

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless  
and t3 present

The

**CHALLENGE**

*& Promise* of

**CHANGE**

**2017 HOME Conference**



montgomery county  
coalition for the homeless



think • teach • transform

# Welcome

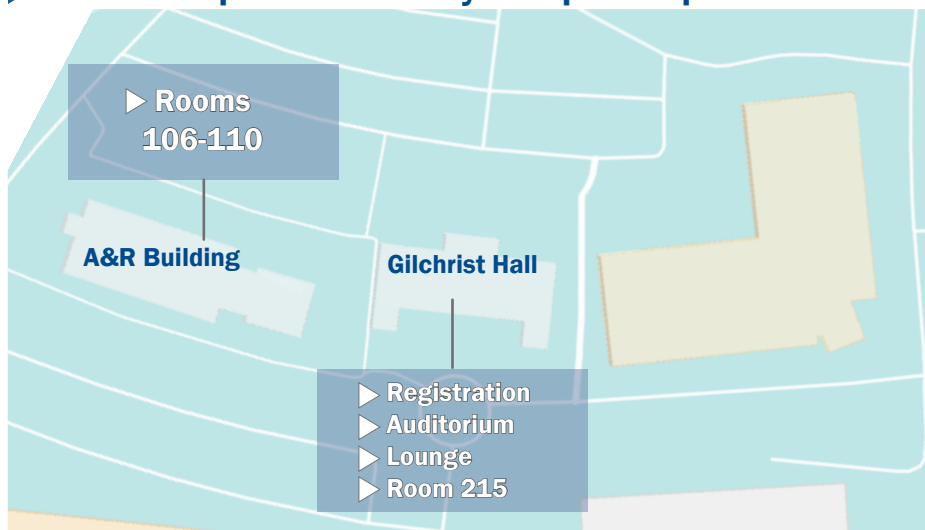


Nothing is more critical to a person's life trajectory than a stable home. Home is an anchor, a secure root that allows us to branch out, create relationships, and pursue our passions. Without this vital foundation, the rest just isn't possible. This is why we are here today. We believe that a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home is a fundamental human right. This belief brought you to the 2017 HOME Conference and inspired our theme this year: The Challenge and Promise of Change. For our vision to become a reality, we must be agents of change powered by fearless ideas. In our increasingly complex world, the steps toward systemic change are rapidly evolving. As providers, we must not only keep up with this fast-paced environment, but learn how to use current circumstances to our advantage to reach our goal of ending homelessness in Montgomery County. By seeking education and understanding of the complexities of homelessness, we are one step closer to the promise of a brighter future where homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring. Thank you for your dedication and partnership as we work together to end homelessness in our community.



Susie Sinclair-Smith  
Executive Director, Montgomery  
County Coalition for the Homeless

## ▶ Johns Hopkins University Campus Map



# Schedule

**8:00 Registration | Gilchrist Hall, Main Lobby**

## ▶ **9:00 Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Susie Sinclair-Smith, Executive Director, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless; Amanda Harris, Department of Health and Human Services, Chief of Services to End and Prevent Homelessness; George Leventhal, Montgomery County Council Member | *Gilchrist Hall, Auditorium*

