

CSP Logo designed by  
Chris Ford

# Community Support Journal



Volume 15, Issue 9

September 2022

Montgomery County  
Community Support Program Committee

## The Mid-Term Election is November 8th REGISTER TO VOTE!

Source: [vote.pa.gov](https://vote.pa.gov)

By: Kathie Mitchell, Newsletter Editor

**October 24, 2022 is the last day to register before the election in November.**

To vote in Pennsylvania, people need to first register to vote at least 15 days before the election. There are different ways to register. A person can register to vote online, by mail, or at a number of government agencies, including Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Photo License and Driver's License Centers.

To register to vote in Pennsylvania, a person must:

- Be a **citizen of the United States** for at least one month before the next primary, special, municipal, or general election.
- **Be a resident of Pennsylvania and the election district** in which you want to register and vote for at least 30 days before the next primary, special, municipal, or general election.

*Continued on page 2*



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## Commissioners tackle housing crisis

By: Commissioners Dr. Valerie Arkoosh and Kenneth Lawrence Jr.

No one should ever have to live without a roof over their head. This is unacceptable. We readily acknowledge that Montgomery County is facing a housing affordability crisis. This has been the case for many years, but it has been made worse recently due to the economic impact of COVID, the destruction of homes by Hurricane Ida and rising rents across our region.

We have empathy for those who are still in search of permanent housing and recognize the trauma that our residents have sustained because of the lack of affordable housing options.

Housing is a basic need that is critical to holding a job, one's physical and mental health, and more. No one ever plans to lose the safety and stability that housing provides.

*Continued on page 4*

## Mid-Term Election *(continued from page one)*

- Be at least **18 years of age** on or before the day of the next primary, special, municipal, or general election.

Veterans, people currently serving in the United States military, or living overseas have special rules and additional options for voting. For more details, go to:

<https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Military-and-Overseas-Voters.aspx>

For more information on voter registration:

[How to register to vote](#)

[Check your voter registration status](#)

Once registered, a person can go to the assigned polling place on Election Day. Some of the polling places may have changed location, so it is best to check before going to the polls. Military members who are not registered to vote may apply in person and vote at the County Election Office.

If a person is unable to vote in person on Election Day, there is an option to use an absentee

ballot which will be sent by mail. An absentee ballot request form must arrive at the County Board of Elections before Election Day.

To find out your voting status, polling place and other details, please go to:

[www.pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov)

### **Voter ID for First Time Voters**

When voting at a polling place for the first time, proof of identification must be shown, either with photo or not. Learn more [here](#) about the types of ID you can show.

**October 24,  
2022 is the last  
day to register  
before the  
November  
8th election.**



# Why vote? And who's running anyway?

*Disclaimer: The CSP Committee is a non-partisan, volunteer group of mental health stakeholders. We do not endorse any candidates.*

By: Kathie Mitchell, Newsletter Editor

Pennsylvania's Primary Election was held in May. A lot has happened in the country since that time. Human and civil rights are being reexamined, voting laws are changing and democracy hangs in the balance. The CSP Committee encourages all adults to exercise their right to vote and make informed decisions by learning about the candidates and their positions on policies and the values they represent.

This year is the Mid-Term Election which means the current president is in the middle of his four-year term. And although turnout is not usually high when it is not a Presidential Election, voting for candidates in local races can have important impacts on communities and ways of life.

The races this year include United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, Senator in the PA General Assembly, Representative in the PA General Assembly. The next issue of the *Community Support Journal* will provide names and information about the candidates. Meanwhile, for a preview of the candidates running for governor, go to [Spotlightpa.org](http://Spotlightpa.org).

Voters will also have an opportunity to vote on several local ballot questions. See more information below from Montgomery County Voter Services:

## **Office to be Elected at the 2022 General Election in Montgomery County, PA:**

- **United States Senator Governor and Lieutenant Governor**
- **Representative in Congress (Districts 1, 4, 5)**
- **Senator in the General Assembly (Districts 4, 12, 24, 44)**
- **Representative in the General Assembly (Districts 53, 54, 61, 70, 131, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154)**
- **Limerick Township Ballot Question**
- **Towamencin Township Government Study Commission Question**
- **Towamencin Government Study Commission (Vote For Not More Than Seven)**

For more information from Montgomery County Voter Services, click [here](#).

