

# Community Support Journal

## Montgomery County Community Support Program Committee *Newsletter*

August 2025

Volume 8



CSP Logo designed by  
Chris Ford

### Montco CSP Opposes Executive Order To expand involuntary treatment To address homelessness

The Montgomery County Community Support Program (CSP) stands in strong opposition to the recent Executive Order directing federal agencies to expand involuntary treatment as a strategy to address homelessness. This approach threatens to undermine decades of progress toward recovery-oriented, person-centered care.



**Mental illness is not a public nuisance to be managed through coercion or confinement.** It is a health condition that demands dignity, autonomy, and access to comprehensive, voluntary supports. While homelessness is a critical issue, conflating it with mental illness and defaulting to institutionalization ignores the evidence: housing first, peer-driven services, early intervention, and robust community-based supports are what work.

CSP is a collaboration of individuals with lived experience, family members, providers, and county leaders, all united by a commitment to recovery. We reject policies that prioritize visibility and containment over solutions. Coercion is not care. Institutions are not homes. Instead of expanding involuntary treatment, the federal government should restore and strengthen investments in Medicaid, housing, nutrition, and behavioral health services. These are the resources that uphold independence and connection, not isolation.

**Montgomery County's CSP calls for policies rooted in respect, equity, and proven practices, not reactionary measures that criminalize or marginalize people living with mental health challenges.**

#### INSIDE this issue:

- SE CSP Conference... 3
- Legal Aid ..... 4
- Suicide Awareness Day at the Capitol ..... 5
- Prevent Suicide Walk 6
- CSP Discord..... 7
- Statewide CSP Virtual Conference..... 8
- Respite Night .....9
- QPR Training .....10
- CIC Groups .....11
- NAMI Therapy Dogs 12

### Crisis and Diversion Updates

#### From the July minutes:

Anna Trout, the county's Crisis and Diversion Director, briefed the CSP Committee at its July meeting on crisis and diversion services in the county.

The county's Veterans Response Team has over 140 trained police officers throughout the county. The teams mix peer support with law

enforcement and diversion and connect to social services. Police officers are veterans and receive special training to provide support to other veterans. Surrounding counties are also creating veterans response teams, Trout said.

The Mental Health Delegates, once housed by a provider agency, are now county employees. The delegates assess individuals in a crisis to ascertain if voluntary or involuntary treatment is needed. They have a 24-7 hotline to receive calls. Trout said the delegates are tracking data and understanding trends. The goal of the delegates is to make involuntary commitments rare. Sometimes they work remotely from a hospital to get closer to the people who are involved in these situations. Access Services sends Mobile Crisis to police departments to assist individuals in a crisis. Mobile crisis is supported with mental health funding. Now they have funds to also response to drug and alcohol crises.

Assistant Outpatient Treatment or AOT, was introduced in 2018 as an amendment to Mental Health Procedures Act. The amendment lowers the legal threshold for involuntary commitments. Every year the county submits a waiver to the state to opt out of the law. Four counties in Pennsylvania are trying to implement AOT. Montgomery County uses the opinions of CSPs, advocates, families and others with mental health experience to help write the waiver letter to opt out, Anna said.

Penny Johnson, the CSP Technical Assistant, said an article she read said the benefits to AOT are now found to be inconclusive. Trout said that TAC (Treatment Advocacy Center) supports AOT but data has been questionable. She encouraged people to keep an eye on the data.

"It's important to see if it's working," Trout said. "To date, we have not heard from other counties that it's been tremendous."

Regarding the new Behavioral Health Center, Trout said it is not open yet but there is a contract with a provider. There's no location or opening date. She added that the county commissioners support the center.

The link to the article about AOT's effectiveness:

<https://www.statnews.com/2025/07/14/gao-report-assisted-outpatient-treatment-involuntary-commitment-mental-health-care-evidence-inconclusive/>

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

For more information, contact Anna at:  
[anna.trout@montgomerycountypa.gov](mailto:anna.trout@montgomerycountypa.gov)

montgomery county  
peer support  
& teent@klines

# SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM HOSTS

## SUPPORTING OUR WHOLE PERSON



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2025  
10:00AM - 2:00PM

GEORGE WASHINGTON  
CARVER CENTER  
249 JACOB ST  
NORRISTOWN, PA 19401

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Leonard (Lenny) Burnett**

Lenny is the Employment Service Supervisor at New Leash on Life, where he supports justice-impacted young men and women on their journey toward personal and professional growth. His life story is one of resilience and transformation turning his own challenges into a commitment to give back the compassion and support he once received.

