Community Support Journal

Montgomery County Community Support Program Committee Newsletter

March 2024

Volume 3

Calling all artists -It's the annual CSP Art Contest!



By: Kathie Mitchell, CSJ Editor

The Montgomery County CSP Committee has kicked off its annual CSP Art Contest. Art entries can be submitted online or in person at the HopeWorx Office, 1210 Stanbridge St., Suite 600, Norristown, PA 19401. Entries can also be emailed to

Dion Despaigne at <u>ddespaigne@hopeworxinc.org</u>.

This year's theme is "Live for the Moment". CSP is asking people to make art from things they find at home, take a photo of it, and upload your submissions on the website by clicking <u>here</u> or dropping off artwork at HopeWorx.

The deadline to submit entries is April 2, 2024. Voting online will begin on April 3, 2024.

The first prize winner will receive \$100 and the artwork will be displayed on magnets and distributed at the Annual CSP Conference and Mental Health Awards Reception. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Martha's Community Farm in Audubon. The theme for the CSP Conference is "**Celebrating 20 years of Peer Support**" in Montgomery County. The event is free but registration is needed to ensure enough food is available. To register, go to: <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/</u><u>montgomery-county-csp-conference-and-awards-ceremony-2024-tickets-856197869877?aff=oddtdtcreator</u>.

The second prize winner will receive \$50 and the third prize recipient receives \$25. Artists are reminded to submit a title for the piece, a description of the work, and their names and contact information. Good luck to everyone!



CSP Logo designed by Chris Ford

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Pledge to Vote 2024



By: Akilah Williams AdvocacyWorx Program Supervisor

A "Pledge to Vote 2024" event is being held on Monday, March 25, 2024. This event is sponsored by NAMI, PHAN and HopeWorx Inc. and takes place from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at HopeWorx, 1210 Stanbridge Street, Norristown, PA 19401.

(VOTE continued from page one)

Bill England, of PHAN, will lead a brief discussion about voting and why it is important. There will be an opportunity to learn about the various positions that are being voted on in the Primary election as well as information about what various position are responsible for and how this can affect Pennsylvanians in the future. Individuals will be able to access information about where their local polling place is, where polling boxes are located, poll hours, and key dates to keep in mind. Light refreshments will be provided.

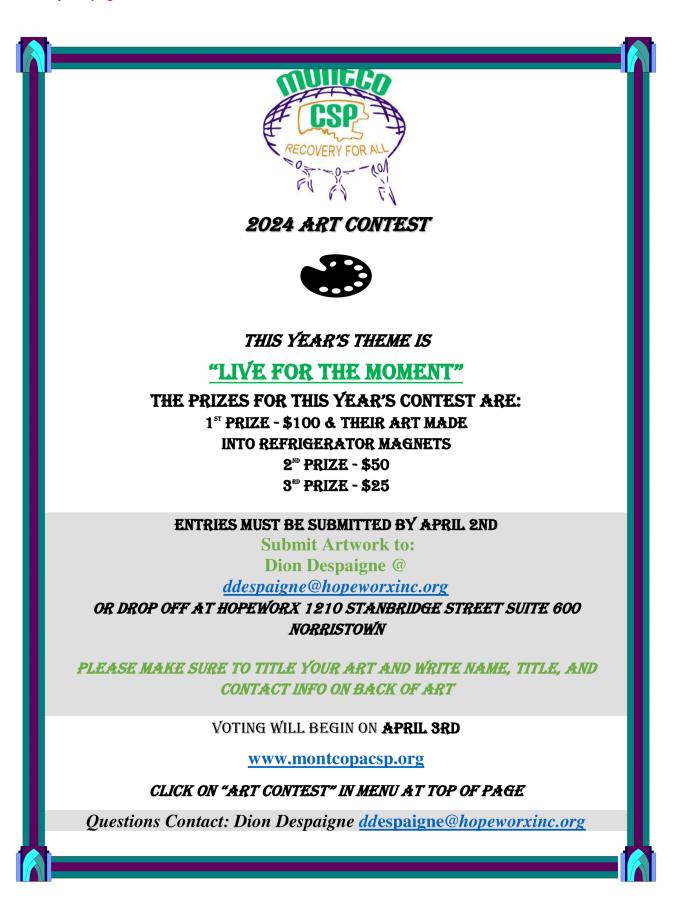
Please RSVP to Akilah Williams at <u>awilliams@hopeworxinc.org</u>.

