

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES' STATEMENT

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic along with the anti-racism movement have created a trying time for our world, our nation, and our community. The effects of these crises on mental health have been immediate and are likely to continue, especially for African Americans, who already have been unequally affected by the pandemic and gaps in healthcare.

Community Support Services is an organization that is dedicated to helping people with severe and persistent mental illness. We believe it is important to voice our support for all who need our help right now. Many of those we represent fear their concerns have not been heard due to a lack of cultural understanding and effective communication in care. We understand that we also must fight intolerance and stigma, build trust, and further strengthen our commitment to inclusion and diversity.

All CSS clients should call us at 330-996-9141, ext. 306, if they feel they are not receiving the fair treatment they should – from the community, from police, from some at CSS, or from anyone. We want to help.

We remain committed to being part of the solution. We are a leader in Crisis Intervention Training for police in our community, as well as Mental Health Court programs that provide alternatives to criminal penalties. We will continue to seek other ways we can help those challenged by unequal treatment – in healthcare and other areas.

As always, we embrace diversity and support all individuals with the dignity and respect they deserve.