### SOME ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Vision Boards  
Wellness Tool Boxes  
Friendship Bracelets  
Sleeping Mat Project  
Chair Yoga  
Inspirational Coloring  
Other Games & Activities

### REGISTRATION REQUIRED

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/supporting-our-whole-person-tickets-1559753457579?aff=oddtcreator>



Questions? Contact  
[Karleen.Caparro@RHD.org](mailto:Karleen.Caparro@RHD.org)





# National Nonprofit Day

Aug. 17, 2025



**Free civil legal aid in the Philly suburbs**



Housing | Family law  
Veterans | Domestic violence  
Elder law  
Consumer & bankruptcy  
Public benefits  
Record-clearing  
Utilities  
& more

**Serving Bucks, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery counties**

since 2001

Based in 8 local offices

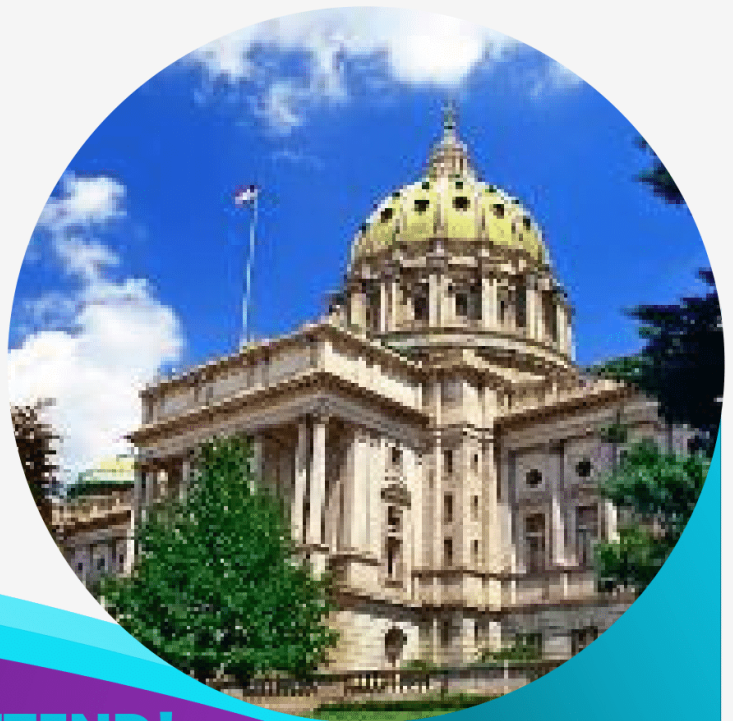


Get help | Volunteer | Join our team | Donate  
**lasp.org**

# **SAVE THE DATE!**

## **SUICIDE AWARENESS DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

### **SEPTEMBER 10TH 10AM-11:30AM**



### **PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND! WE NEED YOUR VOICE!**





# HOPE IN EVERY STEP: A WALK TO PREVENT SUICIDE



**Sunday, September 21  
9:00 am**



**Temple - Ambler Campus  
580 Meetinghouse Road  
Ambler, PA 19002**

- \$20/person (Children 10 & under free!)
- Refreshments, resources, & giveaways

SCAN ME



**SIGN UP TODAY! Scan the QR code or go to:**  
[www.Runsignup.com/Race/PA/Ambler/WalkToFightSuicide](http://www.Runsignup.com/Race/PA/Ambler/WalkToFightSuicide)

All proceeds benefit the Montgomery County Suicide Prevention Task Force.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS



### **MONTCO CSP IS NOW ON DISCORD!!**

**JOIN US ON DISCORD TO KEEP UP WITH ALL  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
PROGRAMS EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

**[HTTPS://DISCORD.GG/W2WHFTQBJM](https://discord.gg/w2whftqbjm)**

**ALONGSIDE INFORMATION, USE THIS SPACE TO  
MEET PEOPLE, BUILD COMMUNITY, AND FIND  
SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU!**



**Please email [pjohnson@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:pjohnson@hopeworxinc.org) or  
[evillarose@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:evillarose@hopeworxinc.org) for more information and/or the  
direct link.**



For more  
information, contact  
the Statewide CSP  
Ambassador via  
email at  
[alex@pmhca.org](mailto:alex@pmhca.org)

## STATEWIDE CSP VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



**REGISTER FOR THE  
EVENT**

CLICK [HERE](#) OR SCAN THE  
CODE



**SUBMIT A  
WORKSHOP**

CLICK [HERE](#) OR SCAN THE  
CODE

**MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 29TH**

**10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**





CAST, PEER SUPPORT AND TEEN TALK LINES, AND HOPE 4 TOMORROW PRESENTS

# CAREGIVER & TEEN *Respite Night*

Join us for a night of community and peer engagement - teens connecting with teens and adults connecting with adults. Step away from the hustle and bustle of back-to-school season. There will be food, games, raffles, speakers, and mental health education for both teens and adults.