## ▶ **9:15 Keynote**

Jeff Olivet, CEO, Center for Social Innovation | *Gilchrist Hall, Auditorium*

**10:00 Break**

## ▶ **10:15 Breakout Sessions**



### **Federal Policy Roundtable (by invitation)**

Jeff Olivet, Moderator | *Gilchrist Hall, Room: 215*



### **Don't Be Afraid of Drugs: Understanding the Nitty Gritty of Substance Use**

Lonnie McAdoo | *Gilchrist Hall, Auditorium*



### **Working at the Intersection of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Involvement**

Steven Samra | *A&R Building, Rooms 106-110*

**12:00 Lunch | Gilchrist Hall, Lounge and Rooms 225, 226, 227**

## ▶ **12:45 Keynote: Including Peer Voices in Homeless Services**

Karen Rosenthal, Community Access | *Gilchrist Hall, Auditorium*

## ▶ **1:30 Breakout Sessions**



### **State Policy Roundtable (by invitation)**

Heather Sheridan, Moderator | *Gilchrist Hall, Room: 215*



### **The Relationship Between Trauma and Substance Use**

Katie Volk | *A&R Building, Rooms 106-110*



### **Working with Youth Experiencing Homelessness**

Matthew Aronsen, Karen Kendra Holmes, Lonnie McAdoo | *G.H. Auditorium*

**3:15 Break**

## ▶ **3:30 Closing Plenary & Vision for the Future**

Susie Sinclair-Smith, Jeff Olivet | *Gilchrist Hall, Auditorium*

**4:30 Conference Ends**

# Workshops

## Morning Sessions | 10:15 - 12:00



### **Federal Policy Roundtable (by invitation)**

*Jeff Olivet, Moderator | [Gilchrist Hall, Room: 215](#)*



### **Don't Be Afraid of Drugs: Understanding the Nitty Gritty of Substance Use**

*Lonnie McAdoo | [Gilchrist Hall, Auditorium](#)*

Developing an understanding of different kinds of drugs and how they may be used helps us work with people to lower their risk of overdose and infection. Come to this session to learn, ask questions, and have honest conversations about substance use and recovery.



### **Working at the Intersection of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Involvement**

*Steven Samra | [A&R Building, Rooms 106-110](#)*

What are the particular needs of people who have histories of incarceration? How do we engage them and help them with housing and other needs? During this session, we'll discuss all these things and more!

# Workshops

## Afternoon Sessions | 1:30 - 3:15



### **State Policy Roundtable (by invitation)**

*Heather Sheridan, Moderator | Gilchrist Hall, Room: 215*



### **The Relationship Between Trauma and Substance Use**

*Katie Volk | A&R Building, Rooms 106-110*

Exposure to traumatic stress and substance use often go hand-in-hand. In this session, we'll explore the neurobiology of trauma and substance use, discuss case examples, and apply the principles of trauma-informed care to recovery from substance use disorders.



### **Working with Youth Experiencing Homelessness**

*Matthew Aronsen, Karen Kendra Holmes, Lonnie McAdoo | Gilchrist Hall, Auditorium*

During this panel presentation, we will discuss the experiences of young people who experience homelessness, the ways that different systems can serve them, and how to address the particular needs of LGBTQ young people.

# Speakers

**Priya Arokiaswamy, MSM, MBA** is the inaugural Director of Housing and Recovery Supports at the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration. This is a newly created position that supports the Administration's efforts to consolidate the functions related to housing and homelessness and to integrate, under one Directorate, the oversight of the corresponding services and recovery supports for individuals with either a psychiatric disorder, a substance related disorder, or a co-occurring psychiatric and substance related disorder. Prior to her recent appointment, Ms. Arokiaswamy served as State Project Director of the Maryland Collaboration for Homelessness Enhancement Services (MD CHES) grant funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). MD CHES incorporates a comprehensive, two-tiered approach to homeless outreach and engagement that combines permanent housing with coordinated and integrated evidence-based, person-centered, recovery-oriented services and supports to individuals and Veterans who meet the criteria for chronic homelessness and who have either a substance use disorder, a serious mental illness (SMI), or a co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder. Ms. Arokiaswamy holds a Master's in Management in Healthcare Administration and Master's in Business Administration from the University of Maryland University College (UMUC).

**Matthew Aronson** works with local and national partners to develop coordinated community responses to end youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness in America. He spent over seven years as a subject matter expert in YYA homelessness and coordinated entry processes for the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, crafting federal policy, developing and implementing pilot projects, including the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, and leading various aspects of HUD's Continuum of Care grant program. Matt co-led the development of the Coordinated Entry Notice (CPD-17-01), among other publications, has developed and led numerous direct facilitation engagements, and has presented material on YYA homelessness and coordinated entry at numerous conferences and on nationally-broadcast webinars. Matt has spent most of his career working in direct service to youth as a school teacher, trainer, sports coach, facilitator, and nonprofit director. He is a returned Peace Corps volunteer from Ukraine, earned his MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and his BA in political economy from Williams College.

