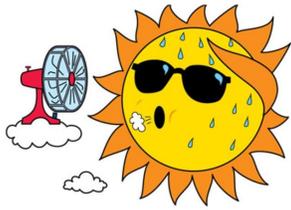


CSP Logo designed by
Chris Ford

Community Support Journal



Volume 15, Issue 8

August 2022

Montgomery County
Community Support Program Committee

\$161.4 million in Pandemic recovery funds - Responding to local needs and hardest hit

By: *Kathie Mitchell, Newsletter Editor*

Emma Hertz was the guest speaker at the July CSP meeting. Hertz, the Strategy Director for the Montgomery County Recovery Office, presented information about the \$161.4 million which was allocated directly to Montgomery County as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) enacted in March 2021.

The County decided to establish its own office to manage this funding.

“We want a community driven process that responds to local needs in the county,” Hertz said during the virtual meeting held on July 21st.

Hertz said the county hosted town sessions and distributed surveys to figure out how residents want that money to be invested. Folks want something deeply community informed, transparent, equitable, and accessible. There is a priority to find projects for communities hit hardest by the pandemic using it as a one-time allocation. And, there is a focus on housing, behavioral health, child care, emergency response, and digital access.

Continued on page 2

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Criminalizing homelessness - Norristown passes ordinance to close parks at night

By: **Mark Boorse, #WEBELONG Facebook Post August 17, 2022**

First of all, do no harm.

This is a familiar phrase, and we understand the common sense of.

Last night the Borough of Norristown passed the ordinance banning people from being in municipal parks between dusk and dawn. This effectively criminalizes the act of being homeless, a fact that is clearly understood by those passing it; it is not an unfortunate, unintended consequence. This happened in spite of impassioned pleas to refrain from do-

Continued on page 4

Process Overview:



Hertz said the county received over 400 project submissions and 150 idea submissions. There are 110 projects that we are recommending for funding at this time. They have not yet been confirmed and we are looking for public comments so we can make changes before submitting the final plan.

Allocation break down:

- **\$34.2M (21%): Government Services and Infrastructure**
- **\$32.4M (20%): Housing**
- **\$28.0M (17%): Community Services and Facilities**
- **\$18.1M (11%): Behavioral Health**
- **\$14.4M (9%): Economic and Workforce Development**
- **\$11.3M (7%): Public Health and Safety**
- **\$9.6M (6%): Childcare Services**
- **\$8.4M (5%): Food Security**
- **\$5.1M (3%): Non-profit and Community Support**

There is an emphasis on Behavioral Health Services and to ensure diversity in support for services.

Projects:

- Welcome Project PA (support for LGBTQIA+ services)
- Relationship Education (Assistance for adults with developmental disabilities)
- COVID's isolating impact on rural older adults (Generations Indian Valley)
- Trauma-Informed evidence based in school creative arts therapy (The Lincoln center for Family and youth)
- Street Medicine for individual's experiences homelessness (Tower health, Access Services, etc.)
- Workforce development to support children with autism spectrum disorder (Aspire Child and Family Services).
- A workforce initiative for adults with disabilities and collaborating employer partners (VarietyWorks).

Other investments:

- ♦ **Bolstering behavioral healthcare services**
- ♦ **Behavioral health centers/infrastructure**

- ◆ **A multi-phase project to address primary health and behavioral health care disparities**
- ◆ **Behavioral health crisis response service continuum expansion**
- ◆ **The Ferns Peer Respite**
- ◆ **PA Nepalese Guthi Association (PNGA) Himalayan Center for Community Health Recovery**
- ◆ **Psychiatric ambulance replacement (MCES)**

School based behavioral health care grant program

\$5M was allocated to Office of Mental Health supporting child and adolescent healthcare within the school district.

Call center initiative for emergency needs

\$1M was allocated to address call center operations/needs across multiple issue areas (emergency operations, 988, accessibility for non-English speakers, homeless services, other needs)

Feedback:

- ◆ **Communicate better with each other**
- ◆ **Help municipalities understand that our County is for everyone**
- ◆ **Get rid of discriminatory zoning practices**

Next Steps:

Additional town hall presentations are scheduled through early August. All stakeholders can submit comments until August 5, 2022 via our online submission form. Available via www.montcoPA.org/RecoveryOffice.

