallPrioleau@RHD.org) 215-906-0453

[www.ciconnections.org](http://www.ciconnections.org)





**Creating Increased Connections**

A program of Resources for Human Development

# 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 challenges, our recovery, and how we maintain our wellness  
Everyone is welcome..

**Thursdays**

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

Trinity Reformed Church  
60 N. Hanover St  
Pottstown, PA 19464

Enter in rear of the church  
on King St  
Ring Bell to Enter

Visit Our Website

[www.CIConnections.org](http://www.CIConnections.org)

Questions Contact

Hugo.Lopez@RHD.org

484-374-0904



CIC IS BACK  
IN THE  
COMMUNITY!

# Taking Back Our Power

IN NORRISTOWN

TAKING BACK OUR POWER IS A  
CONFIDENTIAL, PEER-LED SUPPORT  
GROUP FOR THOSE WHO HEAR,  
SEE, FEEL, OR BELIEVE THINGS  
NOT SHARED BY OTHERS. ANYONE  
WITH THESE EXPERIENCES IS  
WELCOME TO JOIN

**MONDAYS**

3PM TO 4:30 PM

HAWS AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH  
800 W MARSHALL ST  
NORRISTOWN PA 19401

ENTRANCE ON MARSHALL ST THROUGH  
RED DOUBLE DOORS

QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT ROBIN CAMPBELL  
ROBIN.L.CAMPBELL@RHD.ORG  
215-740-9640



**MAY**  
**15**  
**1:30 PM**  
**CAPITOL STEPS**

**MENTAL HEALTH  
ADVOCACY DAY 2024**  
HARRISBURG



Hello!

Hill Day is May 15<sup>th</sup> at the State Capital in Harrisburg starting at 1:30. We are renting a bus that holds 55 people. Riding on the bus will be first come first serve. The bus will pick people up at the Norris-town transportation center. There will be more information to come regarding the bus details. If you are coming to the march, please register if you want to ride on the bus or not.

<https://tinyurl.com/AdvocacyDayPA2024>

If there are any questions, please reach out.  
Have a great day.

**Julie Whitmore**

[jwhitmore@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:jwhitmore@hopeworxinc.org)

# NAMI Montgomery County News

My name is Haniel Tracey, I am the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator for **NAMI Montco PA**. Here at NAMI, we work to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness through support, education, advocacy and awareness.

Some of the specific ways we support members of our community is through our support groups, educational courses and presentations.

We are happy to share that we have recently introduced our first **LGBTQ+** Peer Support Group, **OCD** Peer Support Group, **Bipolar** Peer Support Group and our **Anxiety and Depression for Black and Brown Women** Support Group.

We will also begin our 8-week spring **Peer-to-Peer educational course** starting April 18<sup>th</sup> where individuals can build community while simultaneously discovering tools and information to aid their recovery and mental health journey!

You, a client, family or friend can register for our Peer-to-Peer course through our flyer or Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peer-2-peer-spring-course-tickets-868385894587> .

You can find a calendar and register for all groups (peer and family groups) by visiting our website at: <https://namimontcopa.org/calendar/>

Contact: Haniel Tracey, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, NAMI Montgomery County, PA

100 West Main St. Suite 204, Lansdale, PA 19446

Phone: 215-361-7784

# NAMI Montco News

## LGBTQIA+ Support Group

*For anyone in the LGBTQIA+ community  
living with a mental health condition*

Starting Friday, April 19th




Lower Providence  
Library  
1st & 3rd Fridays  
3:30 - 5 pm






# NAMI Montco News



Feel seen at NAMI Montco PA.



**Bipolar Support Group**  
*Third Monday of the month at 6 pm*

Our Bipolar Support Group will start on Monday, April 15th at William Jeanes Memorial Library. Our LGBTQ+ Support Group will start on Friday, April 19th at Lower Providence Library. Please feel free to join us and/or share these with anyone who may benefit from that. Registration required. Find more information [here](#).

# Montco NAMI News

NAMIWalks 2024 will take place on Saturday, May 4th at 9 am at Temple University Ambler Campus.

To register:

<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1515>



Join us for NAMIWalks kick-off event!

4:30 - 5:30 - Activities with Abbey's Bakery and Peyton Heart  
5:45 - 6:30 - NAMIWalks presentation

MARCH  
TUESDAY **19** 4:30 - 6:30 PM  
2024

100 W. Main St. Suite 204  
Lansdale, PA 19446

**SPRING**  
into NAMIWalks

# Creating Increased Connections celebrates WRAP Class of 2024



## Montco commitment office will move from MCES to the county office

### *From the March CSP Meeting Minutes:*

Pam Howard, Administrator of the Montgomery County Office of MH/DD/

EI, shared information about the future transition of the delegate function from Montgomery County Emergency Service (MCES) where it is currently housed, to the offices of the county.

“We will be very clear when the real transition starts to happen,” Howard told the committee. “People don’t need to worry about anything changing as yet.”

Howard assured those in attendance that there will not be an interruption in service and people will be able to access the delegate function when they need to file an involuntary petition.

