

Community Support Journal



Volume 9, Issue 110

December 2020

Montgomery County Community Support Program

Electoral College affirms Biden victory

November 14, 2020



Source: NPR

President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris received the needed majority of votes in the Electoral College on Monday in another step putting them closer toward taking the White House in January.

Following a presidential election year like no other in American history, the day included many unprecedented arrangements as electors met in state capitols — [some locked down for fear of political violence](#) — in convention centers and online to dole out the nation's 538 Electoral College votes.

California's 55 Electoral College votes pushed the ticket over the threshold of 270 needed to win. As later states voted, Biden ended with an expected 306 electoral votes. Congress is set to meet on Jan. 6 to count the votes. Biden and Harris are scheduled to take their oaths of office on Jan. 20.

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PA Budget signed into law

November 23, 2020 Press Release

Today, Governor Tom Wolf signed into law House Bill 2536 and Senate Bill 1350.

These bills, which provide funding for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's budget through June 30, 2021, sustain commonwealth services and programs during a critical time as COVID-19 cases continue to rise.

The 2020-21 budget prioritizes public education in the commonwealth, protecting more than \$1.2 billion that the Wolf Administration has invested in public education during Gov. Wolf's time in office.

See page 2 for more information

SENATE MAJORITY CAUCUS CHAIR

SENATE BOX 203024, 16 EAST WING, CAPITOL BUILDING, THE STATE CAPITOL, HARRISBURG, PA
(717) 787-3110

From PA Senator Bob Mensch (R-24)



On November 20, the Senate gave final approval to a supplemental spending bill – completing the state budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 – and sent the measure to the Governor’s desk, according to [State Senator Bob Mensch \(R-24\)](#).

Passage of Senate Bill 1350 finalizes the state spending plan for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) that was initiated with the enactment of a five-month interim budget (Act 1A – House Bill 2387) on May 29.

Overcoming the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Pennsylvania’s economy, the final \$35.5 billion FY 2020-21 budget is balanced without the need for tax or fee increases or debt using a combination of current state revenues and resources and federal stimulus funding.

While the interim spending plan approved in May provided five months of funding for most state services and programs, it made a full-year financial commitment for education at all levels and for a variety of food security programs. Funding for basic education, special education, early education and higher education is maintained in the final spending plan at the same level as Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Spending in the final Fiscal Year 2020-21 state budget includes General Fund appropriations of \$32.1 billion and an additional \$3.4 billion in federal stimulus funds (\$2.1 billion Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) and \$1.3 billion federal CARES funds).

After adjusting for supplemental spending that should have been in FY 2019-20, overall state spending in the final FY 2020-21 budget – including federal stimulus funds – is down more than \$760 million (2.1 percent) from FY 2019-20.

The final budget includes \$200 million to provide school property tax relief to replace the revenues those districts lost by the closure of Pennsylvania’s casinos during the pandemic shutdown.

Sincerely,

Bob Mensch
Senator, 24th District

Election *(continued from page 1)*



What's the Electoral College?

Under the Constitution, American voters in the presidential race support not candidates but [electors](#) — usually current and former party officials, state lawmakers and party activists — whose votes later in the process are formally what brings about the result of the election.

Those electors then meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December to cast their votes.

Democrats' 2016 presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton, and former President Bill Clinton, for example, both took part as New York state electors in Albany's voting on Monday as electors for Biden.

In fact, Hillary Clinton restated her opposition to the Electoral College, which she and other critics call undemocratic, but said that while it still exists and she is a member, [she would use her position on it to support Biden](#).

In recent decades, this process has been mostly ceremonial and received less attention than the main portion of the election. But this year, outgoing President Trump and some of his supporters have drawn out objections to the result based on baseless claims about fraud or irregularities.

Those claims have led [many Republicans](#) to feel as though the election was stolen from them and also led to [threats](#) against election officials across the nation. For that reason, Michigan held its proceedings Monday in a closed Capitol secured with a heavy police presence.



December 10, 2020 - New COVID Restrictions through early 2021

HARRISBURG, PA — Gov. Tom Wolf on Thursday announced several temporary coronavirus mitigation measures, including closing indoor dining and gyms, limiting gatherings and suspending youth sports. The measures are aimed to slow the spread of the coronavirus in high-risk settings, officials said.

