

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 : Make Each Step Count

July and August are usually the months I try to escape the daily grind and head out to the hinterlands to replenish and renew. This year holds the promise of such travel yet again, so the monthly column will be mostly "on hiatus." A couple of thoughts for July, however...

Diversity. Tolerance. Acceptance. Respect. Dignity. Love. Compassion. These words are at the very core of the things we as human service professionals hold dear. They are also supposedly at the core of what we as a society value and practice --- in our families, our places of worship and in our communities. And yet we are inundated these days with the tragic and scapegoating heart breaking violence of Orlando, the swagger and shaming of some of our political rhetoric and the cacophony of the self-righteous voices reverberating loudly from our television screens. So I ask each and every one of you --- during your own moments of renewal and replenishment, wherever and whenever you find them --- ask yourself: "is this the best I can do?"

It is not the destination so much as it is the journey. Let's keep striving to make each step count.

Talk to you again soon.



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: Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity

Building Homes, Hope and Dreams for 25 Years

Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International's global, non-profit housing ministry, seeks to put "God's love into action" by building homes, communities, and hope. They are dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in Somerset and Hunterdon counties through constructing, rehabilitating, and preserving homes for low-income, deserving families. The offices are located in the United Reformed Church building on Main Street in Somerville.

Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman, and child should have a safe, decent place to live with dignity and hope. Over the past 25 years, Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity (RVHFH) volunteers and partner families have built 48 homes in neighborhoods throughout Somerset and Hunterdon counties. They will be completing their 49th and 50th homes this summer. Somerset County has some of the highest rents in the state with a modest two-bedroom apartment costing on average, \$1,495 per month, beyond the means of many. More than 20% of our neighbors can't afford decent housing.

RVHFH gives families a "hand-up", not a handout. They grant 0% interest mortgages, with monthly payments considerably lower than what families have been paying for rent. With the additional disposable income each month, families can further their education, pay down their debt, and feed and clothe their children. They can live with dignity and have all the opportunities that come from raising children in safe, secure homes in stable, supportive neighborhoods.

Somerset County's Community Development Office has been a great partner, providing critical grant funding through the county's Homelessness Trust Fund and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME program. It's only because of tremendous support like this from the community that RVHFH can give families new beginnings.

You can have a hand in building homes, communities, and hope, by donating time--to build a home, help in the office, or serve on a committee--by donating money, or even a car, motorcycle or boat through Habitat's *Cars for Homes!* program and by sponsoring or joining us at our 25th anniversary **Dream Builders Gala** on October 6, 2016 at the Stone House at Stirling Ridge in Warren. To learn more, go to www.rvhabitat.org, or contact Marketing & Volunteer Engagement Manager, Evanyini Hernandez, at Marketing@rvhabitat.org or 908-704-0016, Ext.17.

According to the future home owner of our 50th home, "This house is built with much more than equipment and money, it's built with teamwork, kindness, happiness and love."

Remembering Renee Farrell

Renee Farrell, Executive Director of Interfaith Hospitality Network passed away on June 7, 2016. Many in the Somerset County Department of Human Services had the great honor of knowing and working with Renee over the last 15 years.

Renee had an infectious energy and commitment for providing services with empathy, humor and love. Renee loved all of the guests at IHN but reserved her passion for the injured and the little ones in her care.

Renee was "mother and grandmother" to hundreds. She was rarely seen without a baby on her lap or a young mother at her side.

Renee's legacy is the continuum of care she built for the poorest among us, for saving lives, and building trust.

Her legacy is in all the relationships she fostered among her colleagues. We are better people for having known her.