The Recovery Office and County Management will review all feedback received and make adjustments as appropriate. The final Recovery Plan is expected to be approved on August 18, 2022 by County Commissioners.

Editor's Note: Amelia Mraz contributed to this story.

What is the American Rescue Plan?

- from Wikipedia

The **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**, also called the **COVID-19 Stimulus Package** or **American Rescue Plan**, [Pub.L. 117–2 \(text\) \(PDF\)](#) (March 11, 2021), is a US\$1.9 trillion [economic stimulus](#) bill passed by the [117th United States Congress](#) and signed into law by [President Joe Biden](#) on March 11, 2021, to speed up the country's recovery from the [economic](#) and health effects of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) and the ongoing [recession](#).^[1] First proposed on January 14, 2021, the package builds upon many of the measures in the [CARES Act](#) from March 2020 and in the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#), from December.^{[2][3]}

Criminalizing homelessness *(continued from page one)*

ing so. Because the ordinance is wrong. Because, actually, it does great harm. And because, actually, a community cannot arrest its way out of homelessness.

But here we are.

And, while it's tempting to litigate park bans in the court of social media, that's not actually the point. What the point is, is this:

- People who are experiencing homelessness have a legal right to be somewhere.
- There continues to be no such places in Montgomery County, even though homelessness has reached a crisis level.
- People are not in parks by design. They are in parks by default, because there are no sanctioned spaces for them. The borough was asked to refrain from doing the wrong thing. And while they failed on that account, we need to collectively notice the fundamental difference between not doing the wrong thing and actually doing the right thing.
- Because that's the demand. For legal, safe places for persons experiencing homelessness to be, as opposed to a tacit blind eye towards hiding on the edges of a park. Or wherever other hiding places people will now have to look for to avoid prosecution.

We need to do the right thing. Because everyone belongs.



For more information, go to: [#WEBELONG](https://www.facebook.com/webelong)



Photo from Facebook [#WEBELONG](https://www.facebook.com/webelong) page

Sleeping in park? Pay fine or go to jail

August 17, 2022



From: Bill England, MSW

Here For Us Coalition

Bill@pahealthaccess.org

215-801-3844

I wanted to provide an update to everyone. Last evening, the Norristown Council Borough by a vote of 6 - 1 adopted the 'dusk to dawn' ordinance. While several of those who voted in favor of adoption stated this is about parks, not persons without shelter, law enforcement now has the ability to remove people sheltering in Borough parks.

Below, are the words from the Borough about the ordinance and what the enforcement of the ordinance may mean:

"The purpose of Ordinance 22-02 is to amend Code Chapter 225-2 and establish "dawn to dusk" park hours for the municipalities' many parks and recreation areas to prohibit overnight activities in Municipal parks and recreation areas and protect the public safety.

From the Norristown Municipal Code: § 225-5 Violations and penalties: Any person violating any provision herein shall be guilty of a summary offense and upon conviction thereof shall be liable for a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$300 or, in default thereof, to imprisonment for not more than five days."

This was not unexpected but creates a true threat to unhoused persons when the ordinance is used against them. The closure of the County-managed Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center on June 30th precipitated this action. The CHOC was located on the grounds of the Norristown State Hospital, land owned by the Commonwealth. The cold reality is that in 2017, an agreement was developed between the State and Norristown to convey a part of the State Hospital grounds to the Borough for redevelopment. That partial included the location of the CHOC. A lease was signed in 2017 as the last lease for the shelter. Between 2017 and June 30, 2022, the shelter should have been relocated to another site. In March of this year, some of us became aware that the lease was set to expire. An appeal was made to get an extension for the lease but the Borough asked that the transfer proceed and it did.

At this time, I believe energy needs to be focused on the County government. Staff from the County has assured me they have the resources to establish a temporary sheltering arrangement. The request was to help to get the State to allow a temporary arrangement to be placed elsewhere on the State Hospital grounds. The state has officially turned down the County's request. In my opinion, we need the County to use land they control to establish a temporary sheltering arrangement in Norristown. I say Norristown as this is where employment, transportation, and support services are available to those in need.

My plan is to get organizations to sign off in support of a letter to the County Commissioners calling upon the County to act now.