The state faces a "dire" situation as cases continue to multiply at a rapid pace, placing healthcare workers and hospital capacity in peril, Wolf said.

"We need to slow the spread right now in order to save lives. If we don't, we are going to be in big trouble," Wolf said.

For more local information, go to: <https://data-montcopa.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/covid-19>

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL - Virtual meetings held during a pandemic

Mental health advocates from across the state - including many from regional and local CSP committees - met virtually this week with top state health officials where they heard updates on the

COVID-19 vaccine distribution and learned that Norristown State Hospital (NSH) will be the first state hospital to receive the vaccine.

“All state hospitals are in the first phase, so it’s a matter of supply,” said Kristen Houser, Deputy Secretary of Mental Health for the state’s Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS).

During the Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC) Joint Session, Dr. Dale Adair, Medical Director for OMHSAS, said NSH was scheduled to receive its shipment on December 17th with Wernersville State Hospital in Berks County, being next in line. Both patients and hospital workers will receive the vaccine if they choose. There is no mandate to get the vaccine. Adair said the priority order for hospitals to receive the vaccines was based on the number of patients and staff who have had the virus at each facility. Adair said by end of the year or in early January, all of the state hospitals should have received the vaccine.



Secretary Houser

Theresa Miller, Secretary of the Department of Human Services (DHS), shared work she has doing on racial inequity - how past discussions of diversity did not make the progress needed to overcome racism. She acknowledged that raising the issue of racial inequity was an uncomfortable topic for many, one that has been challenging and has not made her popular.

“If we don’t talk about it, if we don’t focus on it, we aren’t going to make any progress on it,” Miller said. “It’s the most challenging thing I’ve done. People are really uncomfortable talking about race.”

Miller, who is white, said it was a challenge for her to bring up the subject, saying she was taught growing up not to see color; so her family didn’t talk about race - it was taboo.

Miller began her quest by reaching out to staff of color within the DHS departments to start a conversation and address racial equity issues at their own level. This included issues in the workplace and the community at large. They held a Steering Committee as well. Miller gave many statistics about African American percentages of people using services from SNAP to Juvenile Justice, foster care and more. One example she highlighted was in day care where African American children’s care isn’t as high quality statistically as their white counterparts. Miller’s department has already begun to address the disparity by giving more funds to those day care centers.

Some people on the call asked Miller if she could pass along information to providers as she has asked providers to have these conversations with their staff as well. Miller said one big issue to focus on is: what is keeping people of color from moving into higher positions in an organization (as happens in hers). Others asked if there was or could be a blueprint to follow. One African American woman on the call said she had been in the military for 20 years and they had blueprints for how to do things.

Kathie Mitchell and Ellen Kozlowski contributed to this story.

- December 16, 2020

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL Persons In Recovery Committee

By: Tracey Riper-Thomas

The OMHSAS Mental Health Planning Council's Persons In Recovery Committee discussed their current priorities as well as the needs of mental health and substance use services. This includes the integration of Peer Support (CPS) and Recovery Support (CRS). Some of the priorities of the committee are below:

- Barriers to employment and education
- Getting trauma-informed initiatives out to the community as a whole
- Providing information regarding the 'Clean Slate' Act

From www.mycleanslatepa.com:

"Clean Slate permits many criminal cases in PA to be sealed – taken out of public view, so they cannot be used by employers, landlords and others. Between June 2019 and June 2020, sealing will be done automatically for some cases. For others, a petition must be filed with the court".

Additionally, Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) was discussed. There was a conversation about how MAT and medical marijuana is not just about the medication itself. There is so much more involved from a holistic approach (such as being trauma-informed, physical health and diverse backgrounds).

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL Adult Committee: Workforce turnover creates challenges

Joe Labosky, who works in crisis services in Montgomery County, reported to the Adult Committee that there has been an uptick in crisis calls since Easter.

"It just started going up significantly," Labosky said during the virtual Adult Committee meeting Tuesday.