Voices of the Community

Kathie Krauth, Executive Director of the Learning Gate

The recent tragic events that have taken place in our country, have not only shocked all of us, but made us question, "What is happening to this country, and the entire world. As a provider of social services, for many years, I can't help but reflect back on happier times, when we weren't facing threats on so many different levels. I have had the pleasure of working with very young children for over forty years, and have learned so much from them that has stayed with me throughout my entire life. Over the span of many years, I have observed hundreds of children playing side by side with children of all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, doing what they do best, and play. These children do not know hate, prejudice, or any other differences in their playmates, which sadly has now become a major issue resulting in a division in our society. They have learned tolerance at an early age, as they navigated through childhood, and hopefully became better citizens as a result of their early life experiences.

The social service community has always welcomed individuals and families in need of services into their programs, regardless of their ethnic, socioeconomic, or religious beliefs. We have treated each person as an individual with respect, and a wish to help them with their situation at hand, be it mental health counselling, affordable housing, food for their families, childcare etc. Our doors have always been open to not only the neediest population, but also anyone in need. We have worked together in a close-knit community, providing services for those in need.

Over the past several years, we have continued to notice a decline in funding for the very services that have supported vulnerable populations in community based programs. There continue to be long waiting lists for services, with little or no additional funds to support the infrastructure. These programs/services have worked towards supporting the community, while enabling individuals to become productive members of our society.

While we all embrace the concept of "it takes a village" to raise a child, we must also realize that "it takes a village to" support a community free of prejudice, religious persecution, and hate. We need to support each and every member of our communities, to provide the services they may need to be a vital part of our society.

Social service programs are just as they imply, designed to meet the needs of our community members. We need to support the agencies that have worked towards creating the "village," as we work to continue to unite our communities together.

Is there an issue you would like to share?

We would love to feature more articles from the community.

Contact Julie at desimone@co.somerset.nj.us or call 908-704-6335 for more information.

Dispositional Options for Court Involved Youth

Throughout its participation in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) process, the office of Juvenile Institutional Services has been a driving force in creating tools to help partner agencies improve service to at-risk youth in our community. The "Dispositional Options" booklet was created in 2012 and updated in Spring, 2016, in order to provide a menu of resources for the court to consider as juvenile delinquency cases move through the system.

Disposition, which is the sentencing phase of juvenile court matters, aims to provide consequences that focus on rehabilitation and treatment of the youthful offender, whenever possible. Each disposition is tailored to the needs of the specific individual before the court, and there are a number of resources, both private and public, available to youth in Somerset County. The "Dispositional Options" booklet is a guide to services, ranging from community based interventions such as probation supervision, outpatient drug or mental health evaluations and treatment, and mentoring programs; to more restrictive interventions such as inpatient or residential treatment, short-term incarceration, or commitment to the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission. A detailed explanation of each program is provided, along with eligibility and/or exclusionary criteria, in order to help the court put together a package of services that will best meet the needs of each youth.

If you are interested in receiving copies of the Dispositional Options booklet for your agency staff, please reach out to Monica Mulligan at 908-704-6326 or mulliga@co.somerset.nj.us

Senior Centers vs. Adult Day Centers

What's the Difference?

Many people acknowledge the positive impact of good nutrition, socializing and keeping physically active as we age. People age 60 and above have choices on where to socialize, exercise and recreate. However, when faced with multiple choices, people may feel confused about which service is best. Since Senior Centers and Adult Day Centers both offer wellness and social opportunities, you may be wondering what the difference is and which is best for you or a loved one.

Senior Centers or Senior Wellness Centers are facilities where people age 60 and above attend for a portion of the day to participate in many activities/exercise classes and obtain services such as Medicare or family caregiving counseling. People who participate at senior centers are cognitively and physically **independent, active, can handle their own personal needs**, and do **not** need supervision or cueing to do a particular activity.

Adult Day Centers (ADC) are facilities where adults 18 and above can participate for a portion of the day in structured activities which have been modified to meet the needs of more frail clients. ADC staff members provide supervision while clients participate in activities and directly assist clients with eating, walking/mobility, and the handling of rest room needs. Typically, clients who participate in an Adult Day setting have dementia or Alzheimer's disease or have physical needs which the client cannot manage independently.

