



Michael J. Frost, LCSW, ACSW– Director of Human Services Evelyn Velez – Human Services Specialist- Creative Design

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.

Thoughts from the Director: August Edition, 2019

“Making a Difference and Changing the World, One Small Act at a Time”

As a young adolescent I was fascinated with science fiction, particularly plots that revolved around elements of time, time travel and “what ifs” (i.e. stories that examined how someone’s life path might have changed if an event had transpired differently). Star Trek’s 1967 episode entitled “The City on the Edge of Forever,” written by Harlan Ellison, comes to mind (a quick Google search will give you that plot line). I’m not sure why I was so drawn to tales like this; perhaps the notion of a universe filled with infinite possibilities –dependent to a significant degree on the choices made by human beings—resonated with something inside the “nascent me.” For those folks who prefer cultural references that are shy of half a century old, the current Danny Boyle film “Yesterday” mines some of the same turf---this time examining a “world without The Beatles.”

I’ve been thinking a great deal about both the micro (our own life path) and the macro (the life path of the world/planet) aspects of this. A very specific “in my life so far” thing came to mind: a near fatal car accident in 1983 that would indeed have been fatal had the car that hit me head on been a foot or two to the left of where it ended up. This accident occurred one month after my start as an intern with the County. Had my field instructors at Richard Hall been unwilling to wait until my return to functioning 3 months later, the entire arc of my career would have been different. The flexibility and kindness of these two women in making this decision was a “small act” for them; for me, it proved huge. Perhaps with a less life or death dynamic (or not) my guess is that all of you can think of a moment—or series of moments—that had they gone differently would have changed so much.

I used to chuckle sardonically to myself when I heard someone saying “it’s all worth it if I can put a smile on just one face.” I’m not chuckling anymore. As much as my time on earth has increased my cynicism in some respects, it has also elevated some simple and basic truths in others. One of those truths is that the way most things have ever changed is by one small piece at a time. Yes, a sea of smiling faces is preferable to just one, but one of those faces had to be the first to smile, and it is likely that that one smile produced a second, and a third, and so on. My psychological transformation around this issue is probably the same one that undergirds the vigor of youth (radical change, incremental change is a defeat) becoming the measured stance of accumulated years (change is often incremental and should not be seen as a defeat). I’m not necessarily promoting one view over the other, but simply including it as an illustration of why the “one smile” reference no longer strikes me as treacle.

As you may recall, in earlier columns I’ve examined similar themes, all of them, no doubt inspired on some level by my ongoing attempts at making sense out of the work that we have devoted our professional lives to. Context is everything, and having a sense of what has changed (and what hasn’t) is certainly easier to do with the ability to look at all that has passed before. History actually matters. Asst. Mental Health Administrator/AFN Coordinator Meg Isbitski and I attended a forum on mental health disparities and suicidal ideation and behaviors in black youth

the other night (see the article elsewhere in this issue) and we had an interesting discussion afterwards. Although we are of different generations, we came away with similar thoughts and reactions—but mine was layered with something additional. I was struck by how much progress has been made on the baseline of the discussion (mutually accepted starting premises, acknowledgement of the need for cultural competency, infinitely more research data available). At the same time, however, I was struck by how little has changed in the last 30 years with respect to real connections between some of the mainstream mental health organizations in this County and communities of color. Clinicians of color are still grossly underrepresented and access to outpatient treatment is still logistically difficult. Significant and affordable treatment centers (like Richard Hall CMHC for example) are still relatively unknown in a community that could benefit tremendously from a stronger connection to them. This is a reminder of how much work there still is to do and how incremental and circular change and the dissemination of information really is. One of my colleagues often used to ask “how many more times do we need to go over this - we made that connection last year.” The answer, obviously, is....again and again...as many times as is necessary. Two steps up, one step back seems an accurate bromide; but, over time, we are moving in the right direction (the federal government’s background noise notwithstanding).

August brings another change. Julie DeSimone, our Human Services Planning Administrator (and newsletter editor) will be leaving us soon to turn the page in her career to a new chapter working in health care advocacy. Julie has touched many parts of our system- co-workers, clients and the government community at large. Some of the fruits of the changes she’s helped make may not be fully visible yet- but over time they will be. She has left Somerset County a better place for her efforts, and I hope you’ll join me in thanking her. She’s raised the “change bar.” She’s also reminded me that in fact it *is* possible to change the world- one small piece at a time.



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“We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open.”

-Jawaharlal Nehru

AUGUST HAPPENINGS

Human Services Public Meetings

1st @ 7pm Youth Council Meeting

13th @ 6:30pm Freeholders Meeting

27th @ 6:30pm Freeholders Meeting

For more information regarding these meetings or how to get involved with a committee email Evelyn at evelez@co.somerset.nj.us or call 908-704-1629.

Have suggestions for future content?

Submit ideas to Evelyn Velez at evelez@co.somerset.nj.us

All suggestions will be taken into consideration, but are subject to editorial discretion.

To view past publications of the Somerset County Department of Human Services Newsletter visit the website [here](#).

“A Conversation on Mental Health Disparities”

Submitted by Meg Isbitski, LSW, DRCC (Asst. Mental Health Administrator/AFN Coordinator)

Approximately 200 community members, politicians, teachers, and family members met at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Franklin Township on July 30th for a panel discussion spearheaded by Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ 12th District). First Baptist’s Pastor (and former NJ Secretary of State) DeForest “Buster” Soaries, Jr.

provided the welcome and also participated in facilitating the event.



The Congressional Black Caucus and Emergency Task Force on Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health presented the public forum as a way to address current needs and concerns relating to this issue, as well as a place to find commonality, support, and potential solutions. Panelists included Assemblyman Herb Conaway (7th district), Michellene Davis, Esq., Exec.

VP of Robert Wood Johnson, T-Kea Blackman of the peer recovery podcast “Fireflies Unite with Kea,” Franklin Township Councilwoman Crystal Pruitt, and Kimme Carlos, Executive Director of the Urban Mental Health Alliance. Scheduled to appear, but unable to attend due to illness was Dr. Michael Lindsay, Executive Director of McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at NYU. The panel was moderated by Brittany Jean-Louis, founder of A Freeman’s Place Counseling. Having a panel of black peer advocates, family members, mental health providers, and elected officials provided diverse perspectives and created a focused view of the societal and family systems implications of black youth suicide.