Labosky said this increase has been stressful on staff at all levels. If some staff call off, then others need to be mandated to work and that becomes problematic. Labosky said they're making it but it's been really tight, and now that people are working remotely again, there will be less people in the office to rely on.

Karen Morton, of Merkey, said recent numbers at the organization showed 300 staff in quarantine and 100-plus staff testing positive. Asking staff to go the extra mile during the pandemic has been a hard sell.

"We have so many people who seem to be on the edge, so-to-speak," Morton said.

With many staff opting for early retirement, it causes many program challenges. Meanwhile, those staff who remain on the job want to know that their jobs are considered essential and they will be in the initial phase of vaccine distribution.

"Behavioral health workers will be included as healthcare professionals," said Dr. Dale Adair, Medical Director for OMHSAS.

Deputy Secretary of Mental Health Kristen Houser added that congregate settings are in the first phase of vaccine distribution for patients and staff but there are a variety of stages.

"It's not 100%, yes, everybody gets it right off the bat," Houser said. "The supply is the biggest piece of that. It's been very fluid."

- By Kathie Mitchell

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL Transition-Age Youth & Young Adults Committee - *Identifying Priorities*

By: Kathy Laws, Chair

Our workgroup purpose is to identify **youth and young adult priorities** for the Mental Health Planning Council. We continue to meet virtually, with monthly meetings held during both day and evening to be accessible to everyone's schedules.

Youth Move PA, PA Care Partnership and Magellan Youth Engagement partner with us to set our monthly agenda.

We have had presentations from youth-run organizations, youth leaders and youth engagement staff of state and regional organizations, and family-run organizations. Members attending each meeting provide updates from their organizations and regions. Young people provide feedback on issues of concern, such as the need for continuing access to telehealth, and agenda items to include in upcoming meetings. Our workgroup members also give feedback on what to highlight in this report to Mental Health Planning Council Committee, as well as questions to ask at the meetings.

In this quarter we have been working on county specific outreach plans to identify groups of young people, and to identify group advisors, facilitators, and organizers who can help us connect with young people. Workgroup members have been assigned by county to gather this information, and we would welcome help from any Mental Health Planning Council attendee with this effort. We hope to:

- Create a coalition of TAYYA groups across the state.
- Work with them and their adult allies to create options for feedback and participation.
- Create a plan to reimburse young people for their participation and contributions, recognizing that many of us can attend these meetings on paid work time. This is a fairness issue, and something which would help level the power dynamic.
- Youth Move PA will provide technology support:
 - Online platform via their website.
 - Some of the features we are interested in include:
 - ~blog post,
 - ~bulletin board
 - ~resources,
 - ~suggestion box

We appreciate assistance from anyone from today's meeting to help us with gathering county-specific information, or to join our workgroup. Please email Kathy Laws, klaws@mhphope.org, to volunteer, or to be added to our email list to receive meeting notices and minutes.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH IN 2020: Hope, Advocacy, and Action for the Future



Much has been written about the mental health challenges young people are facing in 2020. The health and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, changes in learning, missed milestones, and the racial reckoning in the United States have exacerbated an already existing mental health crisis.



In addition to the great need, there are many barriers to supporting young people's mental health. Yet, young people are often not consulted in designing and allocating mental health services and resources. To have the greatest impact now and in the future, young people's leadership and lived experience are critical. We must build on what has helped them and invest in what they feel would empower them to change their mental health and their communities' mental health.

Mental Health America's (MHA's) new report, *Young People's Mental Health in 2020: Hope, Advocacy, and Action for the Future*, shares the perspectives of 1,906 14-24-year-olds who completed our Young People's Mental Health Survey through our online screening program, MHAScreening.org. Highlights from the survey include:

- Access to mental health professionals and mental health breaks as part of work or school were the top resources young people requested to support their mental health.
- Only 24% think training adults would help them with their mental health challenges, versus 47% who want to learn more about how to help their own mental health.
- 45% of 14-18-year-olds are not hopeful about the future, and more than half of LGBTQ+ teens are not hopeful about the future.
- Only 1 in 4 young people think they can make a change in mental health in their communities.
- The top ways young people want support to make a difference include support for their own mental health, opportunities to learn about mental health, connection to a mental health advocacy community, and training to support their peers' mental health.

