

# Somerset County Department of Human Services

## Making Vibrant Connections with our Residents

The mission of the Somerset County Department of Human Services is to improve the life of all county residents by promoting the economic, social, emotional, physical and mental well-being and safety of residents and communities.

Michael J. Frost, LCSW, ACSW- Director of Human Services  
Julie DeSimone, LSW- Assistant to the Director

### ***Thoughts From the Director : Context Is Everything***

I am reminded, periodically, of the ways in which context matters with respect to the facts (and assumptions) that we extract from a given piece of reality. It is easy, given our predilection as humans for predictability and order, to forget that if one piece of the picture is unknown (or obscured) the entire image may take on drastically different meaning when fully revealed.

I was reminded of this the other day when chatting with my daughter Samantha who has been teaching 3rd grade this year in East Brunswick. Sam, who prides herself on early identification of potential learning issues, often with a neurologic underpinning, was concerned about a particular student who often repeatedly tipped her head to the side while addressing her in class. She was considering making a referral to the Child Study Team for further evaluation of a potential behavioral tic. After further exploration and discussion with her colleagues she learned that this "head deflection" was actually a culturally driven sign of respect and had nothing whatsoever to do with her initial hypothesis.

In the world of human services we run into such "incomplete pictures" all the time. Sometimes it is about the context in which homelessness occurs, or the reaction to domestic violence, or to

multi-generational "dysfunctional" behaviors that were in some way initially adaptive survival mechanisms. As a family therapist it often became clear to me that a child's symptom picture (the reason for the initial referral) was a response to hidden patterns in the functioning of the family. As my daughter learned, culturally embedded behaviors misunderstood by the "host" culture can often lead us down a path of pathologizing perfectly healthy people.

As we have increasingly learned in the last twenty years or so, the "nature/nurture" balance has shifted to be much more inclusive of the nature piece. Genetics matter tremendously, at least in creating a predisposition or vulnerability, which may or may not become a problem depending on the environmental context in which they exist.

Our job? Educate ourselves – read voluminously, research, get to know the folks we try to help in ways that complete the picture. As psychologist Abe Maslow once said: "If you only have a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail." Expand your tool kit, every chance you get.



#### 2016 Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Patricia L. Walsh, Director • Peter S. Palmer, Deputy Director  
Patrick Scaglione • Mark Caliguire • Brian D. Levine

Questions or comments?

Email Julie at  
desimone@co.somerset.nj.us or  
call 908-704-6335



## Community Partner Highlight: Community Hope

Community Hope has been responding to the needs of individuals and families in our communities impacted by mental illness for three decades. In 2004, they opened the first major transitional housing facility in Somerset County to help veterans transition out of homelessness and have since expanded to serve thousands of veteran households, making Community Hope the leading charity in NJ serving veterans and veteran families facing homelessness.

Until the Hope for Veterans® Program, there was no place in northern/central NJ where homeless veterans could safely put their lives back together. The transitional housing program on the Lyons VA Campus gives veterans shelter and the crucial supportive services they need for long term success, from basic necessities and medical care, to job training and assistance obtaining VA benefits. The program has been replicated and nationally recognized.

The Valley Brook Village for Veterans permanent housing has the vital distinction that housing is not time-limited and veterans are assured a place to call home and the access the support services they need in Somerset County. Permanent housing creates a stable environment for formerly homeless veterans and is the foundation to ensure that other supportive services will take hold. There is also an economic benefit: The average cost of housing a homeless veterans is far lower than that of repeated emergency room visits, criminal justice proceedings and other more expensive interventions.

Building on the success of the transitional and permanent housing programs, Community Hope is especially proud of their Support Services for Veteran Families program which is aimed at homeless prevention and the immediate housing stability of veterans and their families. Offering a full range of services, they partner with local communities, sending mobile Case Management teams into the field to identify veterans who need help. They provide wrap-around support services such as assistance with medical care, mental health or substance abuse treatment, child care, job training, and other services to strengthen the family and help them get back on their feet.

As a result of the Hope for Veterans® Programs, more than 1,500 former servicemen and women in Somerset County and throughout northern New Jersey are attaining housing stability, becoming financially independent, reuniting with families, increasing their access to services and benefits and re-integrating successfully into the community.

To make a referral to our transitional housing program, please contact our Veterans Intake Coordinator at 908-647-5717 ext. 320. To make a referral to our SSVF program, please call our 24-hour hotline at 855-483-8466.