**Why is voting in a democracy so important? Electoral and voting systems are a vital link between citizen participation and democratic representation, and provide the mechanism for free and fair elections and political change. Sound electoral systems empower representatives to make decisions on behalf of others and confer legitimacy on governments.**

**Source: [usa.gov](http://usa.gov)**

**Commissioners—continued from page one** *Reprinted from [thereporteronline.com](http://thereporteronline.com) 9/11/2022*

However, many of our residents have experienced unexpected and life-changing events during the last couple of years that have led some to lose their homes. Hundreds of units of affordable housing were destroyed by hurricane Ida. Over 100 of these units will not be rebuilt.

We welcome the advocacy and support around this critical issue, and we want to use this momentum to work together. The County has been actively working and funding solutions to these issues for over a decade, and we are grateful that more people want to join us in this work.

In the short term, we continue to work to help people experiencing homelessness find resources and shelter through our service providers. We also work hard to prevent homelessness in the first place. Households at risk of homelessness are referred to Legal Aid, the Emergency Rent and Utility Coalition program, our Eviction Prevention program, and other resources.

Longer term through our Recovery Office, we have announced plans to invest \$32.4 million dollars into housing priorities identified by our community. This funding will support 325 new affordable housing units, the creation of two new temporary housing facilities, preservation of existing affordable units, and support future affordable housing.

This is a countywide problem that will take a countywide response. We have consistently taken a countywide approach. We have 62 municipalities, and we need each one of them to do their fair share to help their residents in need.

We will not vote to allocate funding to residential developments that do not have an affordability component proposed as part of the project. If developers want public funding, they must offer a public benefit. However, the County does not control local zoning — even on County-owned land. The County is always ready to fund developments that include affordable housing and other supportive housing — and we do. We just need the leadership and compassion of our municipal partners, developers, and residents to help make it a reality. We also want to address a misconception that the County chose to close the Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center, or CHOC, a 24-7 homeless shelter. This is not correct.

The fact is that the Commonwealth is set to convey the state hospital land that the CHOC sits on to the Municipality of Norristown. All tenants on that parcel, including the CHOC, were required to depart the property. All residents of the CHOC at the time of closure were moved to a hotel. No one was put on the street. We are actively looking for both a temporary and permanent dignified housing location and have allocated \$7.5M for a new facility to replace the CHOC. We also fully support Norristown's development plans for that parcel of land.

In the meantime, we continue to increase County funding for supportive services for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We are asking other levels of government to step up and join us. If every one of the 62 municipalities in the County ensured that some affordable housing units were being built in their community and if every municipality ensured that they had a few emergency beds in place for those in crisis, we could largely solve this problem.

Again, this is a countywide problem that will take a countywide response. We encourage everyone to visit the Your Way Home website at [www.yourwayhome.org](http://www.yourwayhome.org) for more information on how to get involved. Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh is chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr. is the vice chair.



**Habitat for Humanity®**  
of Montgomery and Delaware Counties

# ALMOST HOME

**Virtual Financial Education Workshops**  
**FREE AND OPEN TO ALL**

.....

**6 Week Course**  
**Mondays & Wednesdays**  
**6 PM - 8 PM**

.....

**Orientation:**  
**Monday, Sept 19th, 2022**

**First Workshop:**  
**Monday, Sept 26th, 2022**

.....

**VIRTUAL: via Zoom**  
(available on computer or mobile app)

**SCAN ME**



## Peer Specialist Opportunities



**Your Next Career IS HERE.**

**St Luke's**  
UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK

**JOIN THE TEAM YOU TRUST.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CANDIDATES: COVID-19 VACCINE REQUIREMENT**

St. Luke's University Health Network is a leading health care provider that is committed to protecting our employees, patients and community. As we continue to provide quality care to our patients, we are taking important next steps to prevent undue harm to our employees & ensure our patients have a safe environment for medical care and treatment. St. Luke's is requiring all new hires, along with our current employees, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment. Medical or religious exemptions will be reviewed as per our policy and guidelines.

St. Luke's Penn Foundation is hiring two full-time Peer Specialists. Flexible work schedule, generous paid time off. Fantastic medical/dental/vision benefits with LOW out of pocket cost and no high deductible plans. Up to 40 hours of paid CEUs annually, PCB re-certification for CPS/CRS paid for by employer, up to \$8,000 tuition reimbursement annually. Supportive team atmosphere that recognizes the importance of maintaining our own wellness... The amazing benefits of being a St. Luke's University Health Network employee are to much to name in this post. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.

## New BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION to determine \$100 million allocation



September 8, 2022

Good afternoon! You all may have heard about the Behavioral Health Commission, which is assembled to determine how an allocation of 100 million dollars should be spent on ADULT behavioral health. This is a one-time spend, and the Commission's purpose is to provide recommendations to the legislature for a spending plan.