In addition to their perspectives, the report includes examples of initiatives leading the way in addressing the needs identified in the survey. Featured programs include:

- **Mental Health Kingdom:** A virtual mental health community led by a certified youth and young adult peer support specialist via Discord.
- **Mindful Minute by Mind Body Ambassadors:** A student-led program that teaches mindfulness skills and builds mind-body practices into young people's school days.
- **UpLift by Youth Era:** A 5-day virtual event and training dedicated to providing young people the tools to support themselves and their peers.
- **DMV Students for Mental Health Reform:** A coalition of young people dedicated to understanding, connecting, and advocating for the mental health needs of high school students.
- **Young Invincibles Rocky Mountain:** An organization dedicated to empowering young people to advocate for policy change in their communities.

[Download the report](#)

For more information about young people's perspectives and mental health leadership, check out MHA's new website on [Young Leaders in Mental Health](#).

Questions? Contact Kelly Davis at kdavis@mhanational.org.

Conclusion from MHA Report :

Young People’s Mental Health in 2020 - Hope, Advocacy and Action for the Future

Growing up in today’s world is radically different than any time before. Data shows that the pandemic has further exacerbated the mental health struggles of young people. With needs that are only likely to increase, research, services, and resources must prioritize young people’s wants and needs instead of the traditional approaches or assumptions of the mental health field. To best leverage mental health resources, we must tap into what is most powerful, compelling, and relevant to young people. We must invest in young people’s ideas and leadership, including them in decision-making, and working with them to design communities that are mentally healthy and meet their needs. Young people must be included in creating a vision for the present and future of mental health. There is no more time to wait.

<https://mhanational.org/get-involved/download-young-peoples-mental-health-2020-report>



Wishing you a healthy and safe new year and the happiest of holidays!

The CSP Committee



Montgomery County Prothonotary opens landlord/tenant office to handle eviction appeals



NORRISTOWN - Saying the COVID-19 pandemic has placed many renters at risk of being evicted in the midst of a public health emergency, the office of the Montgomery County Prothonotary has opened a satellite office with the specific purpose of assisting residents with landlord/tenant appeals

As most filers and litigants — including renters and landlords — are still restricted from entering the county courthouse due to pandemic restrictions, Prothonotary Noah Marlier said it became clear that his office needed to increase access to landlords and tenants for filing of appeals.

Marlier worked with county and court officials to ensure a space was available for residents who are facing evictions from their homes during these difficult times. The special office opened this week in One Montgomery Plaza, 425 Swede St., Norristown, across the street from the Montgomery County Courthouse.

“It was so important to open this office, as we have seen an increase in the last few weeks in landlord-tenant appeals from local district judges. This increase came just weeks after the moratorium on evictions here in Pennsylvania was lifted,” said Marlier, explaining between 23,000 and 47,000 county households could face eviction. “It is vital that impacted residents are aware of their options.

“We are facing an eviction crisis and potentially a homelessness crisis. Tens of thousands of residents, right here in Montgomery County, could be facing eviction in the coming months. Furthermore, this eviction crisis will most likely impact people of color disproportionately,” Marlier added.

The Prothonotary’s Landlord/Tenant Office will be open Monday through Friday between 9a.m. and 3p.m. Renters applying for financial assistance relative to their appeal are encouraged to arrive no later than 2p.m. For more information about the resources available regarding landlord/tenant appeals and supplemental eviction instructions residents can visit www.montcopa.org/prothonotary or contact the office at 610-278-3361.

“We have created new literature that provides resources for renters and clearly breaks down the eviction appeals process,” Marlier said. “We have also worked with the courts to ensure that similar literature is provided to all renters who have had an order of eviction entered at the local court level so that they are fully aware of their appeal rights.”

Gov. Tom Wolf had a moratorium on evictions in Pennsylvania but it expired at the end of August and cannot be extended without Legislative action. The federal government implemented a national moratorium, previously announced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which will run through Dec. 31.