## Committee Corner: Continuum of Care

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Committee is a federally-mandated planning body that is comprised of state and local government representatives, non-profit agency representatives, and other community members. Created in response to a directive from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, this committee's responsibilities are tasks that are required in order for County housing providers to submit an application for funding from HUD's Continuum of Care grant. In addition, the Committee and its members are concerned with the safety net that is in place for County residents and how to make that system more useful and effective to people who are coping with poverty and homelessness. Membership on the committee is open to County residents that would like to be part of this effort. Here in Somerset County, the CoC is composed of members at-large, an Executive Committee that sets policy and goals for the full committee and a number of sub-committees that are responsible for special initiatives in response to needs that are identified by the Committee.

The Committee's primary responsibilities are to conduct an annual count of the homeless and use that data to set policy and create programs, to review and recommend applications that will be included in the County's Continuum of Care grant, and to monitor housing and service projects have received Continuum of Care funding from HUD. In addition, the Committee aims to host at least two community events year and to provide training for staff that work directly with clients.

With a newly-elected Chair and Vice-Chair, the Committee's goals for 2016 are to recruit more members to the Executive Committee, to host at least two Mini-Courses for staff that work directly with clients, to recruit consumers to serve on the Committee and to engage staff from the Law Enforcement and Education professions. The Committee meets on the second Thursday of every odd month at 10 am in Conference Room 3 of the 27 Warren Street building. Meetings usually feature a guest speaker, an update on homelessness and the work of the subcommittees, and agency announcements. Most meetings last for about an hour; I hope that you will consider attending. If you are not able to attend but would like more information, please contact Kim Cowart at [cowart@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:cowart@co.somerset.nj.us) or visit the following link : <http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-services/community-development/continuum-of-care>.

## Carrier Clinic hosts Representative Leonard Lance in support of Mental Health Bill

Belle Mead, NJ – Representative Leonard Lance (NJ-07) was at Carrier Clinic recently to showcase a bill that would significantly boost funding to expand and strengthen community mental health and behavioral health services across the country. The Expand Excellence in Mental Health Act aims to fund mental health planning grants in two dozen states, including New Jersey, through an initiative based on the 2014 Excellence in Mental Health Act signed into law by President Obama in 2014. Representative Doris Matsui (CA-06) co-authored both bills.

Congressman Lance was joined by Debra Wentz, president of NJAMHAA, Michael Frost, Somerset County Director of Human Services, and members of Carrier’s executive team, including CEO and President, Donald J. Parker.

“This measure is directly tackling one of the most significant mental health challenges – access. The Expand Excellence in Mental Health Act will enable more states to experiment with the tools and practices to fix our Nation’s broken mental health care system. The Excellence in Mental Health Act is the most significant work Congress has done on mental health care,” said Congressman Lance, a member of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee.

Debra L. Wentz, Ph.D., President and CEO of the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. (NJAMHAA) expressed her strong support for the expansion of the Excellence in Mental Health Act demonstration program to 24 states. “I applaud the leadership of Representatives Lance and Matsui in introducing the Expand Excellence in Mental Health Act. It is imperative to ensure that communities across the nation have the clinical and fiscal means to serve every child and adult in need of mental health and/or substance use treatment. Thank you to Representative Lance for always championing the goals of the vulnerable among us.”

Michael Frost, Somerset County Director of Human Services added, “As a social worker –turned– administrator, I appreciate all of the hard work that is being done to generate additional funding, services and access to those suffering from mental health and addiction illnesses. There can never be enough to meet the growing demands for these services.



Parker, Wentz, Lance, Frost

## Because We CARE (Co-occurring & Relationship Empowerment)

Many of you may be familiar with the former "DRIOS" at Richard Hall CMHC. Not only has our name changed to CARE, but we have been working hard to improve our services to increase the chances of wellness and recovery in the people that we serve.

Within the CARE department, we offer a wide range of supportive services to persons who struggle with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Persons who live with co-occurring disorders have a diagnosed mental health problem such as depression, anxiety, or schizophrenia and also a problem with drug or alcohol use. Historically, mental health and substance use treatment used to be done independently of one another, but now it is well documented that these problems can be addressed effectively at the same time.