One of the greatest advantages of the Adult Day Center is it provides relief to caregivers during the hours that their family member is participating at the facility. This respite ultimately prevents or delays the need for costly institutionalization. Caregivers who know that their loved one is safe and in a stimulating environment, can work, do errands, take care of household needs or enjoy social and recreational opportunities which often provide a much needed break from the daily personal care and other tasks they perform on behalf of their family member.

Because staffing and care provided differ greatly between senior centers and adult day centers, costs also vary. Adult day centers need certified activity professionals, registered nurses and certified nursing assistants to be able to provide the necessary level of care. This translates into higher costs as compared to senior centers which are available at low or no cost to the client, with a suggested donation for lunch. Daily adult day center care may cost up to \$85 per day in New Jersey. In efforts to provide this safe and secure service, many adult day care facilities use a **sliding fee scale** which acknowledges a client's financial situation. Despite these costs, **for those needing supervision**, Adult Day Care is still a more economical way for people to participate in activities and receive personal care as compared to home health care or assisted living.

The Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability Services (OOA&DS) operates six senior (wellness) centers with a wide range of activities, programs, wellness, exercise and dance classes, volunteer opportunities and community service projects for independent seniors. (Visit: <http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/residents/senior-programs-services> for a description of programs/activities/locations. Locations are also listed below).

Two of the senior wellness centers (located in Bridgewater and Basking Ridge) share a campus with an Adult Day Center. This allows for a convenient way in which a person needing supervision can receive services at the Adult Day Center while the independent partner can participate at the senior center on the same property.

The OOA&DS employs Eldercare Services staff members who help people determine level of care needs and develop service plans to remain safely in the community and can explain ways to afford community care services. Call (toll free) 1 - 888 - 747 - 1122 for more information and/or to schedule an appointment with an Eldercare Specialist.

Somerset County Senior Center Locations

Somerset County Senior Wellness Center – Basking Ridge

202 Mount Airy Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908-204-3435

Montgomery Senior Center

356 Skillman Road
Skillman, NJ 08558
609-466-0846

Somerset County Senior Wellness Center – Bridgewater

876 East Main Street
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908-908 203- 6101

Quail Brook Senior Center

625 New Brunswick Rd
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-563-4213

Hillsborough Senior Center

339 So. Branch Rd.,
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Warrenbrook Senior Center

500 Warrenville Rd.
Warren, NJ 07059

Celebrating Our Country: July 4th 2016

On July 4th, 1776 the United States laid down its claim to be a free and independent nation by adopting the Declaration of Independence. Today, Independence Day is celebrated and honored in many forms such as fireworks, BBQs and parades. It is an opportunity for Americans to express patriotism and love of country including reflecting on the sacrifices from those in the military. Independence Day will be officially observed on Monday, July 4, 2016.

Independence Day Facts

- ◇ The original copy of the Declaration is housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and July 4 has been designated a national holiday to commemorate the day in the United States.
- ◇ 56 People signed the Declaration of Independence.
- ◇ John Hancock was the first signer and famously had the largest signature.
- ◇ In July 1776 there were an estimated 2.5 million people living in the Colonial United States.
- ◇ Currently there are approximately 316 million Americans.
- ◇ The Declaration of Independence was revised 86 times.
- ◇ The first Independence Day was celebrated on July 8, 1776.
- ◇ Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on the Fourth of July, 1826

Patriotic Things to do on the Fourth of July

- ◇ Fly the American Flag
- ◇ Send letters and care packages to support the military
- ◇ Wear Red, White and Blue
- ◇ Watch a parade
- ◇ Thank a veteran
- ◇ Take a trip to a special fort, park or monument near you.
- ◇ Go to a Fourth of July celebration
- ◇ Attend a Revolutionary War reenactment



Veteran Services provides counsel, information and referral to county veterans of military service and their families. We also assist with the application process for benefits from the Veterans Administration and other federal and state agencies. Contact us at 908-704-6329.