# Speakers

**Valerie Ashton-Thomas, M.S.,** has 30-plus years of experience in the areas of leadership, training, supervision, program administration for programs serving vulnerable populations (e.g. homeless, neglect & delinquent, Head Start, children with disabilities), early childhood education, family literacy, and parent involvement. She is currently the Coordinator for Homeless Education & Neglect & Delinquent Programs and Title I Specialist at the Maryland State Department of Education. She administers and manages statewide the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program and the Title I, Part D, Prevention and Intervention programs for Children and Youth who are neglect, delinquent or at-risk. She monitors and evaluates programs for compliance with federal and state guidelines and provides leadership and support to local school systems and schools in their design, development and implementation of programs aimed to improve the academic success of children, youth and families. Ms. Ashton-Thomas serves on several advisory boards and committees.

**Peggy Bailey** is Director of the Health Integration Project at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, in which she identifies opportunities to improve health care policy to better link with housing programs, serve those involved in the criminal justice system, improve quality and access to behavioral health services, and incorporate human services needed by vulnerable populations. Peggy's career includes work on federal, state and local policy and service delivery on a wide variety of issue areas, including Medicaid eligibility and benefits for families and people with disabilities, public health innovation, behavioral health service delivery and integration with primary care, youth homelessness policy and service delivery, and child welfare. Prior to joining the Center in January 2016, she was the Director of Health Systems Integration for the Corporation for Supportive Housing. She has also worked for the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, and the City of Rockwall, Texas. Peggy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas at Dallas.



# Speakers

**Stuart Campbell** has close to 30 years of professional and personal experience in the field of economic and social justice, working to improve the lives of vulnerable populations. Stuart's non-profit experience began in 1990 as a lobbyist and advocate for national disability and anti-poverty organizations in Washington, D.C., ultimately serving as Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs from 1998 to 2003. Later in his career, Stuart joined the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, first as a senior policy advisor on homelessness and then as Community Affairs Manager, where he and his team administered over \$220 million in federal and state funds through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), CSBG-ARRA, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), and a state Homelessness Housing and Services Program (HHSP). In recent years, Stuart has served as the Executive Director of Equality NC, based in Raleigh, NC and as a Project Director at the National Alliance to End Homelessness, in Washington, DC. He is current the Director of the Office of Community Services Programs at the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, where he and his team administer federal and state programs that address homelessness, poverty, foreclosure prevention, and financial education throughout the state.

**Christina Dukes, Federal Liaison**, began working in 2003 at the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program. As a program specialist, she trained federal agency, state education department, school district, and service provider personnel about federal laws related to the education and well-being of homeless and other at-risk children and youth. Since 2014, Christina has worked out of Washington, DC, as NCHE's federal liaison, representing NCHE and the EHCY Program in federal interagency policy discussions about preventing and ending youth and family homelessness. Christina received her B.A. in Spanish from Tulane University and her M.A. in Latin American Studies from Vanderbilt University.

**Caroline B. Fernandez, MSW**, is a Public Health Advisor in SAMHSA's Homeless Programs Branch in the Center for Mental Health Services. She serves as the Director of the PATH program. Prior to joining SAMHSA she worked for HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs on the Recovery Act-funded Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, the Emergency Solutions Grants program, and the Continuum of Care program. She also served as Deputy Project Director for the PATH program evaluation from 2006-2009 and has a background in clinical social work and working with homeless people with behavioral health conditions.