The Task Force was created to address the increase in black youth suicide, especially boys, between the ages of 5-11, a startlingly young age group that is twice as likely to attempt, as their white counterparts, according to data from a Nationwide Children’s Hospital 2018 study. While statistics show that young black females are more likely to attempt, young black males are more likely to complete suicide. We know that suicide rates in every age group, gender, socioeconomic status, educational level, and state in the nation are on the rise. So what are the factors that seem to specifically increase the risk for young black boys?

Panelists identified specific risk factors and life experiences as pertaining to the black experience that cause and recycle generational traumas that can be silently and shamefully carried through life. Growing up in America and discovering that “growing up black” is a different and harsh experience, filtered through a legacy of enslavement, that positive role model representation can be lacking, and the ramifications follow. Black and brown communities are more likely to have a higher propensity of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)-(Kaiser-CDC, 1997) and be uninsured or underinsured, with poorer health outcomes, and higher rates of stigma. The acknowledged beauty of resilience, strength, religion, and community, while imperative protective factors, can also have the effect of not allowing the expression of vulnerability or emotion, for fear it will be viewed as weakness or incompetence. Panelists voiced that due to systemic oppression and lack of opportunity, children are often raised in less than ideal situations, grappling with the unaddressed and unexplained emotional responses that may come along with their living situation. Panelists noted the impacts that the prison system, drug problems, and single parent households can have on increasing the frequency of parentifying young black children. Developmental milestones may be skipped, because children are forced to act as teenagers or young adults, a head of household in their own right; working, maintaining a home and caretaking other family members. The effects of

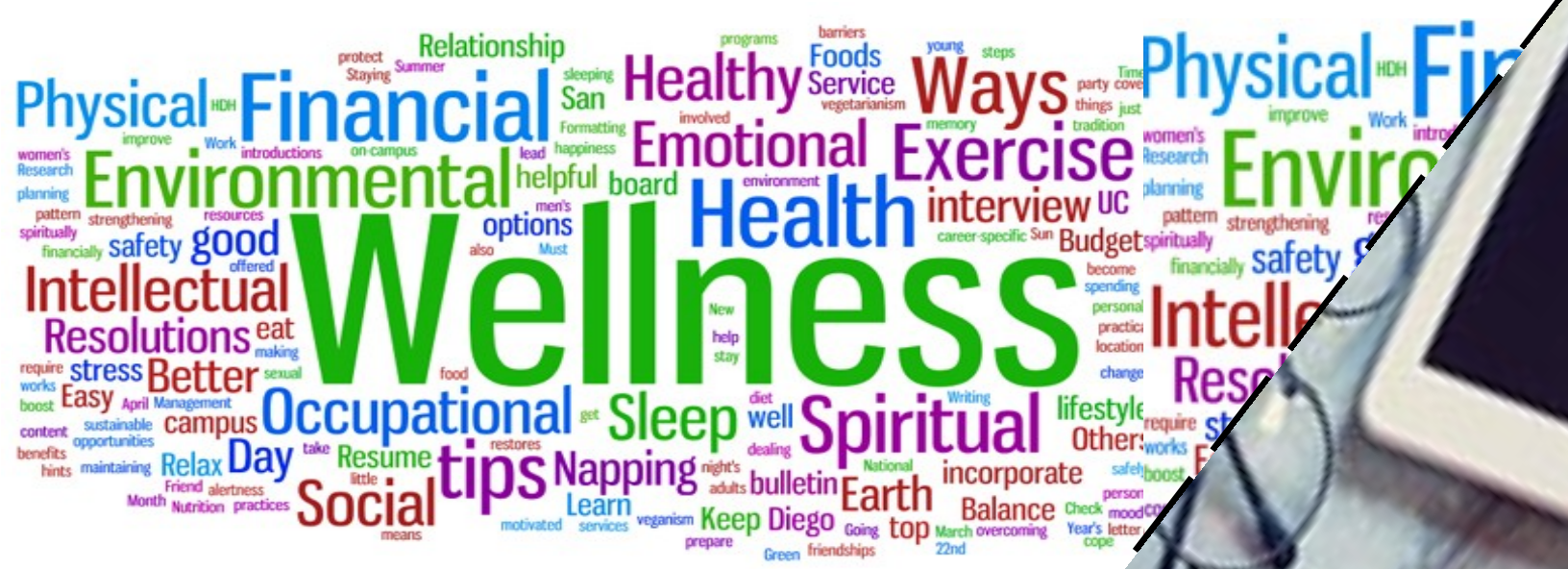
unaddressed personal trauma exacerbate and are exacerbated by the stressors of racial trauma and even gender expectations. Young black children may be expected to be providers: strong, reliable, and unwavering; no time to work through emotions or pain, you are now “A Man. “ As one audience member commented during the Q&A portion, a black child’s “racial rite of passage” is often not inspired by respect and achievement as other cultures (i.e. A Jewish bar/bat mitzvah, a quinceanera, sweet sixteen, or Christian confirmation).

Special considerations require special responses. The panelists were asked: What can be done about suicide in our black youth? First and foremost, creating the Task Force and panel in itself were the first step: acknowledging that this is a phenomenon currently occurring and increasing in severity. Participating in conversation and awareness spreads education and acceptance, reducing stigma and leads to further action in of itself. Panelists discussed solutions such as legislative bills currently in the works to require mandatory mental health programming in schools, following the lead of states like New York and California. Mental Health First Aid training is a national evidenced-based course designed to educate participants on how to recognize the symptoms of someone who might be in crisis and how to interact and de-escalate, if need be: www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org. NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness is a resource for conversation and connection, as they provide advocacy, programming, and support groups. www.nami.org. Additional solutions included PerformCare (if under the age of 21) to get connected to youth behavioral health services, regardless of insurance status. Contacting PerformCare allows access to Children’s Mobile Response if a child is in crisis-suicidal, homicidal, etc.) and connection to other mental health programming, such as the Tri County CMO: www.performcarenj.org.