“It’s something we take very, very seriously,” Howard said. “It really is a function that has to do with people’s civil liberties and safety. We’re setting it up so there won’t be any confusion or interruption.”

Howard said the county has hired Paul Butler who has been the delegate at MCES for many years. He will be working with the team in the delegate unit of the county office. She added that the county was really happy to have him on board to be part of that team.

## More county staffing news

### Tom Costello is retiring after 25 years of service

Tom Costello, who passionately supported the transition of many individuals over the years from institutions to living and recovering in the community, is retiring from the county after 25 years of service.

Costello, who works as a Program Specialist for Adult Community Mental Health and the Montgomery County Correctional Facility, was honored by the Montgomery County Commissioners at a Salary Board meeting in March. He will retire as of May 1st.

Pam Howard, Administrator of MH/DD/EI, worked closely with Costello over the past decades. She told the CSP Committee in March that it was an emotional day for her. She attended the Commissioners meeting where Costello was honored. Prior to working for the county office, Costello worked for MCES and Abington Family Based Services.

“Tom really has over the years supported the transition of so many individuals out of state institutions, whether its state hospitals, the department of corrections and our county jail,” Howard said. “He has really helped to create a lot of partnerships throughout the county. It’s his kindness, his calmness and really the care he has for the individuals and family members we have supported over many years, to live a life in the community and to really promote recovery journeys for folks.”

**Happy retirement, Tom!**

***Namaste***

Register for the HopeWorx 30th Celebration at Eventbrite [here](#).

# HopeWorx 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*An evening of celebration and awards*

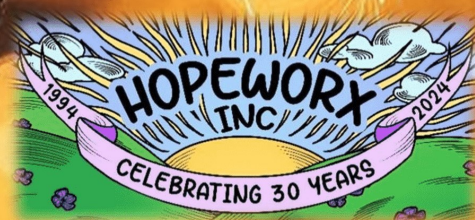
Come celebrate 30 years of HopeWorx with food, drinks, activities, and raffle prizes as we honor some of the individuals that helped the organization reach this momentous milestone. The event kicks off at 5pm and will be held at our local Norristown brewery Von C Brewing company with additional activities at the HopeWorx Open House.



**June 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**5PM-8PM**

**Located at: 1210 Stanbridge St.**  
**Suites 300 & 600**

For opportunities to volunteer or to make a donation, please contact Harry Bowles at [hbowles@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:hbowles@hopeworxinc.org) or scan the QR code below.





## **Genny's Place**

To effectively combat homelessness in Montgomery County and foster community renewal, RHD has conceived a groundbreaking initiative: Genny's Place. With proposed headquarters in Lower Providence Township, the program's mission will be to provide short-term supportive housing to unhoused individuals, offering a secure environment as they pursue permanent housing solutions. We are eager to keep everyone informed about Genny's Place and clear up some misconceptions about the program.

To learn more, visit <https://www.rhd.org/gennys-place/>.  
[#rhd](#) [#togetherwearebetter](#) [#lowerprovidencetownship](#) [#supportthehomeless](#)

# Subcommittee Reports from March 2024

**Advocacy Subcommittee:** Services reaching the borders of counties. General knowledge about CSP and what we do. Suggested making a flyer and going to food banks to give them information. Have CSP at different events and share information. Voter Event at HopeWorx we are partnering with NAMI and Bill England from PHAN will present on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Community Connectors Subcommittee:** Community Connectors – Art Contest. April 3<sup>rd</sup> to submit entries. Then voting will go live on website and you have until April 18<sup>th</sup> to vote.

**Conference Subcommittee:** Harry said lot of vendors booked for conference. We do need to keep recruiting sponsors and costs have been going up. Send sponsors my way. 100 people have signed up already. We budgeted for 250 people. Mission BBQ and vegan option let them know when registering. Tracey said ceremony is being planned. Pam and commissioners will be there. 20 years of peer support in Montco. 3 to 4 peers to present recovery and resiliency awards. PMHCA will be represented.

**CSP MEETING**  
**CALENDER**  
**2024-25**

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

*The next meetings will be:*

April	18
May	16
June	20
July	18

*Meetings are held in person and via Zoom.*

**Montgomery County CSP Executive Committee**

**2023/2024 Tri-Chairs**  
 Provider Member: Jim Markey  
 Person in Recovery: Justin Chamrin  
 Family Member: Kathy Laws

**2023/2024 Sub-Committee Chairs**  
 Community Outreach: Dion Despaigne, Julie Whitmore  
 Advocacy: Akilah Williams, Michelle Gonzalez  
 Conference: Danny Kuchler, Stacey Volz

**2023/2024 Treasurer**  
 Dion Despaigne



County Liaison -  
Tracey Riper-Thomas

*Fiduciary - HopeWorx, Inc.*

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

## CSP Principles

- \* **Consumer Centered/  
Consumer Empowered**
- \* **Culturally competent**
- \* **Able to Meet Special Needs**
- \* **Community Based with Natural Supports**
- \* **Flexible**
- \* **Coordinated**
- \* **Accountable**
- \* **Strength 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

**Norristown  
Public Library  
Community Room**

1001 Powell St.

**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:

**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: [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.

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

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