# Speakers

**Amanda Harris** currently serves as the Chief of Services to End and Prevent Homelessness for the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. She is an ambitious senior leader who successfully balances business practices with a strong commitment to social justice and equity. Amanda uses a Housing First framework in her tenacious approach to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring for all. Prior to joining Montgomery County, she was the Chief Operating Officer for Pathways to Housing DC and worked as a team to end homelessness for over 600 people. Amanda has also focused on housing policy and advocacy while working with the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Washtenaw Housing Alliance in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan and a Master's in Public Policy and Philosophy from George Washington University.

**Karen Kendra Holmes** is an activist for transgender rights and a Safety Officer with the federal government. She is the recipient of multiple awards for her work. In January 2017, she was selected by LGBTQ Nation as one of the Top 50 Successful Transgender Americans You Need to Know. She has been awarded the "Willis Greene Community Service Award" and the "Unsung Hero Award-Team" by the Corporation for National & Community Service (April 2014) and was selected by the State Guard Association of the United States as Soldier of the Year, chosen from 23,000 soldiers from 24 states. In May of 2015 she was honored in a special edition among 41 other women from around the world in The Platform Magazine, for inspiring females who have made a difference with their platform and inspired others with their positive values towards others. Karen believes wholeheartedly in the importance of and giving back to her community and has volunteered with the Maryland Defense Force, the American Red Cross Disaster Action Team (DAT), and MASS Care for Montgomery County Chapter (sheltering, feeding and related services). She is part of the board for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Prince George's County, MD. Karen's passion for activism has in part been sparked by her journey as a transgender woman.

# Speakers

**George Leventhal** is serving his fourth term as an at-large Democratic member of the Montgomery County Council. He chairs the council's Health and Human Services Committee, which is responsible for programs affecting the sick, the poor, the elderly, the homeless, the disabled, the mentally ill, and abused and abandoned children, as well as libraries and the arts and humanities. He also serves on the Planning, Housing and Economic Development committee which oversees the county's economic development efforts and zoning laws. Councilmember Leventhal has championed access to health care for the uninsured, housing for the homeless, environmental protection, mass transit and measures to improve transparency in county government during his time in office. Prior to his election to the County Council, he served as Chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee and as Legislative Director to U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD). He is a PhD candidate at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy with the dissertation topic, "The Stubborn Persistence of Homelessness." He has lived in Montgomery County for more than forty years and owns a home in Takoma Park with his wife Soraia Leventhal and their two sons, Daniel and Chico, both products of Montgomery County Public Schools.

**Anthony Love** serves as the Director of Community Engagement for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Healthcare Administration, Homeless Programs. In this role, he develops and implements strategies to improve VA's engagement with federal, state and local agencies, communities and other interested stakeholders to ensure every resource is available to Veterans needing to exit homelessness. He also provides timely and insightful advice to the Director of VHA Homeless Programs on operational and strategic opportunities, as well as identifies and recommends best practices related to homeless solutions, community, state and local government engagement as well as facilitates alignment of VHA Operations and Research functions. Anthony has over 20 years of experience in homelessness, Veterans and poverty issues. From 2010-2012, Anthony served as Deputy Director for at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), where he was responsible for coordinating the state and local work of the Council and serve as the lead on Veterans issues for the Council. Anthony earned a Master's of Arts Degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

# Speakers

**Lonnie McAdoo** has more than 25 years of local and national experience as a harm reduction provider and seasoned trainer. He currently works for the Center for Social Innovation (C4) as a lead trainer for Praxis, through which he trains Massachusetts addiction providers in best practices related to opioid overdose prevention, harm reduction, HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). He has run programs at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, AIDS Action Committee, and Dimock Community Health Center. He helped design, implement and manage an intensive intervention for intravenous drug users out of a needle exchange program. He has developed curricula and facilitated countless trainings and workshops on outreach to/working with marginalized populations, developing peer education programs, applying Harm Reduction principles in various settings. He has worked to create welcoming spaces for youth and people who identify as LGBTQ. Lonnie has a B.F.A. from Boston University's School of Fine Arts.