For more information about the election, go to the CSP website: https://www.montcopacsp.org/ about-5

Also: <u>www.ballotpedia.org</u>



Voting NEWS



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 ArtShow Music EducationalWorkshops Networ na Award 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!









Annual Mental Health Awards - It's that time of year to nominate an individual or company that has gone above and beyond to support people in our communities! Please see the information and link below to nominate a person, group, or organization that has been extraordinary this year!



Nominations are open for the 11th Annual CSP Conference & 46th Annual Mental Health Awards Reception.

Please see below the details and the link for the nominations for the CSP Conference and MH Awards Ceremony.

Q: Who would be an excellent nominee(s) for this year's awards?

<u>A</u>: Any Person, Group, Organization that you would like to spotlight/highlight for their acts of service who live, work and/or has an interest in the Mental Health Community.

The 2024 event will be in person at Martha's Community Farm: 1350 Pawlings Rd., Audubon, PA 19401.

You may submit nominations in all categories, or pick and choose. Multiple nominations are welcome.

Please complete nominations by Friday, April 5, 2024

Awards will be presented at the event on May 14, 2024

11th Annual CSP Conference & 46th Annual MH Awards Reception Award Nominations (office.com)

LET THE VOTING BEGIN!!

Any questions, contact Chevaughn Satchell (chevaughn.satchell@montgomerycountypa.gov)

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

www.montgomerycountypa.gov/HHS



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







Information for Sponsors for the 11th Annual Montgomery County CSP Conference & 44th 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:

Sponsor 5	200 (includes ½ page color ad in the program and recognition on the CSP Website
Attendees	and social media)
Workshop	500 (includes ½ page color ad in the program and a sign at the specific activity you
Sponsor	sponsored and recognition on the CSP website and social media)
Silver Sponsor	750 (includes ½ page color ad in the program and recognition on the CSP website
	and social media)
Gold Sponsor	\$1,000- \$2,500 (includes full page color ad in the program and recognition on the
	CSP website and social media)
Platinum	\$3,000 or more (includes full page color ad in the program and front page
Sponsor	"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 <u>hbowles@hopeworxinc.org</u> 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 <u>hbowles@hopeworxinc.org</u>.

www.montcocsp.org



CREATING INCREASED CONNECTION S (CIC) **Creating Increased Connections** GROUPS A program of Resources for Human Development

THURSDAYS

1:00PM-2:00PM

60 N. Hanover St

Pottstown, PA 19464

CIRCLE OF HOPE

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

WEDNESDAYS 10:00AM-11:30AM

Willow Grove Baptist Church 3600 Welsh Rd

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

Norristown, PA 19401

TAKING **BACKOUR** 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

WEDNESDAYS 3:00PM-4:30PM

Beginning in April Haws Avenue United Methodist Church 800 W Marshall St Norristown, PA 19401

LIVE ANOTHER DAY

TUESDAYS 12:30PM-1:45PM **Beginning March 26th**

Lansdale Library 301 Vine St Lansdale, PA 19446



Alternatives to Suicide groups are intended as nonjudgmental 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 Companeros Con Valor y Exito. Únase con This group was created for women nosotros para un 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** WEDNESDAYS GROUP 3:00PM-4:30PM

as a safe environment to voice & openly share our life stories as women & to empower ourselves to https://rhd.zoom

Zoom Link

find greater meaning & purpose in us/j/83638683076 life.

For more information Contact Sheila.HallPrioleau@RHD.org 215-906-0453 www.ciconnections.org



Creating Increased Connections A program of Resources for Human Development

Circle of Hope

Begining 03/07/2024

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 <u>www.ClConnections.org</u> <u>Questions Contact</u> Hugo.Lopez@RHD.org 484-374-0904



Live Another Day

Support Group

Mutual Aid



- Alternatives to Suicide groups are intended as 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.
- It has been learned over time that support to openly explore these thoughts and the feelings and experiences underneath them is so often the key to moving toward something different.

Beginning March 19th

Tuesdays

12:30 PM -1:45 PM

Lansdale Library

301 Vine St

Lansdale, PA 19446

For Additional Information, Please Contact Michael Nelson at 215-360-1582

From the CSP February Meeting Minutes:

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The Mental Health Budget

Vera Zanders, Deputy Administrator of the Montgomery County Office of Adult Mental Health Services, presented information at the February CSP meeting on the state and local mental health budgets, urging individuals to share their experiences about the state of mental health services in the county with state lawmakers.

