



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 18, 2013

Montco About to Launch Community Connections; New Program to Bring Services Closer to Residents

Norristown, PA (June 18, 2013) – Montgomery County’s much anticipated Community Connections program that will revolutionize the way human services are delivered in the county will be launched this week with the first of a series of open houses at the programs regional offices throughout the county.

Community Connections is an innovative program to build collaborative partnerships between the County and regional services, non-profits, businesses, and organizations to serve residents within their own communities connecting them to the necessary resources. Community Connections offices are designed to be a one-stop location to service a resident’s government-related needs. Montgomery County Community Connections offices will initially be located in Norristown, Willow Grove, Lansdale, and Pottstown.

The initial phase of the Community Connections program will feature county personnel in each regional office known as Navicates. The word navicate was created from the words navigator and advocate. The concept is that these well-trained social service professionals will serve as navigators for residents of the county’s large social services network, and then advocate on their behalf to receive the services they need for themselves or their family. The added value of the navicates is that they will be located in the regional offices eliminating the need for most residents in need of social services to travel to Norristown.

“Until now, someone needing services had to travel to Norristown to access those services,” said Josh Shapiro, chairman of the county board of commissioners and a champion for the Community Connections program. “Many times those needing services the most either do not have a car or live in

areas not served well by public transportation. Now they will have to travel much shorter distances to our regional offices, and once there will have someone working directly for them,” Shapiro said.

Here is the schedule for the open houses at the Community Connections offices:

Thursday, June 20 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Norristown Office

Human Services Center, 1st floor

1430 DeKalb St., Norristown

Tuesday, June 25 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Willow Grove Office

Courthouse Annex

102 Old York Road, Willow Grove

Thursday, June 27 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Pottstown Office

260 High St., Pottstown

Tuesday, July 2 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Lansdale Office

421 West Main Street, Lansdale

For more information on the Community Connections program, please contact Bonnie Johns at (610) 278-2924.