Social/ emotional learning programs in schools, acknowledging that children’s feelings are valid, and accessing mental health treatment in addition to spiritual support will not fix a broken system, but will begin the healing of a hurting child. The conversation did not solve the issues at hand, of course, but it spread education, conversation and unity. This is how we can give children the opportunity to come out of the darkness.

For more information on youth or adult mental health services, no matter your insurance standing, please contact the Somerset County Department of Human Services at 908-704-6300.





August is National Wellness Month!

Here are some tips

- Drink more water
- Practice deep breathing
- Cut back on sugar
- Be active for 30 minutes a day



WELLNESS
MONTH



National Back To School Month!

Want to help out local kids buy school supplies?

Check out The Salvation Army's flyer on page 28 of the newsletter for their annual supply drive and distribution.

Also check out Franklin Women's Club CASA partnership article on page 10 looking for school supplies for victims of child abuse.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

2019
TRANSFORMING
EDUCATION

Submitted by: Gayle Kaufman, Somerset County Juvenile Institutional Services

*"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."
— Lady Bird Johnson, Former First Lady of the United States*

In 1999, the UN General Assembly designated August 12 as "International Youth Day." This event serves as an annual celebration of the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth. This year's theme is "Transforming Education," which *"highlights efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves. Rooted in Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' – International Youth Day 2019 will examine how Governments, young people and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as other stakeholders, are transforming education so that it becomes a powerful tool to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."*

The emphasis on partnership and collaboration with youth themselves is particularly relevant now, as many school-age children and young adults have become empowered to advocate for their own safety and well-being both in the school setting and in society in general. Educational opportunities also weigh heavy on their minds; a 2013 survey by Ameritrade found that *"47% in the United States (considered here to be those between the ages of 14 and 23) were concerned about student debt, while 36% were worried about being able to afford a college education at all."*

Attention has increasingly been given to various aspects of our failing educational systems. For example, federal legislation that tries to even the playing field for all students has backfired- programs such as "No Child Left Behind," and "Every Student Succeeds Act" had only the best of intentions, but resulted in academics (and, moreover, arts and sports) being left behind as teachers were under pressure to "teach to the test" so that their students would achieve high scores on standardized tests, and subsequently earn the maximum federal funding for their districts. Also, the decades-long attitude that a college education is the only key to a good career has come under scrutiny, as various technical and trade-focused industries have suffered low enrollments, in spite of the earning potential and growth opportunities offered by those careers.

The United Nations has made a clear statement by acknowledging that youth must be involved in the process of transforming education. They stand to gain or lose the most as decisions are made, so entrusting them with at least part of the power can safeguard the process by adding a voice that demands relevance and efficacy.



Community Corner

Zaraphath Christian Church

Submitted by: Evelyn Velez, Human Services Specialist, Operations and Planning

This month's Community Corner will focus on Zaraphath Christian Church. More than just a church, Zaraphath provides services for around 250 to 300 clients a month. Their mission started 12 years ago when the ministry decided to pack bags of food for low income families in need. That soon expanded to something much greater than they ever expected. With generous donations from the public along with the members of Zaraphath Christian Church, they now provide health services, a food pantry, clothing and much more to anyone who needs it.

⇒ **What guests should know:**

Zaraphath is always growing and learning more about the clients they serve. With an updated database, they are able to point visitors to local organizations that can further help with any challenges/needs they may have. With lists of all the current local food pantries available, dedicated staff and an entire room designated for resource connections, it's no wonder why so many people look to Zaraphath for help. Some of the other things offered include a low to no cost health clinic, an upgraded computer center which is open to anyone looking to access the internet and bilingual staff who are available to assist in any translation needs. At Zaraphath, they look at the real cost of living (no scale) and clients get personalized care which is "Christ centered" and can involve optional prayer for anyone. Staff members know many of their clients on a first name basis and always emphasize that Zaraphath is a family place where everyone is safe and children are always welcome. You do not need to be a member of the church to receive services! All are welcome.

⇒ **What providers should know:**

Many different types of clients are serviced at Zaraphath, which are all recorded in a database. The database (which has about 3,000 clients), takes a look at where the client comes from and what other challenges they are facing. Referrals are made based on the information obtained from the client but can only be used if organizations keep Zaraphath updated on their services or recent changes. Before referring or sending a client over, make sure to know the services provided and also confirm that the client has residency proof and proof of identity. Zaraphath is a safe place where citizenship does not exclude you from services or help. Bilingual staff are available.

⇒ **What donors should know:**

Donations are gladly accepted and welcomed! Any food and clothing items you may have (coats and men's clothes are highly needed) please call the office to coordinate when and where the donations can be dropped off.

⇒ **Final thoughts:**

Staff and everyone involved in Zaraphath love what they do and they love to connect to the many families that come in for services. Zaraphath is a "no judgement" zone which welcomes everyone from all parts of life. Come stop by and see what they have to offer. They also have a great thrift store!

For more information, please visit the Zaraphath website here



[Visit Our Website](#)

Coming Soon to a Conference Room Near You...

Submitted by: Kim Cowart, Somerset County Community Development Office

Starting in September 2019, the Continuum of Care Committee will offer Mini-Courses after the bi-monthly meeting, which typically runs from 10 am to 11 am, ends. These courses, which will start at 11:30 in Conference Room 1 in 27 Warren Street and last for approximately 30 minutes, are meant to give agency staff and direct service providers a more detailed overview than they would ordinarily get during a traditional meeting presentation, which usually only lasts 10 minutes. At the same time, they are meant to be short enough for a provider that is working in the heavily-regulated Fee for Service environment to attend without taking too much time away from their billable work.

