

Kristen Houser will speak at December Regional CSP Meeting

From the Southeast Regional CSP Committee - Kristen Houser, the Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, will attend the Regional CSP Committee meeting on December 6th via Zoom from 3 to 5 p.m.

Houser was invited to the meeting by the Regional Committee to provide information for committee members about the Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC), its process for operation, and how the MHPC and the Regional CSP Committee can collaborate on important advocacy issues around mental health.

Julie Whitmore, a Montgomery CST Specialist and member of the regional committee, wrote a letter to Houser outlining the issues that the committee would like to address.

Whitmore outlined in her letter some of the issues the regional committee and subcommittees were advocating for. The issues were:

- There is the cost of living not being increased, which is causing a workforce crisis, which impacts all of us. We are interested in Kristen's perspective about how to best advocate around this topic. We are especially concerned with mental health workers and their struggle with employment, maintenance, and the barriers. It is hard when they are making less money than Walmart employees, and the work they do is not an easy job. People are quitting, people are burning out... it concerning, and this is something the advocacy group wants to advocate around.
- Also affordable housing, is a big topic, and it's even bigger problem since Hurricane Ida that passed through. We need tangible plans on how to get affordable housing. We'd be interested in her thoughts on that.
- Also the Norristown State Hospital land that is being sold. How can we support those programs that are left?

The Regional Committee is looking forward to discussing these issues with Houser on Monday, Dec. 6th from 3 to 5 p.m.