Twitter @hereforuspa Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HereforUsPA/>

Delaware finds a way to build a Pallet Shelter Village for the unhoused

Editor's Note: As advocates in Montgomery County face one obstacle after another in their fight to get the state, county and communities to quickly develop a legal, safe place for the unhoused to be, Delawareans have joined together to develop a Pallet Shelter Village in Georgetown. See the WBOC story below.

Preparations underway for Georgetown Pallet Shelter Village

By: Kirstyn Clark - August 16, 2022

GEORGETOWN, Del. – Volunteers from Dogfish Head Brewery and the Springboard Collaborative non-profit came together on Tuesday to help prepare a site for the construction of a new pallet shelter village for homeless adults.

Tuesday's preparations were the last of the cleanup before construction begins. Volunteers worked on two different projects; first, there were old cans of paint on the site that needed to be disposed of. Volunteers used cat litter and paint hardening materials to solidify the paint before disposing of it within the next few days. Second, they cleared fencing of overgrowth to create light and visibility in the site.

"We think it's a really innovative approach to a problem that a lot of communities face," says Mariah Calagione, co-founder of Dogfish Head Brewery. "Not just Georgetown, but all over. We love innovative solutions, and we're excited to be out here seeing it come to life."

Nora Sheehan, a Dogfish Head volunteer, had her own personal connection to the work being done on Thursday. Her son, Andrew, died from overdose while living in a homeless encampment. His thirty-third birthday would have been the day before the cleanup.



Photo courtesy of WBOC

"I can't even begin to tell you the commitment he had to the other people in the homeless community," Sheehan says. "He just would not leave, and we tried to get him to leave. Ever since he overdosed, and actually before, I was helping at the Rehoboth Beach homeless shelter during the winter. So, this is really exciting and so important."

Springboard Collaborative is partnering with First State Community Action Agency to bring 40 "tiny homes" to the cleared space. They're calling the project, the Pallet Program. The homes will be small sleeping quarters with air conditioning, heat, and one or two beds. A communal restroom with showers will be built nearby, along with a community building with room for dining, a multi-purpose room, offices for Springboard staff, and a warming kitchen for meals.

"We're going to be paying a lot of attention to outcomes," says Judson Malone, the executive director of Springboard Collaborative. "If they come into the camp, how long are they going to stay here, and what is it going to take for them to get ready to go to permanent housing? If they have addiction, or other issues, can they at least get to the point that they are manageable and they can sus-

See next page

Delaware starts a Pallet Shelter Village for the unhoused (continued)

tain themselves in an apartment? Do they have enough income or do they job training to increase their income? Those are the kind of wrap around services we're going to provide.”

Malone tells WBOC that the project is being funded by ARPA funds from the State of Delaware, donations from the Longwood Foundation, contributions from several bank CRA accounts, and donations and support resources from Healthy Communities Delaware.

“This turns out to be our first effort, but we don't want it to be our only effort,” Malone says. “We want to do other efforts around Sussex County. We want to do other pallet villages in Kent County, and Wilmington, and New Castle County, but first, we want to prove it works.”

The village is expected to be completed by October to ensure that people in the Sussex County homeless community have housing before winter.

To see the story and a video, go to [WBOC News](#).



Courtesy of Pallet

For the 2022 fundraiser, our goal is \$5,000. Please help us reach our goal.

To date, we have received \$1,325 or 27% of our goal!

Donations will help to support the programs of CommunityWorx in partnership with [Brush with the Law](#). We need funds to buy supplies for arts and crafts and other community projects. Click [here](#) for our webpage where you can watch the progress bar at the top of the page to see us march toward our goal.



2nd Annual Dodge Water Balloon Challenge



HopeWorx kicks off annual Dodge Water Balloon Fundraiser

By Ameika Malcolm - We have officially kicked off our annual Dodge Water Balloon Fundraising Challenge for this year!!!

On Friday, August 5th, we had a splash of a time and a welcoming way of dealing with the heat.



So far, we have raised over \$1000, and would like to thank the people who have donated and the people throwing water balloons on behalf of people who are unable to be there in person.

Our goal is to raise \$5000, which will go towards supplies and support for free community art workshops ran by Brush With The Law (BWTL), Maria Maneos.