Youth Delinquency or Family in Crisis?

Marla Mathews, MFT, LMFT – Director, Family Crisis Intervention Unit

Consider the following scenarios:

- A child is staying out all night long, sometimes for days or weeks. When he/she returns home, is found or shows up in school, there is no clear explanation as to where he/she has been. The parent/guardian(s) are frightened or angry, but the child refuses to talk. Alternately, the parent/guardian(s) may seem not overly concerned at all.
- A child has had over 10 unexcused absences from school in the current school year. The school is struggling to develop an adequate plan which addresses the barriers to the child's regular attendance, which may include, adjusted school times, meetings with the parents and counselors, evaluation by the Child Study Team and/or a psychiatrist and considering alternative schools. The school may have even decided to pursue Municipal Court action against the parent/guardian(s) in order to compel the parent to ensure their child attends school. In some cases, when there is question as to whether or not the parent/guardian is committed to ensuring his/her child attends school each day, the school may identify a potential for educational neglect and refers the case to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P – formerly known as the Division of Youth and Family Services or DYFS);
- A child is frequently defying and/or fighting with his/her parent/guardian over one or many things including, but not limited to: a reasonable curfew, completing homework, his/her friends, suspected or confirmed drug use, the child's willingness to participate in various activities, such as the family's church, or the child's willingness to participate in mental health or substance abuse treatment. The fights may become increasingly more agitated, involving verbal and/or physical outbursts on the part of either party that place the child, family and community at risk. The police are called to the home when a child threatens or acts in a way which destructs persons or property in the home and/or a parent threatens or acts upon physical aggression towards their child or threatens to acts upon the desire to throw them out of the house;
- A 14 year-old boy or girl is known to be a frequent runaway. Over the weekend, he/she is picked up in an unsavory neighborhood and is dirty and disheveled and refuses to disclose his/her recent whereabouts and actions. Suspicion rises that he/she may be a victim of human trafficking. Finally, the police complete an investigation and learn that the child has indeed been trafficked by a gang. The child is fearful and considered likely to run back to the trafficker for a multitude of reasons including the child's perception that his/her trafficker is loyal to them or has promised him/her gifts and money, coupled with a real or perceived negligent family and fear of the trafficker finding him/her and severe consequences for getting caught and/or snitching.

The first three of the above-mentioned scenarios are considered "Status Offenses"; acts that are only considered to be a violation of law because of the offender's age. Runaway behavior, choosing not to go to school and disobedience in the home may be "bad" behaviors, but they are perfectly lawful if the child was an adult. The fourth scenario, a child who is prostituting, is an unlawful act when a person is over the age of 18. However, it is well-established that a child who is prostituting is either a victim of trafficking or homelessness due to abuse or neglect or both and New Jersey has provided legislation which recognizes this fact. Additionally, there are times when each of these scenarios possess an element of uncertainty about the ability or willingness of the parent/guardian(s) to provide for and ensure their child's safety and wellbeing.

How do we, as a society, as a community, address these scenarios? Do we take a punitive approach and place these children in front of a judge to answer to charges of delinquency? If so, what then? Do we detain them from society by placing them in a detention center with other youth offenders? Do we really want to deem such offenders as unsafe to society and introduce them to the juvenile justice system where they are bound to encounter unpredictable, potentially unsafe and more violent offenders? Do we really want to deny the impact this child's behavior has on the family system and vice versa? Furthermore, do we ignore that without help, the child and family system may suffer more severe or permanent damage? Do we really want to say that a youth is not capable of rehabilitation or ignore his/her mental health needs?