The CARE treatment team recognizes this new paradigm and works with clients through the use of shared decision making to empower and promote change in client's lives. CARE offers a wide variety of client-centered treatment services including an intensive outpatient program (CARE IOP) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. In this program, we use a trauma-informed approach to treatment as well as a gender based protocol. In the near future, we will be starting an evening CARE IOP!

We also offer co-occurring outpatient services which include individual therapy and group based treatment. Our individual counseling services are wellness based and we strive to help individuals build on their current strengths. EMDR (Eye Movement, Desensitization and Reprocessing) therapy is offered to eligible, interested individuals to address both big "T" and little "t" trauma experiences. Some of the current group offerings include Relapse Prevention which is a group for persons who have either completed the CARE IOP or have been utilizing safe, positive coping skills to maintain sobriety and remain mentally healthy. Another group offered is called Life is More Than Labels, which is a group specifically for persons that are of a gender and/or sexual minority. In an effort to continue growing our program and promote wellness, group offerings change to suit the needs of the clients.

In addition, the CARE program as a whole is currently involved in a Co-occurring Learning Community designed to examine our current services and work toward expanding and improving the services that we offer. We are currently working on incorporating effective screening tools as well as staged-base treatment to help clients progress toward achieving their personal goals for recovery. We are open to all suggestions and would love to hear about anyone's experiences with our department that could help us to improve our services. Please feel free to contact the Clinical Supervisor of CARE, Heather Rhodes, MA, LPC, LCADC, ACS, CCS with any comments or suggestions at 908-253-3141 or Rhodes@co.somerset.nj.us

## Autism Awareness Month: Putting a Human Face on the Statistics for Autism

April is Autism Awareness Month and the statistics --- 1 in 68 identified nationally and 1 in 46 in New Jersey (as of 2015) --- are dramatic. No wonder that the former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, has described autism as a "public health challenge."

Though this annual awareness month is an opportunity to stress the urgent need for ongoing research and funding, there is a danger that the statistics may distract us from the individual human stories they represent. While advocacy groups, legislators, and task forces negotiate goals and strategies, individuals and families affected by autism face daily challenges that are all-consuming and personal.

Families are keenly aware that they depend on a "village" of educators, caregivers, case managers, physicians, and other families in raising their children with special needs. Behavioral issues in particular may make it difficult to recognize that like all children, the child with autism is a work in progress. Thankfully many professional and lay people have the wisdom, grace and insight to see beyond the disability to the individual, unique person.

Autism Awareness Month offers an opportunity to educate ourselves on the subject through readily available resources. The NJ Department of Human Services includes an Office on Autism that provides services through the Divisions of Developmental Disabilities and Disability Services. A copy of the publication, *Autism: Navigating Through the Maze*, can be downloaded from their NJHS/DDD website. In addition, organizations such as Autism New Jersey ([www.autismnj.org](http://www.autismnj.org)) and Autism Speaks ([www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)) provide helpful materials on the subject. The County Office on Aging and Disability Services will be making some of these materials available throughout April on a display table in the County Administration Building.

JOIN US! On Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, all county employees and the public at large are invited to a symbolic event to raise awareness of the many families in our county caring for individuals on the Autism Spectrum. *Bubbles for Autism*, sponsored by our County Office on Aging and Disability Services, is an event first conceived by a New Jersey organization more than twelve years ago. Since then, it has become an annual April event in many communities in the US and beyond. Bubbles are symbols of joy, hope and laughter that bring people together. Join us at 12 noon in front of the Somerville Court House on Main Street to release bubbles of support and acceptance for those affected by Autism. For more information contact Paulann Pierson, Disability Services Coordinator, at 908-704-6334.

## Personal Assistance Services Program

The Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP) is a State funded program that is administered through the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services. PASP provides routine, non-medical assistance to adults with disabilities, ages 18-70, who are employed, attending school or involved in community volunteer work.

PASP authorizes a monthly dollar allocation that can be used for such tasks as: light housekeeping, bathing, dressing, preparing meals, shopping, driving or using public transportation. The total number of hours a person can receive is up to 40 hours and is based on an assessment of the individual's need. The individual is able to use these funds to purchase services via an agency or directly hire a friend or family member. The goal is to help persons with physical disabilities maintain their highest level of independence.

In order to be eligible for the PASP program you must be, a New Jersey resident, physically disabled, between the ages of 18 & 70, living in the community, capable of directing and supervising their own services, and employed, in school or actively volunteering in the community.

Any interested applicant should contact PASP Consultant Amy Cameron at 908-541-5747.