Our topic for the Mini-Course that is scheduled for September 12 at 11:30 will be transportation and Linda Rapacki, Marketing Manager at Raritan Valley RideWise, will be the speaker. As we know from the recent survey and work of the Human Service Advisory Council's Transportation Subcommittee, transportation is a barrier for many of the people we serve and there is always a need for more resources and information about this subject. Linda's goal for this session is to give providers information about transportation resources and to help staff understand how she can help clients make the best use of what is already available. I am thankful that Linda has agreed to give the first Mini-Course and I hope that you will be able to join us.

As the date approaches, you will see more details about the class and how to register. In the meantime, if you want more information, or to suggest a topic, please contact Kim Cowart via email at cowart@co.somerset.nj.us or at 908-541-5756.

COMING SOON

Franklin Woman's Club Needs School Supplies and Cash Donations to Help Child Abuse Victims

Somerset, NJ - Every year, almost 700,000 children suffer abuse or neglect in the US (according to the National Children's Alliance) and local women's clubs affiliated with the NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC), want to help them through a partnership with CASA of NJ (*Court Appointed Special Advocates*) (<https://www.casaofnj.org>). In this two-year special statewide project (2018-2020) created by the NJSFWC, local clubs such as the **Franklin Woman's Club**, are organizing opportunities to help stem the devastating physical, psychological and emotional consequences faced by abused and neglected children.

If you want to make a difference in the life of a child, please consider helping in one or both of the ways listed below:

Please Donate:

⇒ School and/or Activity Supplies; Call (732) 844-9002 with questions regarding item contributions and to arrange for donation pick up.

⇒ Make a monetary donation used to buy gift cards for children's birthdays and holidays.

Checks payable to: *Franklin Woman's Club*, indicate "CASA" in the subject line of your check.

Mail checks to: *Franklin Woman's Club, PO Box 5793, Somerset, NJ 08875.*

According to www.childhelp.org, a report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds. This is your chance to make a positive impact on the lives of those innocent victims.

The Franklin Woman's Club, a non-profit organization committed to improving the community through volunteerism, is a proud member of the NJ State Federation of Woman's Clubs, the largest volunteer women's organization in the state, and a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), the largest international woman's organization. With more than 80,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state, the District of Columbia, and over a dozen countries, GFWC members work locally to support the arts, preserve resources, advance education, promote health, encourage volunteerism and work toward world peace and understanding.

If you would like to get involved in this and other community initiatives and social/educational opportunities, consider attending Franklin Woman's Club meetings, held at Franklin High School, 500 Elizabeth Avenue, Somerset, on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month (7pm) between September and May with special meetings held at alternate locations. To learn more about the club and/or becoming a member, visit www.franklinwomansclub.com or email inquiries to: franklinwomansclub@gmail.com. To make monetary donations to support the club's general philanthropic fund, send a check made payable to the Franklin Woman's Club, indicating General Charities in the subject line of your check. Mail to: *Franklin Woman's Club, PO Box 5793, Somerset, NJ 08875.*

To follow the club's activities on Facebook, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/franklinwomansclub>.

Contacts: **Special State Project Chairs** – Bonnie Martin (732) 476-8863 or

Irene Fisler (908) 902-3261

Angela Dubivsky, Publicity Chair, Franklin Woman's Club (908) 616-5166

Email: franklinwomansclub@gmail.com



VIETNAM BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS

Disability benefits available to those serving offshore

Agent Orange Exposure in the Republic of Vietnam Waters (Blue Water Navy)

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure. This extension of the presumption is a result of [Public Law 116-23](#), the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law on June 25, 2019. The law takes effect January 1, 2020.

The law states that Veterans aboard a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in [Public Law 116-23](#), between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange and may be entitled to service connection for conditions related to that exposure.

To be entitled to disability compensation benefits, these Veterans must have one or more of the conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure that are listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

What conditions are related to Agent Orange exposure?

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne, or other acneform disease consistent with chloracne
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus, Type 2
- Ischemic heart disease
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma).

How do I file a claim for disability compensation?

- Apply online using www.va.gov, **OR**
- Work with an accredited representative or agent, **OR**
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our [Facility Locator page](#).
- State on your application that you are filing for one of the presumed Agent Orange conditions.

- Include any evidence you have of service in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the required timeframe. Include the name(s) of the ship(s) and the date(s) you crossed within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam, if you have that information.
- Provide medical evidence showing a diagnosis of a current Agent Orange presumptive condition or tell us where you are being treated.

For more information on how to apply and for tips on making sure your claim is ready to be processed by VA, visit our Disability Compensation web page. www.va.gov

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to prove contact with Agent Orange?

No. You don't need to show that you came into contact with Agent Orange. Congress has provided that conditions on the list of presumptive diseases will be deemed to have been caused by contact with Agent Orange through service in the Republic of Vietnam, including offshore waters as defined by the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019.

What will the effective date for Benefits be for Blue Water Navy Veteran claims?

Presumptive Agent Orange conditions granted for Blue Water Navy Veterans may be retroactive to the date VA received your original claim. If you had a previously denied claim and you resubmit your claim, the effective date will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

When do the Blue Water Navy presumptions go into effect?

The Blue Water Navy Act of 2019 will take effect on January 1, 2020. Veterans can file claims at any time, and they will be decided after the law is implemented. Blue Water Navy claims and appeals currently in process have been placed on hold (stayed) until the new rules go into effect. The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed.

How will the previously denied claims be handled?

If you had an Agent Orange claim with one or more presumptive conditions denied in the past, you are urged to **file a new claim**. Provide any new and relevant information regarding your claim such as dates you believe your ship traveled within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam, or updated medical information. Claims that are currently in the VA review process or under appeal will be reviewed under the new policy.

If a Blue Water Navy Veteran has not applied for benefits in the past, but would like to apply now will the presumption of exposure be extended to them?

Yes, VA will apply the provisions of the law to Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans who file new claims based on presumption of exposure to Agent Orange.

What happens if the Veteran dies before his or her claim is decided?

If the claimant dies while his or her claim is pending, a living dependent, such as a spouse or child, may file a request to be substituted as the claimant.

May the surviving spouse of a Blue Water Navy Veteran who passed away from a condition related to Agent Orange exposure, and who was previously denied compensation for such condition, become entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)?