(Continued from page 6)

Studies show that like criminal behavior, status-offending behavior is often a sign of underlying interpersonal, familial, community and other systemic issues. Yet, there are youth who exhibit such behaviors and never further penetrate the juvenile justice system. Instead, these children are perhaps simply experimenting and engaging in risk-taking behaviors as we know is typical and expected to at least some extent, to be part of typical adolescent development. What if this child is not on a path to criminal behavior? Do we want to call him/her one and treat him/her as such? In fact, many states do view and respond to such status offenses differently than delinquent behavior, yet the system still ends up treating the child like a delinquent when he/she is placed on probation or detained, for example.

Recognizing all of these factors and realizing that many of these cases do indeed represent severe interpersonal and/or familial and community breakdowns, the state of New Jersey adopted a new Code of Juvenile Justice in 1982, which included the provision that Family Crisis Intervention Units were to be established in each county in the state of New Jersey. This was quite innovative for the time. Systemic theory and intervention in the field of psychology was only born in the 1960's and 1970's. Such theory takes into account the interaction of a person with his/her environment and postulates that he/she is simultaneously affected by the systems that surround him/her as he/she affects the systems which surround him/her. New Jersey was among the first states to view children in the context of their families and communities and attempt to address the systemic needs of the child and his/her environment in an effort to avoid unnecessary penetration into the juvenile justice system.

In 1983, the Somerset County Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) was born. Prior to its inception, over 500 status offenses were seen by the Superior Court judge presiding over the Family Division. Now, the FCIU serves to prevent those children and families from having to enter the juvenile justice system and instead, offers the family a comprehensive, intensive plan in order to prevent the need for court intervention and to prevent further risk to the child, family and community. This plan includes immediate, 24/7 crisis intervention, individual and family assessment, short-term family therapy, case management and service linkage. Despite such intensive services, some children may continue to pose a risk to themselves or the community by continuing to engage in risky behaviors. Those children may still have to be seen in the Family Division of the Superior Court, but instead of classifying them as "criminal" or "delinquent" or even "incorrigible", the nomenclature has changed and they and their families are instead viewed as being in a "Juvenile/Family Crisis", which is a Civil Matter. This decriminalizes the youth who display status offenses and highlights the importance of addressing the family's needs along with the needs of the child. It is always the FCIU's role to attempt to prevent the need for court intervention, but when all alternate options have been explored and exhausted and the child and/or family remain at risk, it is the function of the FCIU to bring those cases to the Superior Court by filing a petition. Within the petition, the FCIU makes recommendations as to the treatment and services that are needed in order to ensure the child's and family's safety as well as the resolution of the crisis. If necessary, the FCIU may recommend, and the court may order, a brief out-of-home placement of the child in order to permit the FCIU more time to assess the situation while the child's safety is better secured. This simultaneously allows the family time to work on their conflict and reunify. Such placements are typically no longer than two weeks long and involve the child being placed in a youth shelter – not a detention center.

The FCIU's mission mandates the capacity to serve all of the above scenarios. Primary causes of referral include: Runaway behavior, truancy, severe family conflict, safety concerns and youth who are involved in human trafficking. Thanks to the efforts of the Somerset County FCIU, at least 98-99% of the 450-550 cases referred to the unit each year do not go in front of the Superior Court as they would have in the past. Furthermore, approximately half of these cases engage in ongoing treatment and receive intensive services that help children and families receive the mental health, substance abuse and family treatment that they need.

Anyone can make a referral to the Somerset County FCIU. Any child under the age of 18, whose parent or guardian resides in Somerset County is eligible for services. Crisis services are offered free of charge and ongoing treatment is offered via a generous sliding scale to ensure that all families receive the help they need.

Office hours are: Monday through Thursday – 8:30 AM until 8:00 PM and Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. The unit also offers after-hour crisis intervention 24/7, 365 days a year. Please feel free to call us at (908) 704-6330 or stop by our offices at 27 Warren Street – 2nd Floor, Somerville if you have any questions or would like to make a referral.