If you missed us last Friday...we will be here at HopeWorx every Friday in August from 3:30 to 4:30pm, trying to get hit by water balloons. Well, that is if you can get us??? So come on over see if you can... **“hit us with your best shot”**.

There will be prizes for the top 3 people who get the most hits at the end of the challenge – Friday, August 26th.

If you are unable to be there in person you can still to donate to us by going to www.hopeworxinc.org | Venmo at @hopeworx or scan the QR code.



HopeWorx Inc
@HopeWorx

venmo

Scan barcode with your camera to easily donate

Annual Dodge Water Balloon Challenge Fund Raiser

With CommunityWorx & Brush With The Law



In 2021, to celebrate our new and changing community, we kicked things off with a fundraising campaign...our First Annual Dodge Water Balloon Challenge! We ran the event every Friday at HopeWorx in August. Our goal was to raise money to buy art supplies, work on a community art project and create more opportunities/events for people to get connected to the community both socially and professionally.

We have raised over \$2000. 100% of the funds raised from the Dodge Water Balloon Challenge went towards developing a free community art workshop by Maria Maneos, Founder & Director of the Brush With The Law – Art Program and purchasing art supplies. The supplies were sent to people who would like to do artwork and were unable to come to our location across Montgomery County, PA.

We were able to serve over 63 people, 53 virtually and 10 in person. In addition, we were able to mail supplies to 27 people, including 10 from the Pottstown Recovery Learning Center and 7 from residential programs.

The workshops were offered starting November 2021 through to April 2022. Some of the workshop offered were:

- Collage Your Story
- Make Polymer Clay Objects
- Ugly Sweater Making
- Wellness Toolbox
- Art On a Wall
- Steppingstones
- Spring Wreaths
- Rock Painting
- Spring themed picture frame
- Aroma Therapy
- Paint a Master - Claude Monet 'The Artist's Garden at Giverny' | Painting a Picasso

In addition, we hosted an Art & Eat event in partnership with the Community Support Program (CSP) and Creating Increase Connections (CIC) in May. We had over 40 people in attendance.

We at HopeWorx and Brush With The Law would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated and donated both in person and virtually last year. We are looking forward to seeing you again this year.

Special thank you to Penny Johnson, Sue Shannon, Maria Maneos, Kevin Byrnes, David Renner, Patrick Walsh, Hannah Leifheit, and Daniel Gardner for becoming targets. Another special thank you to all the donors near and far. In general—Martha's Choice Marketplace, Expressive Path, Community Members, the HopeWorx Board members, friends, and family.

There is always an opportunity to donate— visit us at hopeworxinc.org or brushwiththelaw.org.

We are looking forward to getting wet...well if you can get us!!

Thank you for all your support!!



National Alliance on Mental Illness

Montgomery
County PA

Every 4th Wednesday
of the Month

12pm - 3pm

NAMI MontCo Office
100 W Main St, Ste 204
Lansdale, PA 19446

Join Us!

A time for people to
connect and have fun!

Questions
215-361-7784

office@namimontcopa.org

**WELLNESS
WEDNESDAYS**



NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Montgomery County PA

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

EVERY 4TH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
STARTING SEPT 23

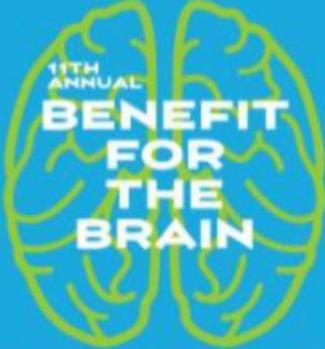
**6:30 PM
VIA ZOOM**

Registration required:

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

SAVE *the* DATE

November
9
2022



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

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 19th 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*

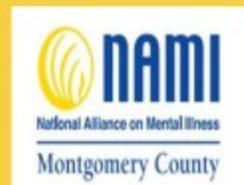
Program Designed and Facilitated by:

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))*



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

988 FAQ

A Direct Link for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Support

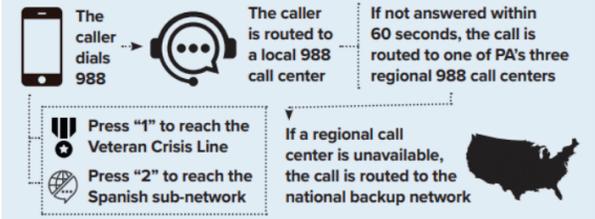
988 is a national crisis hotline for anyone experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis. Trained counselors answer the hotline to offer phone-based support and/or connections to local resources, at no cost to the caller. In Montgomery County, MCES has operated the National Suicide Prevention 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.