If the Veteran served on a Navy or Coast Guard ship that that operated not more than 12 nautical miles from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in the [Blue Water Navy Act of 2019](#) and the cause of death was from a condition related to exposure to Agent Orange, then VA may award entitlement to DIC on that basis.

Where can I get additional information on disability compensation for Agent Orange?

Veterans with questions about benefits or filing a claim can visit the VA Agent Orange website www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/. They can also call the disability benefits call center at 800-827-1000.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Closing of Jamesburg

Submitted by: Linda M. Porcaro ,Office of Youth Services

The State of New Jersey has made a recommendation to close the New Jersey School for Boys-Jamesburg and to develop regional community based programs for those youth who are already in the custody of the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission or at risk of being involved. In addition, there are two bills pending, Assembly, No. 5365 and Senate, No. 3701 that speaks to appropriating \$100 million to the Juvenile Justice Commission to transform the New Jersey Youth Justice system. The funds would be used to develop and implement community-based programs, including prevention, diversion, intervention and alternative-to-incarceration programs, to repurpose or renovate commission facilities and other facilities into community centers or other resources that provide effective youth programming and services and to develop innovative programming, projects, or services designed to decrease the numbers of juveniles in the custody of the commission.

To this end, the Juvenile Justice Commission has reached out to all the twenty-one Youth Services Commissions through the New Jersey Association of County Youth Services Commission Administrators for recommendations. The County Youth Services Commissions have had a significant role in the success of New Jersey's juvenile justice programs and services, and in the implementation of the mission and responsibilities of the Juvenile Justice Commission. The County Youth Services Commissions are key to reducing juvenile crime in local communities, and increasing the accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of the juvenile justice system.

The following recommendations were made by the Administrators:

- Increase Prevention Based Programming – Youth Services Commissions can fund prevention programs such as afterschool programing, summer camps, employment readiness and job placements, however under the current policies, there are restrictions regarding to identifying specific groups of youth. A review should ensure for primary and secondary prevention programs and services to expand to allow more youth participation rather than localizing in select areas. Prevention programming and funding for prevention programming should increase to support the gaps in services in communities with minimal provider support.
- Pilot Program Implementation - Due to the nature of the County Youth Services Commission's policy to interact with various stakeholders it would be conducive to support pilot programs and financial continuation of those programs after a vigorous monitoring process. Support would include time and technical assistance from the County Commissions and the Grants Management Unit.
- Transitional Housing – Youth who face limited or no housing options is an issue for all counties regardless if they are in urban, suburban or rural area. Transitional housing with the inclusion of wrap around supports is in dire need for this population of youth to help stabilize them and take positive next steps in becoming productive young adults. Transitional Housing should be made available to youth that may or may not have stable home environments and are at risk of homelessness.
- Sex Offender and Fire Setter Specific Services – Historically youth with sex offender or fire setter specific charges have a difficult time finding services specific to these charges. Services to increase or develop programming that is both community based and housing options should be reviewed.
- Implementation of Youth Courts / True Restorative Justice Models- The association requests the implementation and development of youth courts and restorative justice models be developed to reduce the amount of youth specifically youth of color in the justice system. The association further requests technical assistance in the development of such programs.
- Family Crisis Intervention Units – FCIU's statewide have wide range of how they are funded, staffing requirements, varied educational degree/licensing requirements, service provision, as there is no one size fits all and there is a need recognized that in many counties, the way the FCIU is set up works well to meet the demand of the population they serve. However below are further suggestions to enhance the work of this important part of the continuum:
 - ◇ Recognition and support that they are often the first line of contact and should be utilized and supported as an important diversionary service when looking at community-based care.
 - ◇ Encourage the Administrative Office of the Courts to revise the FCIU Policy and Procedure manual as the last revision was in 2005, to reflect the current status of the Unit's responsibilities.
 - ◇ More transparency on documenting levels of service, currently not contractually obligated to do so in counties that have combined units of FCIU and Mobile Response Stabilization Services. Level of Service of both units is currently reported as a combined level of service. To date, Perform Care is unable to differentiate youth sent to FCIU vs. MRSS.
 - ◇ Dedicated funding stream for FCIU – Units currently are funded by various sources, local county funding, Department of Children, JJC funding

- ◇ Increased communication from Children's System of Care/Perform Care; In instances where there are combined units and JJC funding is used to pay for portion or all of FCIU services, YSC Administrators are responsible to the JJC for monitoring any program utilizing JJC grant funding, yet it is very difficult to receive actual levels of service. It would be beneficial in regards to program monitoring for CSOC /Perform Care to share their decision making process with YSC staff when monitoring programs as well what is CSOC/ Perform Care's protocol to triage a family to FCIU or MRSS to inform the program monitoring process.
- ◇ Allocate a funding stream specifically to address truancy which is telling indicator of future juvenile justice involvement.
- ◇ Reviewing the formula for FCIU and increase funds that are distributed to each county for the enhancement so that all FCIU units will at least have two full time staff and one part time staff.

Everyone who touches upon the Juvenile Justice System recognizes the challenges to overhauling aspects of the current Juvenile Justice System, changing the paradigm to offering localized community based care to encourage and support the engagement of youth and their families. The members of the County Youth Services Commission and the Association members stand ready to partner with the Task Force for the Continued Transformation of Youth Justice in New Jersey as it begins to implement the recommendations from their plan. It is the hope that the Taskforce will acknowledge the expertise of the Commissions in building community partnerships, planning for local programs and services, and measuring important outcomes.





Summer Fun at the 4-H Fair!

For many residents of Somerset County, summer means it's time for the annual Somerset County 4-H Fair! This community-based event has a tradition of providing free, family fun for over 70 years! The three days of Fair; August 7, 8, 9, at the 4-H Fairgrounds at North Branch Park, 355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ, 10am-10pm, are filled with many exciting experiences and opportunities. Free shuttle busing is available from RVCC. Visit 4HisTops.org for maps, schedules and more.

COME FOR FREE!