Little Things Mean a Lot

Kimberly Cowart, Community Development Director

On June 8th, the Community Development Office and members of the Continuum of Care Committee hosted a Housing and Information Fair at Freedom Trail Self Help Center in Somerville. In addition to information from service providers including Community Hope and Zufall Health Center, community donations of personal items and clothing were distributed and two local barbers and a stylist from Next Level Hair Salon in Somerville were present to give free haircuts.

As is the case with most service-related events, I received far more than I was able to give and in this case, I walked away with a new understanding of the phrase "Little things mean a lot". Surely we have all heard that before, but it took on a new perspective for those of us who were at Freedom Trail where we watched people get excited and squeal with delight over things that most of us take for granted- like the fact that we had powder-scented deodorant, that someone was able to find a body wash or a hand soap in a scent that they like and that we could give someone a new washcloth and a pair of socks.

I can't speak for everyone that was there that day but I can say that for me the lesson was two-fold. First, I had to stop and think about all of the things and resources I have access to that I take for granted. I can't remember the last time that I felt or expressed gratitude about the fact that I have a home with a car in the garage that starts up when I turn the key in the ignition, that I have a job and that there is always hand soap, body wash and deodorant of my choosing in the bathroom. My other important lesson from this day is that most of us don't understand how much power we wield when we do little things for others. And so, while many of us may think to ourselves that the little things we have to contribute-the few bars of soap, the granola bars, the two washcloths are not significant, I want to tell you that they are. Your seemingly minor contribution to the local food bank, the community center, or the special needs housing provider will make a big difference in the life of someone in the community who is struggling and while it may not seem like it to the giver, that is significant to the person that receives it.

Finally, I want to say that one the things I am most grateful for is the fact that I work in a community where there is an overwhelming spirit of generosity and teamwork. Everything that we distributed at Freedom Trail was brand new and donated- and there are so many to thank. ShopRite and Wegmans donated gift cards that we used to purchase food and personal items and there were also donations from community members. Three licensed hair care professionals from Next Level Hair Salon in Somerville donated their time to give free haircuts to anyone that wanted one. Two community agencies donated their time and made themselves available to give information to clients and to take referrals and finally, Freedom Trail and its members donated their time and their space so that we could make these services available to community members. At the end of the event, it was the members of Freedom Trail who put things back in order by washing dishes, removing trash and vacuuming. I would like to think that we are all here for each other. If you would like to donate something- an hour of your time, a few bars of soap, a few items of new clothing, you can call the Community Development Office at 908-541-5756 and we will help you get connected.

Hepatitis: What You Need to Know

Ann Freitag, BSN, RN -Nursing Supervisor, Richard Hall

Did you know that July 28th is World Hepatitis day? This day is dedicated to efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis. Would you like to increase your knowledge of Hepatitis? This article will provide general information on how Hepatitis is spread, what the symptoms of Hepatitis are and how it is diagnosed and treated.

Hepatitis A, B and C are contagious diseases caused by a virus that infects the liver. Hepatitis B and C can become chronic, life-long infections which can lead to liver cirrhosis and liver cancer. Millions of Americans are living with chronic viral hepatitis and many do not know they are infected. The method of contracting Hepatitis depends on the type of hepatitis. Hepatitis A is spread by ingesting food or water that has been contaminated with the stool of someone with the virus. You can get Hepatitis A by eating fruits, vegetables or other foods that have been contaminated during handling or by eating raw shellfish harvested from water that's got the virus in it. This type of Hepatitis is commonly found in developing nations where there is poor sanitation due to a lack of infrastructure. There are vaccines available to safely and effectively prevent this type of Hepatitis. Proper handwashing and carefully washing and or peeling of fresh produce before it is eaten can help reduce the risk of getting Hepatitis A.