“However, there’s a few issues with that moratorium that I believe will still cause evictions to take place at a more rapid rate,” Marlier said during a virtual forum he recently held on the issue. “That moratorium only covers very specific circumstances, not all evictions.”

For example, the national moratorium only applies to individuals earning less than \$99,000 a year. Additionally, Marlier said tenants must provide a declaration to their landlords that they are unable to pay, and

See next page

Continued from page 7 - eviction

prove they have made their “best efforts’ to obtain government rent assistance in order to be eligible.

“Importantly, that moratorium does not relieve the tenant of the requirement to pay rent during the time period and that’s very challenging for many folks today who have lost their jobs, who are just unable to pay their rent,” Marlier said during the forum held with county officials and local NAACP leaders. “This issue is going to hit a lot of people very, very hard.”

Commissioners’ Chairwoman Dr. Valerie Arkoosh took part in the virtual forum recently hosted by Marlier.

“Keeping individuals and families in their homes and preventing homelessness is critical to the health and safety of Montgomery County households and is also going to be a major contributing factor in the recovery from the impacts of COVID-19,” Arkoosh said during the forum. “Due to job loss or a health crisis caused by COVID-19 many Montgomery County households are experiencing housing instability for the first time in their lives.”

Arkoosh said county officials have increased efforts to provide relief through public/private partnerships to end and prevent homelessness and help stabilize working and low-income households. One such program is the Your Way Home Emergency Rent and Utility Coalition, which was launched last month.

The program provides a \$5.9 million fund to help residents impacted by the pandemic to pay rent and utility costs. Eligible residents can receive up to \$1,500 per month to pay for rent and utility arrears dating back to March 1, about the time the pandemic began, businesses closed and unemployment rose, for a maximum of six months, Arkoosh explained. Officials estimated that 660 county households could be served by the program.

“Thus, a household can receive up to \$9,000 in rental or utility assistance to keep them safe and healthy in their homes,” said Arkoosh, adding the program will run through the end of December.

Households must meet certain income requirements and have experienced a hardship in the household due to COVID-19.

“That hardship could be a job loss or it could be having to leave a job to care for a sick family member. There is quite a bit of flexibility in this program,” Arkoosh said during the virtual forum.

For more information about the program residents can visit www.yourwayhome.org.

By Carl Hessler Jr., 21st Century Media





Montgomery County PA

UGLY SWEATER CONTEST

UGLY
HOLIDAY
SWEATER
CONTEST



TAKE A PICTURE OR VIDEO OF YOURSELF, IN YOUR UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER FROM DECEMBER 14TH - 18TH AND SHARE IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA. TAG NAMI MONTGOMERY COUNTY PA (#NAMIMONTCOPA) OR EMAIL IT TO OFFICE@NAMIMONTCOPA.ORG AND YOU WILL BE ENTERED IN A CONTEST TO WIN A \$50 VISA GIFT CARD. ONE ENTRY PER PERSON.



Montgomery County PA

ICN COVID19 RESOURCES

Community Connections Navigates - Montgomery County residents can call 610-278-3522 weekdays 8:30am-4:15pm to speak with an expert in local resources. Agencies can access Navigates on behalf of clients.

Rent and Mortgage Assistance - Renters can receive up to \$750 a month, homeowners \$1000 a month, for six months, March through November 2020. Visit phfa.org/pacares to apply.

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA - Help with public benefits including Unemployment, Social Security, Evictions, Foreclosures, and Expungements. Visit LASP.org/intake or call 877-429-5994 weekdays 9:00am-4:00pm.

SNAP enrollment - Visit compass.state.pa.us or call 610-277-6363 x140

Montco Hunger Solutions - Call 610-628-2400 or visit bit.ly/MontCoFood for information on food pantries, soup kitchens, and school meal pick-up locations, or to apply for the senior food box or Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Meals on Wheels - To find your local office visit mealsonwheelsamerica.org/find-meals

RSVP - prescreened volunteers are ready to help; sign up at rsvpmc.org. For free grocery delivery, call 610-834-1040 x 208 or email ShoppingRequests@rsvpmc.org.

Family Services of Montgomery County - Visit fsmontco.org for services related to family support, parent education, substance abuse prevention, reentry, older adults, and health and wellness.