## Freeholders Proclaim March is Social Work Month

Director of Human Services, Michael Frost and his assistant, Julie DeSimone accepted the Proclamation naming March as Social Work Month from Freeholder Director Walsh at the March 8th Freeholder Meeting. The Proclamation recognized that the social work profession is diverse and reaching in its specializations, including, but not limited to, children and family, school, gerontology, mental health, substance use, psychiatric, military and veterans, disability, and domestic violence; and that the County's commitment to the well-being of all residents and communities is evident in the many services provided across County departments. Specifically, the Human Services Department strives to improve the lives of all county residents through an array of services. For the Department of Human Services this was important recognition for all of the hard work our staff does.



## Freeholders Proclaim April is Alcohol and Drug Awareness Month

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are a major threat to the health of our nation's youth and our nation's families. There are more deaths, illnesses and disabilities from substance abuse than any other preventable health condition. The impact of substance use disorders cost the nation over \$700 billion in increased healthcare costs, crime and lost productivity annually. Approximately one in four deaths each year in the United States is attributable to alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug abuse.

In an effort to educate the public Somerset County Department of Human Services, the County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Coordinator and the Substance Use Disorder Providers Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drugs (PACADA) will have information tables at the 20 Grove Street and 27 Warren St. building lobbies for the month of April.

Carrier Clinic will be providing Free Alcohol Screening day on April 21, 2016 and hosting the Blake Recovery Center Alumni meeting (Speaker Jam) on April 28, 2016. The Somerset County Safe Communities Coalition, along with Raritan Valley Community College will be hosting an "In a Split Second" Lunch and Learn on April 12, 2016 about drunk/drugged driving.

Hillsborough High School along with the Somerset County Safe Communities Coalition, will be hosting "Every 15 Minutes" on April 14 and April 16, 2016 to increase the school and community's knowledge about the impact of underage drunk driving.

Bernard's Township Municipal Alliance will be implementing a "Sticker Shock" campaign with the Hillsborough Township Police and local liquor retailers to increase knowledge about serving alcohol to persons underage.

If you have questions or require assistance with yours or a family member's substance use disorder, you can speak confidentially with the SC A & D Coordinator by calling 908-704-6309.

## Us vs. Them, Us and Them...How About We

William Semon, MA, LPC, Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services Director

One in four, or approximately 80 Million, American adults have been diagnosed with a mental illness. Unfortunately even with 25% of the population dealing with mental health difficulties, there is still stigma and practices that dehumanize these individuals. It might be surprising that even trained professionals engage in these dehumanizing behaviors and thoughts. Professionals often project an "Us vs. Them" approach.

It is difficult for individuals that are experiencing mental health issues to seek out help; not because the help is not available but due to the stigma and embarrassment that is connected with the views of mental health. These views are reinforced by media coverage of violent actions carried out by individuals that have a mental health diagnosis, neighbors and communities engaging in, "not in my backyard," movements, when treatment facilities might be opened in their town, or fear that they might lose respect in the community and be labeled as "crazy." Unfortunately these are all very real possibilities that lead to individuals not seeking out support.

Many different health issues have a positive face to represent them; Diabetes had BB King, ALS has Lou Gehrig, and Parkinson's has Michael J. Fox, these are individuals that are well respected and admired for their talents and advocacy. Mental Health advocacy has tried to do the same by having people like Mariel Hemingway, Robert De Niro and Terry Bradshaw, these individuals and others have brought more awareness to mental health, they are fighting an uphill battle against the media and societies portrayal of mental health.

The media tends to cover and exploit the negative aspects of mental health. How many times has the media covered celebrity's personal struggles with mental health as entertainment? How many times has the media reported on violent acts being carried out by individuals that are mentally ill? This is almost a monthly occurrence. Now think, when was the last time stories were covered about an individual that has had mental health difficulties starting a non-profit to help others? Or individuals that have had mental health difficulties advocating for policy reforms?

The former scenarios are what are observed and understood by our population. That if someone seeks help for mental health they will be viewed in a negative way, and be labeled. Sadly this is the truth. When people seek out help for mental health difficulties they interact with professionals that ask standardized questions, they meet with a doctor who prescribes a medication after only listening to symptoms, and they leave with a label (diagnosis) often without an explanation as to what the diagnosis means. This unfortunately is how the mental health and health care system is structured.

