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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NORRISTOWN, Pa.** (Jan. 5 2021) The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is initiating a new program designed to assist community members with mental and behavioral challenges as they make their way through the court system.

Like a similar program introduced in Bucks County last year, our Pathfinder program will link deputies certified in crisis intervention with court participants in need of special services in order to provide support and avert potentially volatile situations.

Agencies and participants can access the program through the dedicated email:  
[MCSOpathfinders@montcopa.org](mailto:MCSOpathfinders@montcopa.org).

All deputies participating in the program have been certified through coursework at Montgomery County Emergency Services, a regional leader in Crisis Intervention Specialist training for more than four decades.

The MCES curriculum teaches law enforcement personnel how to recognize signs of people in crisis and ways to intervene using specialized mental health training focused on de-escalation and active listening techniques.

The program will also serve as a point of contact with Court Administration, Adult Probation Domestic Relations and Diversionary Courts such as Veterans and Drug Court to provide an integrated resource for court participants experiencing mental health crisis.

**About the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office:** The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is one of the largest and most highly trained law enforcement agencies in the County and includes several divisions and specialty units. We serve more than 816,000 residents with a staff of approximately 115 law enforcement officers and 20 administrative staff. Our mission is to protect the citizens of the County and provide services to taxpayers with honesty, integrity, and transparency.

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