**Jeff Olivet** is the President/CEO of the Boston-based Center for Social Innovation. For more than two decades, Jeff has been a national leader on homelessness, poverty, affordable housing, behavioral health, public health, and HIV. During his health and human services career, he has been a street outreach worker, case manager, housing director, coalition builder, writer, teacher, and activist. His work with hundreds of organizations across the United States and internationally has helped to improve strategic planning, organizational management, and implementation of evidence-based practices. Jeff is recognized as an expert in bringing innovative technologies and solutions to complex social problems.

**CAPT Jaqueline Rodrigue** has more than 27 years of experience in workforce diversity, cultural competency, quality improvement, and behavioral health. In 2016, CAPT Rodrigue joined the Division of Health Careers and Financial Support in the Bureau of Health Workforce as the Deputy Director and was promoted to Director in December 2016. In this capacity, she provides advice to the Associate Administrator of the Bureau of Health Workforce on developments in health professions and opportunities to leverage HHS/HRSA strategic priorities and the broader health workforce agenda nationally. CAPT Rodrigue provides strategic direction and management oversight to 14 workforce diversity programs with an operating budget of \$203M. Prior to joining the Bureau of Health Workforce, CAPT Rodrigue was a Sr. Program Management Officer and Lead with the Office of Quality Improvement in the Bureau of Primary Health Care. In this capacity, she managed the National Training and Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreements, National Advisory Council on Migrant Health, and other special initiatives. Prior to that CAPT Rodrigue was the Deputy Director for the Office of Minority Health at HHS. She provided guidance and leadership on the White House Initiatives on Minority-Serving Institutions, the enhanced National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care, the National Partnership for Action (NPA) to End Health Disparities, and co-chaired the Federal Interagency Health Equity Team.

# Speakers

**Karen Rosenthal** is the Director of Training at Community Access, where she has worked for over 20 years in direct service, supervisory and administrative positions. In her current role, she has helped lead the development of an employee training curriculum that provides the awareness and skills necessary to avoid recreating the oppression and demoralization so common in the mental health system. She also provides support and leadership for various QI initiatives at the agency, including peer-informed practice and harm reduction. Karen has been a Certified Auricular Detoxification Specialist since 2002, holds a provisional NYS Peer Specialist Certification and is trained as a palliative care doula. She is a member of the Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA), a community in NYC for those who envision a transformation of our current mental health practices and paradigm. Karen has lived experience with trauma concerns and within the mental health system; she infuses this expertise into her work.

**Steven Samra, M.P.A.** is a senior project director at the Center for Social Innovation. After entering recovery in 1999 from homelessness, complex trauma, substance use, criminal justice involvement, and mental health challenges, Steven has dedicated his career to assisting and advocating for marginalized, disenfranchised populations. He spent seven years delivering homeless services in Nashville, Tennessee and is currently a nationally recognized trainer of general street outreach and engagement. He also specializes in Veteran and rural outreach, as well as housing-focused outreach. He has conducted trainings and presentations on motivational interviewing, self-care and wellness, advocacy, infrastructure development and sustainability, harm reduction, medication assisted treatment, and trauma-informed care. Steven is the task lead for the SAMHSA Consumer Advisory Network (CAN) and during the previous five years has supported SAMHSA in elevating the CAN to national prominence and supporting CAN members in developing and executing trainings and conference presentations for presentations and caucus sessions at the annual Alternatives Conferences. He serves as Deputy Director on SAMHSA's Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) and has served in leadership capacities for SAMHSA on HHRN (where he has also been a frequent contributor to the Homelessness Resource Center), Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), and Services in Supportive Housing (SSH) consumer involvement roles. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee, where he co-founded The Contributor, a street newspaper managed and sold by persons experiencing homelessness, and serves as an appointed Commissioner on the Nashville Metropolitan Homelessness Commission. Steven also serves as the "formerly homeless" advocate on the CABHI Statewide Homelessness Task Force in Tennessee.