I have visited many facilities, hospitals, treatment centers, and offices, over the years and have heard conversations between professionals that are upsetting, "We put them in hospital gowns so we can tell the difference between us and them," "that person is just a drunk, they don't really need help," "why don't we just keep them medicated, it would make things so much easier," "they are asking to speak to a supervisor, it's not like that will do them any good, I mean everyone knows they are crazy." Imagine if this was said about you or a loved one, what would be your reaction? Anger? Anxiety? Hopelessness? Maybe all of it.

Individuals seeking support for mental health difficulties should be treated with respect. That individual has made the decision to seek out support, a decision that is not always easy. These individuals look to the professionals for validation and an explanation. It is unjust for these individuals not to be heard, not to have things explained to them. There have been members in our community, successful, caring, well respected members of the community that had difficulties seeking out support and have made attempts to end their own lives, some have been successful. It is not only 25% of the population dealing with mental health difficulties; it is 100% of the population is dealing with mental health difficulties, both directly and by proxy.

There is no Us and Them, there is only We. The individual that is seeking support is someone beyond a diagnosis. They could be a neighbor, parent, spouse, sibling, first responder, lawyer, doctor, student, engineer, and so many other things but most importantly they are a person, a person who is seeking out support. As professionals it is our ethical duty and duty to our fellow person to welcome those who seek out support and make them feel like they've made the right decision.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration



In 2007, the 110<sup>th</sup> congress incorporated language in H.R. 4986 authorizing the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War. On March 29, 2016 the Department of Veterans Affairs' Newark Regional Office hosted an event for Vietnam Veterans and their Dependents at the NJ Vietnam Museum and Education Center in Holmdel, NJ as part of the VA's Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

The VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. VA does this because of the unique circumstances of their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a Veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded.

The following diseases and conditions are considered to be part of this program:

**Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange and Other Herbicides:** A Veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations.

The VA presumes the following diseases to be service-connected for such exposed Veterans:

- AL amyloidosis,
- Chloracne or other acneform disease similar to chloracne,
- Chronic B-cell leukemias (including, but not limited to, hairy-cell leukemia and chronic lymphocytic leukemia)
- Diabetes mellitus (Type 2),
- Hodgkin's disease,
- Ischemic heart disease.
- Multiple myeloma,
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma,
- Parkinson's disease,
- Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda,
- Prostate cancer,
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea),
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)

Benefits are available for registry exams, health care at Lyons VA Health Care, and East Orange facilities. Disability Compensation and compensation claims are also available to qualifying veterans at Veterans' Services Offices within the state.

***The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration recognizes and thanks Vietnam Veterans for their service and sacrifices.***

For more information contact:  
Somerset County Office of Veterans Service  
27 Warren Street, Somerville, NJ  
908-704-6329

## Human Services Staff Participates in Lead New Jersey

One Stop Direct Services Coordinator Christopher Peake is one of forty eight fellows that comprise Lead New Jersey's Class of 2016. With seminars that began in January, Lead New Jersey offers the opportunity for professionals from around the state to probes today's problems and tomorrow's prospects with current leaders and allows participants to their sharpen knowledge and responses to issues and challenges faced at the both the state and local level. The seminars, which began in January, combine field visits, case studies, debates, and simulations with dialogues and panel discussions. The curriculum includes topics in a number of subject areas including education, diversity, economic development and enterprise, criminal justice and corrections, environmental policy, energy and health. The Class of 2016 will graduate in December after completing a Leadership in Action project. We look forward to Chris sharing all that he learns over the next year with us so that we can continue strengthen our work through the provision of meaningful services that support and assist those whom we serve.



## Staff Receives Training on Working with Gang Members

On Wednesday, March 16, 2016, Juvenile Institutional Services hosted a viewing of the webinar entitled "Street Outreach and Law Enforcement Collaboration: Prioritizing Safety When Working with Gang Members." The webinar, provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), discussed the importance of building collaborative relationships and communication protocols among outreach staff, police, schools, and justice systems to develop crisis response and safety plans, including plans to address client, outreach worker and public safety violent retaliatory situations. Following the webinar, participants from law enforcement, probation, state and community partners along with human services staff had an in depth discussion about the challenges faced on the local level, which resulted in an open dialogue and the commitment of all to work together to address concerns as they arise.