Kathy Quick, our Executive Director, has secured a seat on this Commission. There have been two meetings already, with the third one today, and one of the primary focuses of discussion has been regarding work-force retention and recruitment - specifically whether spending should include student loan forgiveness for professionals in Pennsylvania's Behavioral Health System.

Kathy has advocated for a portion of this money to be allocated for recovery-based, peer-led, community services. However, your voice should be heard as loudly as possible in this regard. You are welcome to submit your preferences and opinions to: [RA-PWADULTMHCOMM@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWADULTMHCOMM@pa.gov)

There are meetings every week until the end of this month. Please do not hesitate or delay adding your voice to this issue! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [pmhca@pmhca.org](mailto:pmhca@pmhca.org)

Respectfully,  
Kathy Quick, DSW, LSW, CPS  
2552 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17103

### **From the PA Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) -**

The Deputy Commissioner announced that when the budget was passed there is legislation on creating a behavioral health commission. This will be a 24-member body with \$100 million to allocate to mental health from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Spaces were reserved for two individuals with lived experience. Additionally spaces were reserved for two members of the Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC). Both MHPC members appointed have lived experience as both individuals as well as family members. The full list of appointees can be found here: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Mental-Health-In-PA/Pages/Adult-Mental-Health-Commission.aspx>.

The Call for Change workgroup announced that there will not be a public comment period and it is being expedited and completed by November 17<sup>th</sup>. Transition age youth and young adults is now an official sub-committee. The Adult Committee talked about 3 priorities: workforce and engaging people in mental health services in non-traditional ways. Older Adult committee will focus on neurocognitive and mental health challenges, peer support, trauma informed, older adult access to services, and getting the older adult peer support training up and running.

**TOGETHER**  
for Mental Health



**#Together4MH**

**September is National  
Suicide Prevention  
Awareness Month  
#Together4MH**

**[nami.org/suicidepreventionmonth](https://nami.org/suicidepreventionmonth)**

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month —a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. We use this month to shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

**If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.** [Call](#) or [text](#) 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

# 988 FAQ

## A Direct Link for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Support

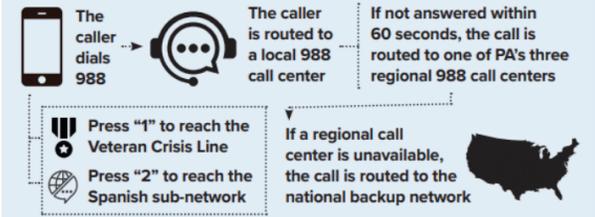
988 is a national crisis hotline for anyone experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis. Trained counselors answer the hotline to offer phone-based support and/or connections to local resources, at no cost to the caller. In Montgomery County, MCES has operated the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline call center since 2014, and now answers calls to 988. *Note: Calls to 988 are routed according to area code and will ring until a counselor answers the phone, meaning that calls placed in Montgomery County may be answered by outside call centers under certain circumstances. 988 went live July 16th, 2022.*

### Q: Is 988 available for both mental health and substance use crises?

A: 988 can be used by anyone who needs support for themselves or a someone they know during a suicidal, mental health, and/or substance use crisis — no matter where they are or where they live.



#### What happens when you call 988?



### Q: What is the difference between 988 and 911?

A: Calls to 911 typically result in first responders such as EMS or law enforcement being deployed to address an emergency. Law enforcement response is often not necessary or appropriate for behavioral health crisis situations. 988 is a behavioral health crisis number, and calls are handled by trained counselors.



### Q: How do 988 and 911 interact?

A: 988 counselors may transfer a call to 911 if they believe the caller is in immediate danger to themselves or others. There is close collaboration between 988, crisis services, and 911 in Montgomery County to ensure community members access appropriate care as needed.



### Q: Is 988 available to children and adolescents?

A: Yes, 988 can be used by anyone who needs support for a suicidal, mental health, and/or substance use crisis regardless of their age.

### Q: Will the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number (1-800-278-8255) go away?

A: Moving to 988 does not mean the 1-800-278-8255 number goes away. Dialing either number will get people to the same services. 988 is intended as an easier-to-remember way for people in crisis to access a strengthened and expanded network of call centers. Additionally, the launch of 988 does not impact access to MCES Crisis Walk In, the Commitment Office, or the hospital program at MCES. All three will continue to be reachable via 24/7 the MCES direct hotline at: **610-279-6102**.