# Speakers

**Heather Sheridan** is the Associate Director of Homelessness Initiatives with Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). She oversees the work of Maryland's Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) and manages DHCD's homeless services grant portfolio, awarded to hundreds of providers throughout the state. She holds a Masters Degree in Urban Policy Analysis and Management with a focus in Community Development and Homelessness, from the New School in New York City. She has extensive experience developing, managing and evaluating clinically supportive residential and transitional housing programs as well as rental subsidy programs for formerly homeless and low-income residents. Before returning to Maryland to work for State Government, she worked for Breaking Ground (formally known as Common Ground) managing a supportive housing site for 415 formally homeless and low-income tenants in Manhattan, as well as an innovative emergency shelter/safe haven program for over 120 chronically homeless individuals. Additionally, she has worked in New Orleans as a consultant to the Initiative for Regional and Community Transformation in New Orleans, focusing on workforce development and affordable housing options following Hurricane Katrina.

**Susie Sinclair-Smith, JD MPA** is Executive Director of Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH), and President of its affiliate Coalition Homes (CH). MCCH and CH provide solutions to end homelessness in MC through serving 1,700 clients annually in permanent supportive housing, Safe Havens and emergency shelter programs; and advocating for the creation of a comprehensive system to ensure that the experience of homelessness is rare, brief and nonrecurring. Susie has 30 years of experience in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors focusing on ending homelessness and increasing the supply of affordable housing. She was founding executive director of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, served with the local D.C. and National Policy offices at Local Initiatives Support Corporation, and was Director of Leadership and Policy Development at the Fannie Mae Foundation. She oversaw the William S. Abell Foundation's Strategic Initiative to End Chronic Homelessness in Washington DC, and worked in the capacity of expert consultant with the US Department for Health and Human Services for the development of the 2010 Opening Doors federal strategic plan to end and prevent homelessness. She serves as a Commissioner of the MC Interagency Commission on Homelessness and as Board Vice President of Nonprofit Montgomery. She holds a MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a J.D. from Antioch School of Law.

# Speakers

**Norm Suchar** serves as Director of HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, which supports the nationwide commitment to ending homelessness. He manages a \$2 billion portfolio of competitive and formula programs that provide needed shelter and housing assistance for hundreds of thousands of children, youth, and adults each year. He previously directed the National Alliance to End Homelessness's Center for Capacity Building, which helped communities implement system-wide strategies that prevent and end homelessness. He also served for three years in HUD's Budget Office and two years in the State of Utah's child welfare system.

**Katie Volk, MA** is Senior Project Director, Center for Social Innovation (C4), and has over 17 years of experience working on poverty and related. She has worked with hundreds of community organizations to provide training and technical assistance in the United States and Australia. Katie understands the multidimensional needs of vulnerable children and families, the needs of the paraprofessionals who serve them, and the systems and contexts in which they live and work. She is the Co-Principal Investigator on a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NIHCD), through which C4 is developing an ecological, neurodevelopmental, psychometrically validated assessment tool for use with children in low-resource settings. She also oversees C4's pregnancy and recovery initiatives, creating curricula and health communication products targeted toward women who are pregnant and interested in recovery. She is the former Managing Director of t3 (think. teach. transform.), C4's training division. Katie has a joint Master of Arts from Tufts University in Child Development and Urban Policy and an undergraduate degree from the College of the Holy Cross.

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# Who We are

## Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

### Our Vision

To end homelessness in Montgomery County by building a community where everyone has a safe, stable and affordable place to call home.

### Our Mission

MCCH provides solutions to ensure that homelessness in Montgomery County is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

To learn more, visit [www.mcch.net](http://www.mcch.net).

## t3 (think. teach. transform.)

t3 is an innovative training institute and learning platform committed to improving the knowledge and skills of people working in human services.

To learn more, visit [www.thinkt3.com](http://www.thinkt3.com).