## Job Opportunities in County Human Services

**Case Manager:** Position is responsible for assisting the homeless mentally ill client toward acceptance of mental health and other critical services and to assist in housing stabilization in the community. Position writes and maintains the treatment plan, monitors the client's progress communicating with numerous in-house and outside providers as the client is linked to services. Position actively engages clients through outreach strategies with attention to rapport, boundaries and safety. Position participates in training and activities, including but not limited to in-house training and statewide initiatives, for professional growth and quality service provision to consumers.

**Crisis Counselor I** Position responsible for screening clients for psychiatric hospitalization both voluntary and involuntary. Position responsible for answering the crisis hotline and performs mobile outreach in the community; County Jail; nursing facilities and other agencies; provides coverage on weekends and holidays. Position responsible for completing all paperwork for each client screened. Position participates in all team meetings.

**Licensed Mental Health Practitioner** Provides individual, family, group psychotherapy and case management as appropriate to primarily Somerset County residents in order to help them clarify and resolve problems affecting their mental health. May hold some limited coordinating responsibility in a focused clinical area (e.g. domestic violence, sex abuse treatment). Position documents clinical activity per agency policy. Position contributes to agency performance improvement efforts to assure ethical and effective treatment in accordance with state regulations and accrediting body standards. Position participates in supervision to optimize clinical effectiveness and productivity, and confers with other internal and external providers to assure coordination of care. Examples of external providers include, but are not limited to: schools, other agencies, courts, probation, medical personnel, inpatient programs, DCP&P, etc. Engages in continuing education to maintain and develop clinical skills, meet agency competency standards, and satisfy requirements for ongoing licensure (e.g. LCSW, LPC). Position participates in department and agency wide meetings designed to assure program effectiveness, including participation on PI committees. Position may hold some limited coordinating responsibility in a focused area (e.g. domestic violence, sexual abuse treatment).

**Marketing and Communications Assistant:** Assists in the development of communication and marketing materials to inform and recruit the public for Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County's programs, classes, events, and volunteer opportunities. Assists with various public information projects including: marketing brochures, reports, newsletters, flyers, press releases, media and special events, web site development and up keep, social media posts, and others as required.

**Medication Clinic Associate:** Position primarily responsible for managing hospital discharges. Position is also responsible for assisting psychiatrists and nursing staff in providing Case Management to medication clinic clients. Assesses and responds to Case Management needs of individual clients. Position will see clients for individual sessions to offer support. Position will apply for financial assistance through pharmaceutical companies to help obtain medication for client. Position will facilitate referrals to such agencies as Social Services; County transportation, homeless shelters, food shelters, food bank, and other Social Service agencies. Position will provide linkage to the Mental Health Center clinical services as needed. Position will document Case Management activities in a timely and effective manner; communicate pertinent information regarding clients to psychiatrists and staff. Position will provide brief support, psycho-education to client/families when indicated.

**Peer C.A.R.E. Associate** Primary function of this position is to coordinate and implement all facets of an individual's co-occurring services in a person-centered, wellness and recovery and trauma informed environment by using his/her lived experience as a tool to empower, support and inspire hope. These individual based services including individual, group and pre-co-occurring facilitation, equaling a level of 66% of weekly hours (24.75 hours of the 37.5 hour work week). All contact will be documented within the parameters of regulatory standards.

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**Program Coordinator 1** Plans, implements and evaluates educational events and programs for Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS) under direction of the FCHS Educator. The incumbent teaches adults and youth, manages multiple priorities and tasks, works with minimal supervision and has strong interpersonal skills. The person collaborates with community groups, creates educational lessons and activities; writes educational articles and/or publications and recruits and trains volunteers for FCHS & RCE programs.

**Psychiatrist I** Position provides psychiatric assessment and treatment to clients; serves as consultant to other staff. Position participates in Performance Improvement, peer review and medical staff activities. Position assesses individuals who present with psychiatric disorders in any clinical setting, records medical history and prescribes in accordance with client needs, and under overall supervision of Medical Director.

**Psychosocial Rehabilitation Associate:** The primary function of this clinical position is to coordinate and implement all facets of a consumer's psychosocial rehabilitation services. Position will act as part of a team to provide holistic clinical assessments, recovery planning, crisis management and coordination of care for all assigned consumers in individual therapy; group and prevocational group modalities. The goal of all services provided by this position is to stabilize psychiatric symptoms in order to maximize consumer integration into valued community roles. Position will be responsible for planning and facilitating assigned special events within the Partial Care Program.