"Your voice is essential," Zanders said. "It's one thing coming from a county voice. To hear from individuals who are receiving services, the impact of not having access to a service because there's not enough funds or have a service that no longer exists, or there's a huge wait list. Your story is essential in helping legislators to really understand the impact of what they're doing. I would encourage you if you think mental health services are important, that there could be more of them, pay staff a livable wage. Share your voice."

Zanders said the budget pays for public services in the county and is funded by two main streams of funding. Magellan is one funder and county base dollars is the other funding stream. For county funds, cost of living dollars (COLA) had not gone up in 15 years before Gov. Shapiro took office. There had also been a 10 percent reduction by the state in county funding.

Zanders said these dollars were essential to support people living in the community. The funds pay for services such as residential services, housing supports, employment services, and the POWER program. Money is in block grant or base dollars. Things cost more money than they did in 2008. Provider agencies had the same pay check as they had in 2008. Zanders said the county used different strategies to make sure people got paid more than they did in 2008.

Zanders said CSP has been important in talking with legislators about the need for money. The governor last year requested an increase of \$20 million because of advocacy by CSP and others. Legislators at the state level have to approve or disapprove the Governor's budget. It did go through in the last budget but \$250 million is the anticipated need for 67 counties in PA. The governor proposed \$20 million again this year. It's a positive step but we need advocates to express their views if this money is needed. She added that the Governor's budget was live and now was the time to contact legislators.

Among some of the questions raised at the meeting was how will providers keep doing this work helping the most vulnerable people with only a \$20 million COLA? Zanders said the \$20 million wasn't tied to the COLA but it wasn't tied to a project either. Counties do have the ability to have it be a COLA. It's annualized not one-time dollars which means the county has the money every year. It should be given to the existing service system to retain staff instead of doing something new. If it goes to something new, then you still have a system that is continuing to erode.

A committee member also asked if the county has public private partnerships to pay for more things to support the work being done. Zanders said the county Housing and Community Development Office has set up private/public partnerships to pay for some things that the state and county can't pay for. Even when state funding exists, there are always gaps. For more information, email Zanders at: <u>vera.zanders@montgomerycountypa.gov</u>.

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Montco NAMI News

NAMIWalks 2024 will take place on Saturday, May 4th at 9 am at Temple University Ambler Campus. To register: <u>https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?</u> <u>fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1515</u>





COMMUNITYWORX BOWLING EVENT

Get ready for a day of FREE strikes and spares at this Annual Bowling Gala, consisting of FREE Food, Fun and Prizes.

Our Town Alley FRIDAY 12:30-2:30P.M.

🖰 MARCH 29, 2024

2912 Swede Rd. East Norriton, Pa.

DOPEWOR

BOOKING NOW

- **&** 610-270-3685 Ext. 3502
- gpaliescheskey@hopeworxinc.org

Gladly Sponsored by HOPEWORX INC.

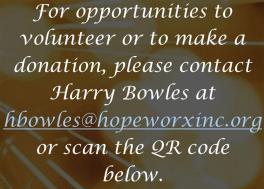
HopeWorx 30th Anniversary An evening of celebration and awards

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.

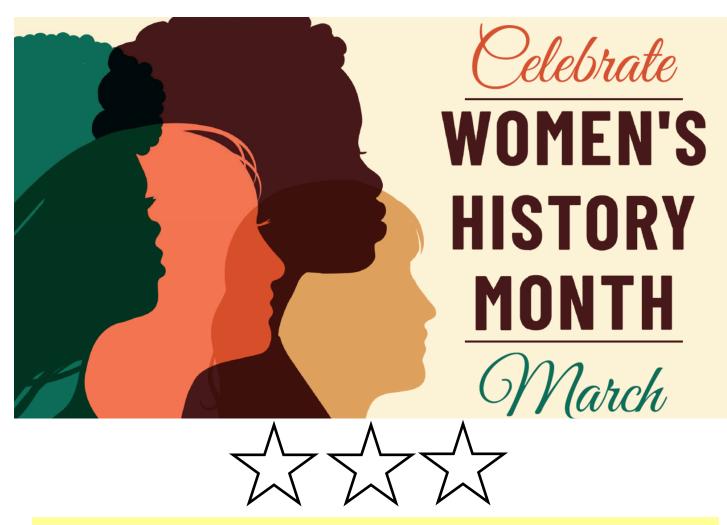


Located at: 1210 Stanbridge St. Suites 300 & 600

EBRATING 30 YER







CSP announces a new name! The Community Outreach Subcommittee is now the Community Connectors Subcommittee.