### Q: Must I call 988 in Montgomery County to get help if I am in crisis?

A: **NO!** Access Services continues to operate the **Montgomery County Mobile Crisis Hotline**, which can be reached 24/7 at **1-855-634-4673**. Calls to 988 may be transferred to Access if Mobile Crisis, Peer Talk Line, or Teen Talk Line support is needed.

**Anyone who wishes to connect directly to the Mobile Crisis Hotline (in particular: schools, first responders, social service providers, and individuals and families already connected to Access Services) is strongly encouraged to call 1-855-634-4673 to avoid the need to have your call transferred or the possibility of a call being answered by an out-of-county call center.**



**Montgomery County PA**

**NEW VIRTUAL  
NAMI CONNECTION  
LGBTQ+ GROUP  
OFFERING**

EVERY 4TH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

STARTING SEPT 23

**6:30 PM**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Registration required:**

**<https://namimontcopa.org/support-group-registration/>**

**SAVE *the* DATE**

November  
**9**  
2022

11TH ANNUAL  
**BENEFIT FOR THE BRAIN**

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

Cedarbrook Country Club | Blue Bell, PA  
5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Awards Ceremony & Cocktail Reception

Sponsorship & Advertising Opportunities Available  
[www.namimontcopa.org/b4b](http://www.namimontcopa.org/b4b)

**Save the date for an evening to celebrate the remarkable efforts and advancements in the area of treatment and recovery for mental illness. Invitation and more details to follow soon! Sponsorship and advertising opportunities available.**

For more information, visit our website. Click [here](#).

## ENDING THE SILENCE



September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6PM  
For Middle and High School Students and Their Families

Anxious about returning to school?  
Stressed out over tests and grades?  
Trying to balance homework with activities?  
Feeling depressed, withdrawn, or just want to be by yourself?

### **You are not alone.**

Join us to learn how to provide the support youth need but might be too nervous to ask for! Ending the Silence will raise awareness and change perceptions about mental health conditions. Parents and youth will:

- Learn about warning signs, gain insight into some of the issues youths are confronting
- Hear from a youth who has experienced mental health issues and benefit from understanding the challenges they encountered, including what hurt and what helped.

**Event Address: Conshohocken United Methodist Church 20 W. 6th Avenue, Conshohocken, PA**

**Doors Open at 6PM for pizza and conversation/fellowship. Program begins at 6:30PM.**

*There will be an initial combined presentation for Youth and Parents followed by separate "peer" group presentations and activities.*

Register for this FREE Event: <https://forms.gle/wQ4qsvhBxeRjZi4w8>

Questions? *Contact us at (610) 828 1250 or [youthconnection@conshyunitd.com](mailto:youthconnection@conshyunitd.com)*

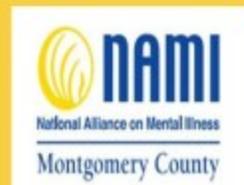
#### **Program Designed and Facilitated by:**

Bernadette Selgrath, Education Coordinator, NAMI Montgomery County PA  
Abby Grasso, Executive Director, NAMI Montgomery County PA

#### **Program Sponsored by:**

Youth Connection\* Conshy United Methodist  
Conshohocken Plymouth Whitmarsh Rotary  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Montgomery County PA

*\*Youth Connection is an all-inclusive, non-faith-based group, promoting positive mental health for middle & high school students. We offer free activities using varied mediums addressing topics of interest and concern to youth with the aim of developing tools and strategies to deal with challenges positively. Find out more: [Youth Connection - Conshohocken UMC \(conshyunitd.com\)](http://Youth Connection - Conshohocken UMC (conshyunitd.com))*



# Camping at French Creek

## COME JOIN THE FUN!!!

### Friday, Sept 23rd to Sunday, Sept 25th



Check in—3pm Fri. | Check out—3pm Sun.

Everyone is invite expert or novice. This is a great event to try out camping. There is limited tents and gear available on a first come first serve basis.

There is no cost for the camp site and there will be some general food provided. There will be some stoves and grills available, if you want to prep your own food.

**DIRECTIONS:** French Creek State Park is in Berks and Chester counties. You may reach the park from PA 345 south of Birdsboro, north of PA 23, and from the Morgantown exits (1A and 1 B) of the PA Turnpike. Entrances are located on PA 345; south of Birdsboro and north of PA 23.