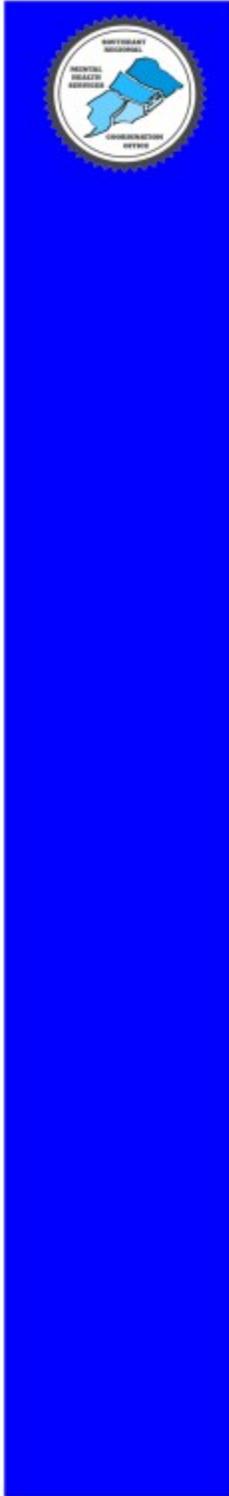
Q: Will the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number (1-800-278-8255) go away?

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.



SE Regional Mental Health Services and Coordination Office presents:



**Mental Health
FIRST AID**

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
MENTAL WELLBEING

NEW SUMMER ADULT AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CLASSES ARE HERE!

*Be the one to make a difference in someone's life!
Become certified in Mental Health First Aid*

***New Format for the Summer Classes—The classes are two half days rather than one full day as before. We hope this allows for more flexibility for learners who may not want to do a full day. Both half days will be required for certification.

**ADULT VIRTUAL MHFA CLASSES (2 HALF-DAY CLASS) -
FROM 9AM - NOON**

8/9/2022 - FIRST HALF DAY CLASS

8/10/2022 - SECOND HALF DAY CLASS

**YOUTH VIRTUAL MHFA CLASSES (2 HALF DAY CLASSES)
FROM 9AM - NOON**

8/23/2022 - FIRST HALF DAY CLASS

8/24/2022 - SECOND HALF DAY CLASS

**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT
WWW.FIVECOUNTYMH.ORG**

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
<https://www.ciconnections.org>

Subcommittee Reports from July 2022

Advocacy Subcommittee: We talked about the Here for Us coalition (<https://www.hereforus.org/petition>). There is more about it in the newsletter, and you can sign up to get more information. 988 just came out that replaced the 10-digit suicide prevention hotline number. We spoke about having a speaker come to the advocacy sub-committee group and will try and promote that more.

We talked about attendance and how it's been low but it is the summer. We also talked about increasing engagement and maybe having a calendar invite.

Medical Assistance renewals are going out and those renewals are not coming back. There is a concern that people are struggling with their renewals. There is some date in October where if they don't have their renewal back, their assistance will end. We are trying to get an awareness campaign to advocate about it.

Social Subcommittee: No report.

Conference Subcommittee: We are starting to plan the conference for next year. We are looking at May 16th or May 23rd for conference next year 2023. We are checking with the commissioners, and then will let you know an exact day. We talked about venues, food items and workshops. If you have thoughts or ideas please let me or Stacy know. We updated the electronic nomination form for the award ceremony: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=7CS2qydggUyVzrdefJatnlw5lRCH1uhHg-kYSSljC_FUMFYwQk0wU1U0SII3M0RRTUxDskpNM0NKNi4u

CSP MEETING CALENDER 2022

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

The next meeting will be:

August	18
September	15
October	20
November	17

*Until further notice, these meet-
ings are 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

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:

- 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