<u>Community Connectors Subcommittee</u>— The Community Connectors Committee (CCC) serves as a liaison between the Montgomery County CSP and Montgomery County Residents. As the CSP's primary point of contact, the CCC strives to share information about current developments within the county, provide production assistance to the CSP's media team, and offer support to community sponsored events. With the backing of grants provided by organizations such as Community Connections and companies like SEPTA, the CCC is able to link resources to those who are in need.

For more information, please contact: Dion at <u>ddespaigne@hopeworxinc.org</u>.



ONLINE/ZOOM DISCUSSIONS ABOUT INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCES

The Center for Survey Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston is looking for adults to **participate** in individual and group discussions about their inpatient mental health care experiences.

You may be eligible if you ...

- have had an inpatient mental health experiences within the past 2 years, either at a stand-alone mental health center or at a hospital mental health care unit in the United States
- were at least 18 years old when you were hospitalized

Participants will receive \$100 as a thank you.

When are the discussions happening?

March through June 2024

Who is doing this research?

The project is being conducted in collaboration with, and funded by, the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The Principal Investigators are Carol Cosenza and Lee Hargraves, from the Center for Survey Research at UMass Boston and Paul Cleary, Ph.D., from Yale University School of Public Health.

What is the purpose of the discussions?

The purpose of this research study is to develop questions about people's inpatient mental health care experiences for a nationally distributed Consumer Assessment of Patient Healthcare Providers & Systems (CAHPS) survey. The group discussions and individual interviews will help us figure out what topics are important to ask about and if the questions make sense to people who have had experiences in an inpatient mental health facility.

What is involved?

The group discussion and individual interviews will be done virtually using Zoom and will both take about an hour to complete. The group discussion will have about 5 participants and a leader. For the one-on-one interviews, the respondent will be asked some sample questions and then asked to talk about what the questions meant and how they decided on their answers.

How can I participate? What if I have questions?

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact **Carol Cosenza at** <u>Carol.Cosenza@umb.edu</u> or 617-287-3731. Please email your name, contact information, and what days and times are best for you do participate (and when you can't). She'll get back to you with more information and to determine your eligibility.



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Subcommittee Reports from February 2024

Advocacy Subcommittee: Discussed legislation around addressing accessible housing crisis. Recent Healthspark event about homelessness. Commissioners and legislators were there. Talked about high eviction rates. Discussed creating a document to learn about appeal process and resources that help people stay in their homes. Get some legal support in creating these documents. There's a waiver form to avoid paying a fee to file documents. Epic program where people facing eviction can go in front of certain judges – Another resource. The judge and court have to agree so a person can participate in Epic program. Having legal counsel during eviction is important. And showing up for court is important. Call advocates to help you.

Also, election primary date has changed. And you have to be a registered Democrat or Republican to vote. Check Ballotpedia. Check a sample of your ballot by going online at <u>https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/753/Voter</u>-<u>Services</u>. We are also electing a state senator, attorney general, treasurer.

Community Connectors Subcommittee: No grants to approve. We

are doing an art contest this year. It is on CSP website and CSP Facebook. The deadline is April 2. "Live for the Moment" theme. Welcome to new people here today. We partnered with NAMI on an outreach and Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Conference Subcommittee: Harry said the date is May14th at Martha's Community Farm. We will save on some of the cost from last year. We secured \$3,000 grant from PA Link. Eventbrite signup isn't out yet. Working on traffic control for this year. Trying to include Manna on Main to provide additional food for more variety. Some vegetarian options. Sue said PA Link is always our biggest donors. First donors to the conference. A major shout out to PA Link. It's excellent that they support us like that.

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

COI MILL			
CALENDER			
<u>2024-25</u>			
Meetings are held every third			
Thursday, monthly from			
<i>I2: 00-2:30pm</i>			
The next meetings will be:			
March	21		
April	18		
May	16		
June	20		
Meetings are held in person and via Zoom.			

CSP MEETING



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: <u>pjohnson@hopeworxinc.org</u> Or send your contact info to this mailing address:

Community Support Journal

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: <u>kathiemitchell8221@gmail.com</u>.
- * 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.

1210 Stanbridge St., Suite 600, Norristown, PA 19401

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