One of the best things about the Somerset County 4-H Fair is that it's *free* family fun for all ages. The Fair is sponsored by the Somerset County 4-H Association and the County Board of Chosen Freeholders in support of the 4-H Youth Development Program of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Partnerships with Somerset County Park Commission and Raritan Valley Community College also help keep the Fair free. All fairgoers are able to park and enter the fair free of charge. Parking is also available at Raritan Valley Community College. Avoid the fuss and ride the bus by taking a free shuttle bus directly over to the Fairgrounds. Fairgoers are able to walk right in and begin exploring all the different tents and entertainment opportunities the fair has to offer. (Please leave pets at home!)

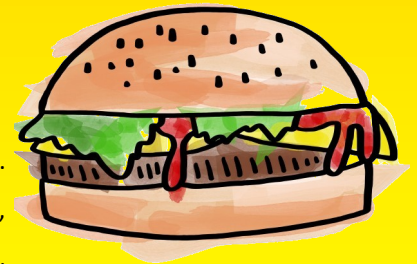


CHECK OUT OVER 70 4-H CLUBS AND EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT

One of the many reasons to attend the 4-H Fair is to gain exposure to topics and experiences you may not have otherwise. Individuals who may have grown up without farmland around have the opportunity to learn about the care and keeping of cows, goats, horses, sheep, and many other animals. Additionally, visitors can enjoy other topics such as arts and different creative outlets, robotics, model trains, model airplanes, and more. Dog shows, go kart events, and performances by the 4-H Clover Ensemble should not be missed. Each tent is run entirely by volunteers, and they are always filled with 4-H members who will answer questions or talk about their club. There are activities for children in all 4-H tents. Professional and amateur entertainment keeps visitors entertained in three different locations: the Showmobile, Clover Theater, and the 4-H Prep Tent which is for younger guests to enjoy interactive performances.

ENJOY GREAT FOOD

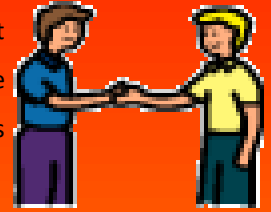
Visitors can also enjoy the delicious food in the Food Tent at the center of the Fairgrounds. There are options to make every palate happy; from classic Fair food such as cheesesteaks, burgers, sausage and peppers, funnel cake and cotton candy, to unexpected choices such as Southern fish fry, Chinese Lo Mein, a vegetarian hummus platter, Indian chicken or vegetable curry. The Food Tent is comprised of 20 non-profit/local community service, faith based and youth organizations. The hard-work that goes into food preparation and the profit from sales will enable these organizations to grow, develop, and strengthen their community ties in the process.



Continued on Page 17

MEET COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

Informative tents such as the County Government Tent let community members interact with different county departments such as Human Services, Engineering, Office of Emergency Management, Cultural and Heritage Commission, Youth Services, and the Department of Health. Visitors will be surprised at how many county offices and services are available to help residents! The County Prosecutor's office will inspect child safety car seats.



MEET LOCAL BUSINESSES

Additionally, businesses located in Somerset County have the opportunity to sponsor various aspects of the Fair, or purchase space at the Fair to promote their business. This enables many local organizations to not only advertise their services, but show their involvement and community support as well. Fairgoers have the chance to interact with the business to see what local services are available.

SEE HARD WORK IN ACTION!

One of the most amazing things to witness while attending the Fair is the incredible amount of hard work and dedication our volunteers put in to make the Fair a success. The adult volunteers that mentor 4-H members have the unique opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills and witness first-hand the growth and development of participating children, all while sharing their hobbies and passions with other individuals who share similar interests. Visitors also get the opportunity to see the culmination of the efforts 4-Her's have put into their projects throughout the year. It's a great chance to see the effects of hard work paired with a strong sense of community where children can interact and build friendships with youth in different towns that share similar interests. The presentations and tasks required of 4-H members during the Fair help to develop public speaking skills, time-management skills, responsibility, and a sense of community. The passion and energy the volunteers and members have towards sharing their interests with the community is truly infectious!

As the summer days fly by, don't forget to mark your calendars for free, family fun at the Somerset County 4-H Fair. See the truly amazing results of what happens when individuals from different backgrounds collaborate in their efforts to share in a common goal. Perhaps you may find an area that sparks your interest and inspires you to become part of the Somerset County 4-H Community! Visit 4HisTops.org to join or volunteer.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, and any other category protected by law. Rutgers Cooperative Extension System is funded through a federal, state, and local partnership, with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture as the federal partner.



Human Services Employment

RICHARD HALL COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

- **Substance Abuse Counselor PT** Incumbent will provide trauma-informed, person-centered counseling and case management as appropriate to clarify and support individuals' recovery goals moving toward wellness and improved mental health and quality of life. Services provided must be culturally competent and provided through a trauma informed lens; documents clinical activity per policy; contributes to agency performance improvement efforts to ensure ethical and effective treatment in accordance with state regulations and accrediting body standards.
- **PATH Associate - PT** Position 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. Responsible for writing and maintaining the treatment plans, monitoring the client's progress, communicating with numerous in-house and outside providers as the client is linked to services. Incumbent provides assessment, treatment planning and crisis management and coordinates all aspects of treatment. As the coordinator of the client's treatment the clinician utilizes a holistic treatment approach in helping the client stabilize their psychiatric symptoms and permanently integrate into the community. Position maintains awareness of the practical and clinical status of each client so that individual's needs are addressed. Actively engage clients through outreach strategies with attention to rapport, boundaries and safety.
- **Substance Abuse Counselor** Incumbent will be responsible for the person-centered evaluation of clients, including strength-based recovery planning goals and objectives, and assignment of appropriate DSM 5 related diagnoses to enhance the recovery process; provide wellness and recovery substance abuse treatment based on the 8 dimensions of wellness; may provide case management; document clinical activity in accordance with agency standards; participate in supervision to optimize clinical effectiveness and productivity; consult and collaborate with other providers to assure coordination of care; engages in continuing education to maintain and develop clinical skills; meet agency competency standards; and satisfy requirements for ongoing licensure (LSW, LCSW, LPC, LAC, LCADC); participates in department and agency wide meetings designed to assure program effectiveness; may be assigned limited supervisory functions with newer clinicians or students; participates in community consultation and education programs as assigned; participates in system-wide performance improvement ; may provide evaluation and consultation to individuals served in other Center programs.
- **Health Data Specialist** Position will manage RHCMHC's electronic health record (EHR) database. Incumbent helps define the strategy and roadmap to ensure EHR alignment with business needs (regulatory, financial and clinical). Incumbent will work closely with County IT to develop, implement and modify HER software and hardware requirements as needed.
- **Administrative Assistant / Bi-Lingual - PT** Incumbent greets and checks in all clients and visitors and announces them to staff at the appropriate appointment times. Incumbent maintains provider's schedules in the electronic health records system; schedules appointments for providers and enters this information in the electronic health records system; reschedules appointments when providers call out or schedules change; schedule psychiatric evaluations; confirm client appointments; calls emergency codes when indicated; informs security of dangerous or emergent situations; answers and screens phone calls and forwards to staff; attends and participates in departmental meetings; educational in-services and any classes or trainings that are offered by the county to

