

**CORA SERVICES ACQUIRES GOOD SHEPHERD MEDIATION PROGRAM**

***One of Philadelphia’s most comprehensive Family Resource Centers expands to include mediation services for children, families and communities; creates new director of equity and inclusion position.***

**PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 18, 2020 —** [CORA Services, Inc.](https://www.coraservices.org/) (CORA) recently announced their acquisition of [Good Shepherd Mediation Program](https://www.phillymediators.org/) (GSMP) which will be finalized as soon as courts reopen. Both nonprofits have excellent reputations and longstanding community partnerships. GSMP will be renamed CORA Good Shepherd Mediation Services once the acquisition is official. The acquisition also coincides with CORA’s hiring of Director of Equity and Inclusion Nyamal “Mal” Tutdeal.

Established in 1971, CORA soon enters its fiftieth year as a leading Philadelphia Family Resource Center, assisting children, youth and families facing obstacles that impede their development and productivity, in clinical settings, schools, neighborhoods and homes. Services range from school-based academic support and counseling to occupational, physical and speech therapy. Case management, mental and behavioral health evaluations, intervention and treatment are also among CORA’s many offerings.

Philadelphia’s only community mediation center since 1984, GSMP will continue to provide strong and steady mediation services for existing clients through partnerships with City departments and agencies, such as Philadelphia Family Court, the Department of Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the School District of Philadelphia and the Office of the District Attorney. A well-known advocate within the legal community, GSMP will maintain its training programs for mediators, attorneys, youth and adults in mediation, conflict resolution and restorative justice, including the virtual landlord tenant mediation program in the wake of evictions and housing insecurity during COVID-19.

Previously, CORA did not offer any mediation services and this addition significantly enhances CORA’s ability to contribute to the Philadelphia community. Through this arrangement, CORA can complement and grow its highly-rated family counseling and parenting supports by extending mediation services to the thousands of clients and partner organizations served each year.

“Bringing these two trusted organizations together not only makes both CORA and GSMP stronger but also improves the quality of life of the people in the communities we serve,” said AnnMarie Schultz, chief executive officer of CORA Services. “This can be inspiration for other nonprofits that could benefit from uniting, since it’s possible to come together quickly and easily to contribute to solutions at a larger scale.”

To further strengthen the acquisition, CORA has hired Director of Equity and Inclusion Nyamal “Mal” Tutdeal – a newly created position. Tutdeal, currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis & Resolution, is a certified mediator and teacher of mediation and conflict coaching and previously served as the policy director for a Pennsylvania nonprofit working with immigrants and refugee issues. As director of equity and inclusion, Tutdeal will manage GSMP operations through this transition and has already begun working with GSMP Program Administrator Sue Wasserkrug on growing the West Philadelphia Community Dialogue Project (WPCDP) that aims to support existing efforts in the West Philadelphia Promise Zone and build more capacity to engage in dialogue and conflict resolution.

CORA and GSMP were both already affiliated with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, an international organization that serves society’s most at-risk individuals. With aligning core values, CORA and GSMP will bring the same emphasis on care, compassion, hope and empowerment to those they serve. The collaboration also comes at a time when uniting two nonprofits with similar missions and core values makes more sense than ever, as the sector navigates today’s crises in new ways. This includes providing services with a focus on mental health and trauma – needs that will only become more acute as COVID-19 continues.

Throughout the remainder of 2020, GSMP will work with CORA to carry out their transition into CORA Good Shepherd Mediation Services, providing parent/youth mediation, family and marriage counseling, divorce and custody mediation, among other services.

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**About CORA Services, Inc.**

With the support of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and a small state grant, Sister Charity Kohl established CORA Services in 1971 as a small family counseling agency to help children and families overcome adversities in their school, home and neighborhood. A private, not-for-profit service organization headquartered in the Fox Chase section of Northeast Philadelphia, CORA provides an array of comprehensive professional services focused on prevention, intervention, remediation and referral assistance. Sister Charity cared deeply about helping her community, and her vision to help “at-risk” children has grown into a thriving agency employing 400+ staff and serving more than 20,000 children and families annually. At CORA, *Children are the Heart of the Matter*. To learn more, visit [coraservices.org](http://coraservices.org), call 215-342-7660 or email caring@coraservices.org.

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