Hepatitis B is spread through blood to blood contact with an infected person. There are two types of Hepatitis B, acute and chronic. Acute infection lasts for less than six months and most people (about 90% of adults who contract the virus), recover. Chronic infections last for six months or longer and may last the person's lifetime. Chronic Hepatitis B can lead to liver cancer and cirrhosis. There are medications that can slow the progression of the disease. People with chronic Hepatitis B can transmit the disease to others through sexual contact, sharing syringes and needles or through open sores or blood. Infected women can also transmit the infection to their babies during childbirth. Healthcare workers are also at risk for coming into contact with the virus through accidental needle sticks. A vaccine for hepatitis B has been around since 1982 and is approximately 95% effective according to the World Health organization.

Hepatitis C is spread through contact with blood of an infected person primarily through sharing of contaminated needles, syringes or other injection drug equipment. It is less commonly spread through sexual contact with an infected person or through accidental needle stick injuries or birth to an infected mother.

All types of viral Hepatitis have similar symptoms and can include one or more of the following: Loss of appetite, abdominal pain, dark urine, grey colored stool, fatigue, joint pain and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes).

People who are at greater risk for Hepatitis are people on kidney dialysis, pregnant women, IV drug users and certain immigrant populations. For a complete list and to take the CDC Hepatitis risk assessment visit www.CDC.gov/hepatitis/

If you have any of the symptoms of Hepatitis see your healthcare provider. There are blood tests that allow your doctor to diagnosis Hepatitis. Diagnosis and treatment varies by type of Hepatitis. Once a person is diagnosed with Hepatitis treatment will be based on the type of hepatitis and the individual's needs. Early detection and treatment can help stop the spread of viral hepatitis. I hope you enjoyed this article and the information imparted will help in some small way in the World's Health Organization's goal to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.



Job Opportunities in County Human Services

Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services

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.

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.

Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center

C.A.R.E. Associate The overall function of this clinical position is to coordinate all facets of recovery planning. The CARE Associate provides person-centered case management, strength-based assessment, crisis management and coordinates all aspects of treatment for individuals served in the CARE Program and OPTONS program. As the coordinator of the individual's treatment the CARE Associate utilizes a trauma-informed, wellness and recovery holistic approach in supporting the individuals with their psychiatric and substance abuse symptoms and re-integration into the community.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Marketing and Communications Assistant: Position Summary: 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.

Office of Youth Services

Municipal Youth Services Commission Coordinator: Position exists within the Office of Youth Services so that Somerset County can benefit from the ongoing development of financial and community based support systems through support of the Municipal Youth Services Commissions.

For qualification requirements, compensation information, and job responsibilities please visit the Somerset County website at www.co.somerset.nj.us.

Farmer's Market Outreach Events

The Office on Aging and Disability Services will be hosting three Farmer's Markets events during the month of July- come see us at one of the following:



Center Bridge II on July 11th
Center Bridge I on July 18th
1 Mountain Ave on July 20th

This program provides \$25 worth of vouchers to eligible seniors to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farm stands. The program will run from **July 5** through **September 30**. Recipients will have until the end of November to purchase produce. Come to one of the outreach events where OOADDS staff will assist residents with applying for the vouchers as well as other services. A participating farmer has agreed to come to Somerville Senior Housing so that residents can make their first produce purchases.

For more information contact the Office on Aging and Disability Services at 1-888-747-1122.

Mark Your Calendars

The Somerset County 4-H Fair is almost here!



The 2016 4-H Fair will be August 10th, 11th, and 12th at the North Branch Park, Milltown Road, Bridgewater, N.J.

Human Services Public Meetings

July 12 – 6:30pm: Freeholder Meeting

July 13 – 9:30am: Local Advisory Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse /County Alliance Steering Subcommittee

July 21– 10am: Continuum of Care Meeting with guest speaker Ora Welch, President & CEO of Hopes Community Action Program

July 26– 12pm: Youth Services Commission

July 26 – 6:30pm: Freeholder Meeting

July 27 – 1:30pm: Human Services Advisory Council

August 4– 5pm: Mental Health Board

August 9- 6:30pm: Freeholder Meeting

August 10 – 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 or call 908-704-6335.