The Mental Health Support Line/Warmline - Available 24/7 to respond to those struggling with anxiety and isolation due to COVID-19. Can be reached toll-free, 24/7 at 1-855-284-2494 from anywhere in PA.

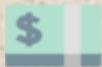
COVID-19 RESOURCES



Find [food assistance resources near you](#).



[Mental health and substance use disorder help](#) is available.



If you are unable to work due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for [unemployment benefits](#).



Learn more about COVID-19 testing and [find a testing center](#).



See the latest COVID-19 guidance on [phased reopening](#).



Find COVID-19 [resources and guidance for Pennsylvania drivers](#).

Montgomery County Office of Mental Health Update on COVID-19

For current updates in Montgomery County, please go to the County's COVID Hub: www.montcopa.org/COVID-19. People are encouraged to call ahead to service providers to confirm there have been no changes to delivery as public health best practices are evolving. Please utilize the Community Connections program for general questions or help navigating getting connected as well as Mobile Crisis and the Peer Support Talk Line.



ACCESS SERVICES

Creating better ways to serve people with special needs

Access Services is proud to provide behavioral health services to Montgomery County.

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PEER SUPPORT TALK LINE
855-715-8255
text 267-225-7785

Justice Related Services
610-500-2111

teentalkline
teens helping teens / no judging no pressure
text 215.705.8411 or call 866.625.0868

Starting Point
Mobile Psych Rehab
215-540-2150

Homeless Street Outreach
610-482-5483

CSP Reports for November 2020

Advocacy Subcommittee - Kim reported that the advocacy committee talked about OMHSAS and the Call for Change – OMHSAS will be looking for feedback from people who use services and their families for the revised Call for Change. The advocacy committee recommended that people attend the virtual Mental Health Planning Council meeting on December 15th to learn more about the work that OMHSAS is doing and to give feedback.

They also discussed the AOT law that passed two years ago, which requires that every year, each county has to opt out if they do not want to be in the program. The committee wanted to make sure to bring the December deadline to opt out to the county – they will be sending a letter asking them to opt out.

The state budget was also discussed – the legislature has been meeting this week to discuss the budget for the last seven months of the year. CSP regional sent a letter to Senator Toomey to urge that the federal budget be funded fully, and there is also a letter template from NAMI in the current CSP newsletter that people can copy and send to their state legislators. The committee also continued to discuss the eviction situation which could become critical as the moratorium on evictions ends.

Social Subcommittee - The social committee approved one \$500 grant for Brush with the Law to create a self-sustaining garden. They also talked about having a holiday movie viewing, where people could watch a movie together virtually, and also having a holiday gift that goes along with that, that promotes community, like Uber, or gaming memberships, or other membership based gifts. People could select a gift when they register. The advocacy committee had also discussed expanding the community connections grants to cover some pandemic related expenses, like filing fees – the suggestion was to talk to the Montgomery County Bar Association to see if it was do-able to set up a fund for people to use to appeal eviction rulings.

Conference Subcommittee - Erin reported that the conference committee met and talked about how to have a virtual conference next May. They want to have a day that kicks off with Pam Howard and others do an intro, and then an engaging speaker or training, followed by awards, followed by breakout rooms with a variety of activities – arts, karaoke, etc. The committee is looking for suggestions for speakers, trainings and activities. The tentative date is May 11th.

CSP MEETING CALENDER 2020-21

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

December	17
January	21
February	18
March	18

*Until further notice, these meet-
ings are via Zoom.*

Montgomery County CSP Executive Committee

2020/2021 Co-Chairs

Provider Member: Abby Grasso, Executive Director of NAMI

Person in Recovery: Danny Kuchler

Family Member: Kathy Laws, FEST Program Manager

2020/2021 Sub-Committee Chairs

Social/Media: Ryan Schweiger

Advocacy: Kim Renninger, Robin Campbell

Conference: Erin Hewitt, Lauren Landers-Tabares

2020/2021 Treasurer

Morgan Killian-Moseley, 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:

amalcolm@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 (CSP)**

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

Website: 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.

Organizations who regularly send representatives to CSP:

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

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