**Tuesday, September 30th  
6 PM-8 PM**

Upper Merion Area High School  
465 Crossfield Rd, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Register in  
advance here:



## COMMUNITY EVENT

# QPR TRAINING

## QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER

### Trainer



#### Lindsay Meehan Mayo

Crisis Community Liaison and Trainer  
Access Services, Montgomery County

### Training Overview

September marks National Suicide Prevention Month. Join us for this training to learn how you can help save lives!

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer, or the three steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Gatekeeper Training prepares attendees to:

1. Recognize the warning signs of suicide;
2. Ask someone about suicidal thoughts;
3. Offer and connect to help.



**Wednesday, September 10**



**2:00-4:00pm**



**2506 N. Broad St., Colmar, 18915**

**REGISTER NOW**



**Access  
Services**  
strengthening communities



**Bucks-Mont  
Collaborative**  
Improving Communities - Strengthening Nonprofits

**CEU Eligible**



**Gwynedd Mercy  
University**  
Bachelor of Social Work

**BUCKS-MONT COLLABORATIVE**



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

# CREATING INCREASED CONNECTIONS (CIC) GROUPS



## TAKING BACK OUR POWER

Taking Back Our Power is a peer support group for individuals with lived experience of sensory phenomena (like hearing things others don't hear) and unusual beliefs

**MONDAYS**  
**2:00PM-3:00PM**

Hopeworx

1210 Stanbridge St #600,  
Norristown, PA 19401

**TUESDAYS**  
**2:30PM-4:00PM**

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

625 Montgomery Ave  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

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

Trinity Reformed Church

60 N. Hanover St  
Pottstown, PA 19464

## CIRCLE OF HOPE

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

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

Hopeworx

1210 Stanbridge St #600,  
Norristown, PA 19401

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

Hopeworx

1210 Stanbridge St #600,  
Norristown, PA 19401

## LIVE ANOTHER DAY

**TUESDAYS**  
**12:30PM-1:45PM**

Lansdale Library

301 Vine St  
Lansdale, PA 19446

Alternatives to Suicide groups are intended as non-judgmental spaces where people can share some of their darkest thoughts without being assumed to have an illness or being assessed for involuntary interventions. Openly exploring these thoughts - and the feelings and experiences underneath them - is often the key to moving toward something different.

## WALK AND TALK

**Every 1st and 3rd Friday**  
**11:00AM-12:30PM**

**King of Prussia Mall**

**Meet at Food Court on 1st Floor**

Join us for a time to work on our wellness, and enjoy each other's company as we exercise together.

*Enter between KPOT and Bonefish Grill*

160 N Gulph Rd

King of Prussia, PA 19406

## WOMENS IDENTITY AND EXPERIENCES GROUP

This group was created for women as a safe environment to voice & openly share our life stories as women & to empower ourselves to find greater meaning & purpose in life.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**3:00PM-4:30PM**

Teams Link

<https://teams.microsoft.com/Womensgroup>

For More Information Contact [Sheila.HallPrioleau@RHD.org](mailto:Sheila.HallPrioleau@RHD.org) 215-906-0453  
[www.ciconnections.org](http://www.ciconnections.org)





Montgomery County PA

# WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Come to the August  
Wellness Wednesday  
where we will be hosting a  
few therapy dogs for a  
self-care activity!



August 27, 2025

12pm-2pm

Memorial Park Gazebo

300 E Main St, Lansdale, PA

19446

Comfort  
Caring  
Canines  
Therapy Dogs, Inc.



Thank you to the volunteers  
at Comfort Caring Canines  
Therapy Dogs Inc. for  
donating their time to us!

[Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services](#) will be hosting a Lifesharing Outreach event on Wednesday, October 4th. Our Access Services Lifesharing staff will be participating, so please take the time to come out and learn more about Lifesharing!

## LIFESHARING OUTREACH “ANY EVERY DAY LIFE”

Provider agencies available to discuss their programs and answer questions. Families and individuals will also be present to discuss their experiences with Lifesharing.

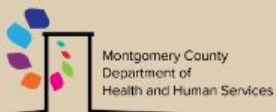
**\*\* Refreshments provided \*\***

### WHEN

Wednesday  
October 4, 2023  
2:00 – 4:00PM  
6:00 – 8:00 PM

### WHERE

Montgomery County  
Human Services Center  
1430 DeKalb Street  
Norristown, PA 19404



Please email or call Jackie Grimes to reserve your space.  
[Jacquelyn.Grimes@montgomerycountypa.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn.Grimes@montgomerycountypa.gov) or 610-278-1452



Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore

# FLEA market

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2025**

10 am-2 pm/Tables \$25

VENDORS  
FOOD  
CRAFTS  
MUSIC

219 WEST SPRING AVENUE, ARDMORE, PA 19003

VENDORS WANTED!  
FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT KELVIN HAWKINS AT  
KJHHAWK@AOL.COM



## Subcommittee Reports from July 2025

**Advocacy Subcommittee:** Plan to formally write letters to state reps and follow up with an appointment to focus on funding for individuals who have mental health challenges. And meet with Ambler Police to educate them how to interact with people with MH challenges and then branch out to other police departments.

