



NEWS

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Montgomery County Officials Recognize National Day of Remembrance Courthouse to be lit purple on Sunday

Norristown, PA (January 27, 2017) – Each day nationwide, 129 families experience the loss of a loved one due to a drug overdose. The Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs today honored those lost to addiction with an event on the Montgomery County Courthouse steps.

Kay McGowan, Administrator for the Montgomery County [Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs](#) was joined by Commissioners Valerie Arkoosh, MD, Commissioner Joe Gale, District Attorney Kevin Steele, Montgomery County Drug Treatment Court Judge Steven O'Neill, and Marissa Wadsworth, who lost her son, TJ, to honor those individuals who have been lost to addiction. Speakers showcased efforts across the county to tackle the opioid crisis and McGowan highlighted the resources available to individuals and families struggling with addiction. On Sunday, January 29, 2017, the National Day of Remembrance, a project of the Addiction Policy Forum, will be observed by the County with the Montgomery County Courthouse lit purple to give hope for recovery and treatment.

“We know that too many have lost their battle with addiction. We continue to strive to eliminate barriers to treatment and work to destigmatize the disease of addiction,” said Kay McGowan, Administrator for the Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

The Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs provides a wide range of drug and alcohol services to Montgomery County residents. These services fall into three main categories: prevention, intervention, and treatment. The office is committed to treating addiction as a chronic disease requiring long-term support. Services are delivered in partnership with qualified providers, and are guided by a philosophy that embraces hope, respect, and support for recovery.

Each year, approximately 3,500 Montgomery County residents receive short term intervention services through the Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs. Family members and loved ones struggling with a substance use disorder can receive up to six hours of intervention support sessions free of charge at one of four contracted providers.

The Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs also assists individuals seeking recovery by providing support on how to access treatment services in the county as well as to provide financial support for uninsured residents. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol has set-up a 24/7 hotline at 1-800-662-HELP, to assist individuals in finding and accessing treatment options.

Other Efforts Underway in Montgomery County to Combat the Opioid Epidemic

[Montgomery County Drug Courts](#)

Drug Treatment Court is a special part of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas offering a court-supervised treatment program for non-violent offenders with drug and/or alcohol related charges who have a drug and/or alcohol addiction. The program allows for addicted individuals to remain in treatment for long periods of time while under close supervision. To ensure accountability, participants are regularly and randomly tested for substance use, required to appear frequently in court for the judge to review their progress, rewarded for meeting goals, and sanctioned for not meeting clearly stated obligations.

[Prescription Drug Disposal Program](#)

A joint program by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and the Police Chiefs Association of Montgomery County, with financial assistance from the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association and Pennsylvania American Water, the Prescription Drug Disposal Program provides a safe way for county residents to dispose of unwanted, unneeded, and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications. In addition to decreasing the circulating drug supply, the program also helps keep the water supply safe.

[Overdose Prevention](#)

Read more about County efforts to make Naloxone – the overdose reversal medicine – available to law enforcement, EMS, hospital workers, pharmacies, and families and individuals at risk of an overdose.