**We will be at the group site #4 in loop Organized Group Tenting (OGT) Site.**



**For reservations and more information**

**Contact: Ameika Malcolm: [amalcolm@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:amalcolm@hopeworxinc.org) | 610 909 6772**





## **GREAT NEWS!!!**

**Montgomery County**

**Community Support Program is going**

**HYBRID!!**

**We will be meeting in the Norristown Public Library**

**1001 Powell Street first floor Norristown Pa 19401**

**as of Thursday September 15th from 12-2:30!!**

**Don't worry though, if you can't be in person you  
can still join via zoom @**

Join Zoom Meeting

**See NEW link below**

Meeting ID: 824 6460 4517

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82464604517# US (Chicago)

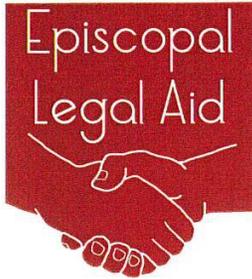
**Hope to see you in person or via zoom!!**

( Pizza will be available to those who come in person)

**A NEW LINK FOR THE CSP ZOOM MEETING:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84953956506?  
pwd=eE56MIICKzFIOFkrTXkydWgyRXRQZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84953956506?pwd=eE56MIICKzFIOFkrTXkydWgyRXRQZz09)

# Free Legal Advice & Assistance

No Charge



**Monday**  
**September 26, 2022**  
9:00-10:30a.m.

**Hospitality Center**  
530 Church St.  
Norristown, PA 19401

We are happy to discuss any non-criminal issue, including

- evictions
- benefit questions
- pending court cases
- wills
- medical directives

## EPISCOPAL LEGAL AID

is offering FREE legal advice on non-criminal matters to individuals who cannot afford private counsel.

You will be able to speak to an attorney in person in accordance with all social distancing requirements. Follow-up will be available as appropriate.

For more information, please contact the Hospitality Center at 610-277-1321

Every year, **National Hispanic Heritage Month** is observed from **September 15 to October 15**. This year, during National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Montgomery County Immunization Coalition will focus on bringing attention to the importance of COVID-19 vaccination.



**NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

Protect your loved ones by getting your COVID-19 vaccines!

**MES NACIONAL DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA**

Protege a tus seres queridos vacunándote contra el COVID-19!



[www.montcopa.org/COVID-19vaccine](http://www.montcopa.org/COVID-19vaccine)



[www.montcopa.org/COVID-19vaccine](http://www.montcopa.org/COVID-19vaccine)



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**MES NACIONAL DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA**

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[www.montcopa.org/COVID-19vaccine](http://www.montcopa.org/COVID-19vaccine)



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Sept. 17, 2022-10-2PM  
@ Elmwood Park Zoo

**ART  
IN THE  
PARK**

**Expressive Path™**  
Stepping Stones to the Arts

The poster features a central graphic with the words 'ART IN THE PARK' in a bold, multi-colored font. The background of the poster is a vibrant, abstract painting with vertical stripes of purple, pink, red, yellow, green, and blue. The entire poster is set against a solid yellow background.



## CREATING INCREASED CONNECTIONS

### VIRTUAL MUTUAL AID GROUPS

#### Men's Identity & Experiences Circle of Hope Group

Join us for an open conversation in which we share our experiences of challenge and triumph. A space to empower ourselves and each other to fulfill our personal purposes in life

Wednesday's 10:30AM - 12:00PM

Zoom Link:  
<https://rhd.zoom.us/j/85192424587>

#### Women's Identity & Experiences Circle of Hope 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.

Wednesday's 10:00AM-11:30AM

Zoom Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86798393823>

#### Circle of Hope (Hybrid)

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.

Thursday's 10:30AM-12:00PM

Zoom Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86798393823>

In Person Option  
Hopeworx  
1210 Stanbridge St #600,  
Norristown, PA 19401

## CREATING INCREASED CONNECTIONS

### VIRTUAL MUTUAL AID GROUPS

#### Young Peoples' Hearing Voices Group

The Young People's Hearing Voices Group is a safe space for teens and young adults who have the experience of hearing, seeing, or sensing things not perceived by others. It is a place to talk and find personal meaning in our experiences.

Tuesday  
6:00PM-7:30PM

Zoom Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84853101167>

#### Taking Back Our Power

Taking Back Our Power hearing voices groups are open to anyone with the experience of hearing voices, or other sensory phenomena not shared by others. We offer a non-clinical, non-judgmental environment and open discussion away from traditional psychiatric treatment.