(Continued on Page 19)



For qualification requirements, compensation information, and job responsibilities
please visit the [Somerset County Human Resources Website](#)

Human Services Employment

(Continued from Page 18)

enhance performance. Incumbent is expected to engage clients served at the center and co-workers in accordance with the Mission, Vision and Values statement of the Center.

- **Case Manager I (ISP) - Part Time** The primary function of this position is to deliver services within the Partial Care Program including individual, group and pre-vocational unit facilitation. Incumbent will manage a caseload, coordinating and implementing all facets of an individual's psychosocial rehabilitation services, including initial assessments, in a person-centered, wellness and recovery and trauma informed environment in accordance with the mission and values of the Center. Incumbent shall be utilized in other Center departments to provide supportive services such as assistance with documentation, data entry, telephone support and other tasks as assigned.

YOUTH SERVICES

- **Municipal Youth Services Commission Coordinator** The incumbent will serve as the liaison between the Somerset County Youth Services Commission and the local municipal commissions and facilitate the community's local planning process. Incumbent will support the volunteer stakeholders at the local level through conducting need assessments, helping the community to identify and implement programs that meet unmet needs, preparing reports and sharing resources related to youth. Incumbent will oversee the programs purchased through Freeholder funds to ensure appropriate expenditures as well as quality assurance and outcome achievement. Incumbent will conduct program observations and monitoring's at the beginning and end of each grant cycle to ensure compliance. The incumbent will attend various community stakeholder meetings as they relate to the position and participate in departmental meetings and projects as required. Incumbent will support the accomplishments of the Division's strategic plan.

OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

- **Human Services Planning Administrator** Responsible for the supervision and facilitation of the assessment and planning functions of the Director's Office (Operations and Planning) which are intended to guide the overall coordination of Department initiatives. In addition, this position has responsibility for contract monitoring coordination, in cooperation with the Administrator of Fiscal and Contract Operations. Assists the Director of the Department of Human Services in the implementation and coordination of departmental initiatives as directed on behalf of the Department or with any of the individual 10 Department divisions (the Mental Health Center, Youth Services, Juvenile Institutional Services, One Stop Career Center, Veteran's Services, Community Development, Volunteer Services, Aging and Disability Services, Operations & Planning (OAP) and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Center). Also, serves as a liaison and resource on special projects with community organizations, in coordination with the Director's Office of Operations and Planning of the Human Services Department, under the direction of the Human Services Director. Position has authority, in the absence of the Director to make emergent operational departmental decisions and to act as the Director's proxy.

OFFICE ON AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES

- **Senior Center Manager** Manages a multi - purpose senior wellness center, designed to promote physical and emotional well-being and to lessen the isolation of older adults. Supervises and ensures that the senior center's food service operation and senior center operations are in compliance with federal, state, county and Health Department regulations, policies and guidelines; plans/coordinates a calendar of events for senior center participants according to specific calendar planning criteria; markets the center to the public and identifies key community leaders who can help identify potential center participants; plans/implements fundraising activities to support the implementation of senior center programs; provides information to clients/caregivers about services; trains, supervises and evaluates staff; recruits, trains, supervises and recognizes the accomplishments of volunteers; ensures that pertinent records, reports and data regarding the senior center and its clients have been maintained/completed to comply with internal/external reporting requirements of funding/administrative sources; covers essential senior center support staff functions during absences.



For qualification requirements, compensation information, and job responsibilities please visit the [**Somerset County Human Resources Website**](#)



Departmental
Events

Somerset County

10:00 am
to
10:00 pm



4-H FAIR

AUGUST 7, 8 & 9, 2019

NORTH BRANCH PARK, BRIDGEWATER, NJ

Free shuttle buses run each day of the Fair from
Raritan Valley Community College Rt. 28, North Branch.



Come See

Animal shows, robotics demonstrations, theatrical performances, twirling, go-karts, rockets, magic, model airplanes & trains, R.C. cars, and other 4-H clubs compete and perform.



Visit

The Clover Theater, Arts & Science tent and Prep tent (for the youngest 4-H'ers) which are packed with exhibits, activities, demonstrations, and performances.



Free, Family Fun



Like Us on Facebook

DOWNLOAD our APP!

View Full Events Schedule Here!



908-526-6644

www.4HisTOPS.org

somersetcounty4h@co.somerset.nj.us

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.



SOMERSET COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL



Come Join Us!

The Somerset County Youth Council was established to develop and promote youth leadership qualities and to offer a fun and safe place to share ideas and concerns while developing strategies for community service. Activities of the council are created and run by the students!