**P/T Crisis Counselor** Position provides psychiatric counseling for a 24 Hour hotline and a walk-in center. Counseling may include but not limited to, crisis intervention, assessment, referral, training, technical assistance, monitoring clients, etc. Position will perform mobile outreach with local police. Position will also provide suicide hotline coverage.

**P/T Case Manager** The essential function of this clinical position is to engage the Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) client toward acceptance of mental health and other critical services and to assist in stabilization in the community. Position will write and maintain the treatment plans, monitors the client's progress communicating with numerous in-house and outside providers as the client is linked to services. Position will provide assessment, treatment planning, crisis management and coordinate all aspects of treatment. As the coordinator of the client's treatment the Case Manager utilizes a holistic treatment approach in helping the client stabilize their psychiatric symptoms and permanently integrate into the community.

**P/T Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner** Position provides psychiatric assessment and treatment to clients; serves as consultant to other staff. Position participates in Performance Improvement (PI), peer review and medical staff activities. Assesses individuals who present with psychiatric disorder in any clinical setting, records medical history and prescribes in accordance with client needs, and under overall supervision of Medical Director. Any and all staff may be asked to provide clinical coverage as needed and as appropriate based on the needs of the organization.

**P/T Substance Abuse Counselor** Provides counseling and case management as appropriate to primarily Somerset County Jail inmates to help them clarify and resolve problems associated with co-occurring alcohol or other drug abuse/dependence and a diagnosable psychiatric condition. Documents clinical activity per policy. Contributes to agency performance improvement efforts to assure ethical and effective treatment in accordance with state regulations and accrediting body standards. Adheres to jail protocols and coordinates with other jail based agency personnel and jail staff, as appropriate, in providing services.

**For qualification requirements, compensation information, and job responsibilities please visit the Somerset County website at [www.co.somerset.nj.us](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us).**

## What's Coming Up

**April 2nd, 9am:** Elder Care Expo at RVCC to Offer Information, Resources for Caregivers, Seniors

**April 5th, 1pm:** Neuro-Linguistic Programming Tools for Real Life Workshop presented by *One Stop's* Jan Goodman at the Bridgewater Library.

**April 9th:** Science-sational Day for children grades 1-5. Register at 4HisTOPS.org

**April 9th:** "Retro FRESH," for teens in 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades presented by *Operations and Planning* at the 4-H Center.

**April 12th, 12pm:** "Bubbles 4 Autism" will take place on the Somerville Courthouse Lawn. Come join us to hear Director Freeholder Walsh speak and raise awareness about autism.

**April 12th 1pm:** Stress Management Workshop presented by *One Stop's* Jan Goodman at the Bridgewater Library.

**April 14th, 7pm:** Mastering the Interview Workshop presented by *One Stop's* Jan Goodman at the Bridgewater Library.

**April 22nd, 1pm:** Thriving During Transition and Change Workshop presented by *One Stop's* Jan Goodman at the Bridgewater Library.

**Friday April 29th, 9am:** Commission on Child Abuse and Missing Children Annual Spring Form: Children with Developmental Disabilities-Keeping Them Safe

**May 10th, 1pm:** "Better Health without Breaking the Bank" presented by *Aging and Disability Service's* Laurie Roome, will show you how to improve your health and tap into FREE Medicare benefits at the Bridgewater Senior Wellness Center. RSVP by May 6 by calling 908-203-6101.

## Human Services Public Meetings

**April 4- 9:30am:** Professional Advisory Committee

**April 7- 5pm:** Mental Health Board

**April 12- 6:30pm:** Freeholder Meeting

**April 13- 9:30am:** Local Advisory Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse /County Alliance Steering Subcommittee

**April 20- 1:30pm:** Aging Advisory Council

**April 26- 12pm:** Youth Services Commission

**April 26- 1:30pm:** Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council

**April 26- 6:30pm:** Freeholder Meeting

**April 27- 1:30pm:** Human Services Advisory Council

**May 2 - 9:30am:** Professional Advisory Committee

**May 5 - 5pm:** Mental Health Board

**May 10 - 6:30pm:** Freeholder Meeting

**May 11 - 9:30am:** Local Advisory Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse /County Alliance Steering Subcommittee

**For more information regarding these meetings or how to get involved with a committee email Julie at [desimone@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:desimone@co.somerset.nj.us) or call 908-704-6335.**