Monday's 3:00PM- 4:30PM  
Tuesday's 3:00PM-4:30PM  
Wednesday's 3:00PM-4:30PM

Zoom Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85399542179>

#### Live Another Day

Live another day groups are non-judgmental confidential spaces where people can share some of their darkest thoughts without being assumed to have an illness or being assessed for involuntary interventions. Support to openly explore these thoughts and the feelings and experiences underneath them is often the key to moving toward something different.

Tuesdays 12:00PM-1:30PM  
Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86161479674>

Questions Contact:  
Shelia Hall-Prioleau 215-906-0453  
[Shelia.HallPrioleau@RHD.org](mailto:Shelia.HallPrioleau@RHD.org)  
<https://www.ciconnections.org>

# Subcommittee Reports from August 2022

**Advocacy Subcommittee:** Bill England came and joined us today. We have over 700 signatures for the Here for Us Campaign.

[www.hereforus.org/petition](http://www.hereforus.org/petition)

<https://pahealth.salsalabs.org/temporaryshelter/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=831f657a-6f02-4b32-bf7b-ad8676e09f03>

August 6th Norristown Borough had a council meeting. They decided that it would be illegal for people to be out between dusk and dawn. Really it targets homeless people. We are partnering with advocacy committees and talking to police to see if they will enforce this. We are also writing letters and will make a template for people. Talking about having pet friendly pallet shelters. We need supported shelters and help getting a home.

**Social Subcommittee:** We got one grant for the camping trip and passed it. Hopefully once we get back to the library community outreach committee will grow. We still have \$3000 for scholarship funds. Exec committee awarded \$200 for transportation costs.

**Conference Subcommittee:** We talked about the next conference and where to have it. Martha's farm might not be big enough. We are thinking about the Variety club. Will call and get info about it. May 16th and May 23rd are two dates are thinking of for the conference, we are waiting for commissioners to get back about dates. We have a contact at variety club lets use that. We had an overabundance of food left over from last conference. We are thinking about food trucks or boxed lunches. If you have any ideas or suggestions let us know.

**CSP MEETING**  
**CALENDER**  
**2022**

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

*The next meeting will be:*

September	15
October	20
November	17
December	15

*Meetings are held at the library and via Zoom.*

**Montgomery County CSP Executive Committee**

*2021/2022 Tri-Chairs*  
 Provider Member: Abby Grasso  
 Person in Recovery: Danny Kuchler  
 Family Member: Kathy Laws

*2021/2022 Sub-Committee Chairs*  
 Social/Media: Penny Johnson  
 Advocacy: Kim Renninger, Julie Whitmore  
 Conference: Erin Hewitt, Stacey Volz

*2021/2022 Treasurer*  
 Dion Despaigne, CST Specialist



*Fiduciary - HopeWorx, Inc.*

**ABOUT CSP**

**CSP Principles**

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

**Join our  
Mailing list!**

We have an e-mail list as well as a regular mailing, to join:

**Send an e-mail to:**  
**pjohnson@hopeworxinc.org**  
*Or send your contact info to the mailing address below*

**Meetings:**

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

**3rd Thursday  
of each month**

*Norristown  
Public Library Community Room*

*1001 Powell St.  
(at Swede St.)*

**Kathie Mitchell, Newsletter Editor**

**Montgomery County  
Community Support Program**

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

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

*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.
- \* **Social/Media 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 Sub-committee** – The conference subcommittee will plan and fundraise for the annual Montgomery County CSP Conference.
- \* **Newsletter Subcommittee**—The newsletter subcommittee works to provide information to the public about CSP and mental health advocacy. The newsletter subcommittee is committed CSP recovery principles which is person centered and empowered by stakeholders. Our goal is to provide information through various media avenue and to create a quality newsletter that includes but is not limited to, legislative advocacy, events, services, personal recovery stories and creative writing such as poems. Please feel free to submit articles and stories to enrich our newsletter. Send to the editor: [kathiemitchell8221@gmail.com](mailto:kathiemitchell8221@gmail.com).

*Organizations who regularly send representatives to CSP:*

- Central Behavioral Health
- Community Advocates of Montgomery Co.
- Consumer Satisfaction Team of Montgomery County
- Hedwig House
- Magellan Health Services
- Mental Health Partnerships
- Montgomery Co. Department of Behavioral Health
- Montgomery County Emergency Services (MCES)
- NAMI Montgomery County
- Norristown Vet Center
- Resources for Human Development
- Salisbury Behavioral Health

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



**If you can't attend the monthly CSP meetings but would like to give your feedback on topics we discuss, please email us at [amalcolm@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:amalcolm@hopeworxinc.org)**