**Community Outreach Subcommittee:** Erin said Discord is set up. Info about it in the newsletter and Penny will send an email out with a direct link to sign up. A place to interact with the community and connect with others. You introduce yourself to get connected to other channels. Helps to keep out bots. We missed out on First Friday in June but preparing to make it a regular thing. 6-9 p.m. at the corner of Madison and Main in Lansdale. First Fridays thru November. Free event. August 1<sup>st</sup> theme is shellabrate good times. Contact Erin if you have questions. [evillarose@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:evillarose@hopeworxinc.org).

**Conference Subcommittee:** Harry said now is time to explore alternate venues than the farm. Traffic control and tents cost a lot. Just renting farm, tents and traffic control is \$6,000. Take that money and use for more food for more people. Variety Club Camp was suggested. Want it to be outdoors with pavilions. Bathrooms. Parking space. YMCA camps. He will try to meet with them before the next meeting. Send recommendations to Harry at [hbowles@hopeworxinc.org](mailto:hbowles@hopeworxinc.org).

### CSP MEETING CALENDER 2025

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

*The next meetings will be:*

August	21
September	18
October	16
November	20

*Meetings are held in person  
and via Zoom.*

### Montgomery County CSP Executive Committee

#### 2024/2025 Tri-Chairs

Provider Member: Jim Markey

Person in Recovery: Morgan Killian-Mosley

Family Member: Vacant

County Liaison -  
Tracey Riper-Thomas



#### 2024/2025 Sub-Committee Chairs

Community Outreach: Erin Villarose

Advocacy: Anise Robinson

Conference: Harry Bowles

*Fiduciary - HopeWorx, Inc.*

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

#### 2024/2025 Treasurer

Justin Chamrin

## CSP Principles

- \* Person Centered/  
Person Empowered
- \* Culturally competent
- \* Designed to Meet  
Special Needs
- \* Community Based  
with Natural Supports
- \* Flexible
- \* Coordinated
- \* Accountable
- \* Strengths-Based

## **CSP Mission Statement:**

Montgomery County's Community Support Program (CSP) brings together individuals that receive mental health services, their family members, providers and the Department of Behavioral Health in an equal partnership to promote recovery and excellence in the delivery of community-based mental health services.

The committee strives to include a balance of people who use services, people who provide services, family members, and interested members of the community at large. The CSP initiatives continue to grow state, regionally and county wide. As the involvement increases CSP has become a place that feedback can truly be given to the county from individuals that receive services and information can be given that suits the needs and requests of those that attend.

## **Organizations who regularly send representatives to CSP:**

Central Behavioral Health,  
AdvocacyWorx, Community  
Satisfaction Team of Montgomery  
County, Magellan Health Services,  
Montgomery Co. Department of  
Behavioral Health, Montgomery  
County Emergency Services (MCES),  
NAMI Montgomery County,  
Norristown Vet Center, Resources for  
Human Development, Salisbury  
Behavioral Health

## CSP Subcommittees:

- \* **Advocacy Subcommittee**—Works on legislative, policy, communication, budget, voter education and other issues related to mental health services in the county, statewide and at the federal level when relevant. At the direction of the CSP Committee, the Advocacy Subcommittee gathers information on issues, plans advocacy events and creates a monthly newsletter to provide information to the stakeholder network as well as the community at large about the work of CSP. The newsletter also provides updates on new and changing mental health services provided in Montgomery County. The newsletter editor can be contacted at: [kathiemitchell8221@gmail.com](mailto:kathiemitchell8221@gmail.com).
- \* **Community Outreach Subcommittee**—Works on facilitating opportunities for people in the CSP community to be more involved in the Montgomery County community. This includes implementing the Community Connections grants, which provide funding for people to participate in a variety of activities. The committee also implements transportation grants that provide gas cards and SEPTA day passes to CSP community members. The annual CSP Poster Art contest is also organized by this committee.
- \* **Conference Subcommittee** – The conference subcommittee will plan and fundraise for the annual Montgomery County CSP Conference.

## **Meetings:**

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

3rd Thursday of each  
month

Montgomery County  
Community College  
Blue Bell, PA

In person & Zoom

**Kathie Mitchell, Newsletter Editor**

## **Join our Mailing list!**

We have an email list as  
well as a regular mailing,  
to join:

Send an e-mail to:

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

Or send your contact info  
to this mailing address:

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

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

[https://www.facebook.com/  
montcopacsp/](https://www.facebook.com/montcopacsp/)