Some of our activities include:

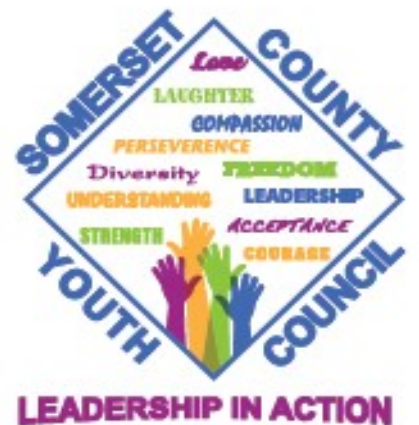
- Adopt-A-Road Project
- Donation of School Supplies to Community Children
- Somerset County Spring Event for Teens
- Youth Conferences
- Advocacy on Issues Pertaining to Youth
- Donation of Can Goods to a Food Bank
- Volunteering in Local Non-Profit Organizations
- And much more!

Looking for community service hours? We have over 33 hours of different community service activities throughout the year to choose from!

Interested? We are recruiting students from 7th to 11th grade.

Come check us out at one of our meetings from **7 to 8:30 p.m.** on the **first Thursday** of each month. Meetings are held at the **Somerset County Human Services Building, 27 Warren Street, Somerville.** Join us and make a difference in your community!

Visit our page <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/youth-council> for more information or contact **Sarah Murchison** at Murchis@co.somerset.nj.us or at 908-704-6307.





Departmental
Events

2019
Somerset County

SAVE the DATE!
October 19, 2019

ABILITIES Expo

Resources for the
Disability Community

*You are invited to participate
in this community event:*



Saturday,
October 19, 2019
10:00 am
to 1:00 pm

Senior Wellness
Center at Bridgewater
876 East Main Street
(near the TD Bank Ballpark)
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

FREE ADMISSION!

For more information, please contact:
Paulann Pierson,
Disability Services Coordinator
Office on Aging & Disability Services:
(908) 704-6334



**SOMERSET COUNTY
OFFICE ON AGING &
DISABILITY SERVICES**



Overdose and Suicide Awareness Vigil

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Raritan Valley Community College Conference Center
118 Lamington Road Branchburg, NJ 08876

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM (Doors open at 6:00, speakers start at 6:30)

- Come out to raise awareness of the significant impact overdose and suicide has on our community, reduce stigma, and connect with one another.
- Join your community to remember and honor those lost to overdose and suicide.
- Send a strong message to individuals battling mental health and substance use disorders that they are valued, supported, and that they don't have to go through it alone.

For more information contact Jennifer Sorensen, Municipal Alliance Coordinator at 908-704-6305 or sorensen@co.somerset.nj.us





agency
events

September 8th, 2019 @ 9 am
Duke Island Park,
Bridgewater, NJ

For information about participating, volunteering or serving on the committee call (908) 685-1444 ext. 226

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Bridgewater/DignityDash>

5K run
1 mile stroll
Kids Fun Run



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agency
events

of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties

150 A West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

Phone: 908-725-7799 Fax: 908-725-0284

Website: JewishFamilySvc.Org Email: Admin@JewishFamilySvc.Org

Changing Lives Everyday

Become a Good Deeds Volunteer

JFS Green Thumb & Healthy Harvest Program



Fresh produce is the Best produce

Healthy eating is important for good health and many people in our community do not have the income to purchase fresh produce to support a healthy diet. We're seeking individuals/families/groups interested in starting a Vegetable Garden or joining our Harvest Team to pick fresh vegetables at local farms and then distribute the produce to older adults living on fixed incomes and families with young children struggling financially and not able to afford fresh produce.

Join the JFS Harvest Team – Pick Produce for JFS Clients
at Local Farms in August

or

Donate Produce from your own Home Garden

If interested contact JFS at 908 725-7799

or email MarisC@jewishfamilysvc.org

A

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agency
events

Family & Community Services of Somerset County

Presents



Taking Strides Toward Wellness

8th Annual 5K Run/Walk & Kids Sprint

Duke Island Park

Bridgewater, New Jersey

9:00a.m – Runners/Walkers

10:00 a.m. – Kids Sprint

Rain or Shine

\$25 Entry Fee

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Register at Runsignup.com or call (732) 356-1082



In 2020 Family & Community Services of Somerset County celebrates its 60th Anniversary of providing mental health and substance abuse services to Somerset County and surrounding areas

A

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agency
events



Summer meals served free to children and teens 18 and under in communities across New Jersey.

No enrollment, no I.D. required.

To find a site near you:

- ☀ Text "food" to 97779
- ☀ Visit summerfoodrocks.org/sitefinder
- ☀ Call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or for Spanish 1-877-8-HAMBRE

Need more info?

Visit njfoodforthought.org/summermeals
or call the New Jersey Department of Agriculture at (609) 292-4498.



hungerfreenj.org



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agency
events



Amigos, Comida y Diversión

Comidas de verano gratis para niños y adolescentes menores de 18 años. En comunidades a través de Nueva Jersey. No hay inscripción, no I.D. necesario.

Para encontrar un sitio cerca de usted:

- ☀️ Texto "comida" al 97779
- ☀️ Visite summerfoodrocks.org/sitefinder
- ☀️ Llame al 1-866-3-HUNGRY o al español 1-877-8-HAMBRE

¿Necesitas más información?

Visite njfoodforthought.org/summermeals
o llame al Departamento de Agricultura de Nueva Jersey al (609) 292-4498.

A PROGRAM OF THE
CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION
**Hunger Free
New Jersey**
Fueling Change. Feeding All.

hungerfreenj.org



A

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agency
events



Central Jersey Housing Resource Center

FREE First Time Home Buyers Seminar

Saturday, September 14, 2019

10:30 AM - Sign-In

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM - Homeownership Seminar

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
485 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873

All household members whose names will appear on the affordable housing application and/or the mortgage application must attend the entire 4-hour seminar in order to receive a certificate of completion.

Due to the length of the presentation and limited space, we do not recommend bringing children to the seminar.

REGISTER TODAY: (908) 446-0037, Mailbox 3



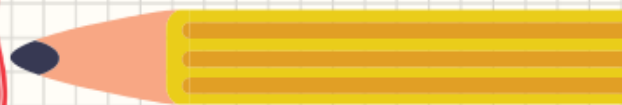
www.cjhrc.org



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events



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

**DROP OFF:
JULY 2
THROUGH
AUGUST 13**

[DURING OUR OFFICE HOURS]

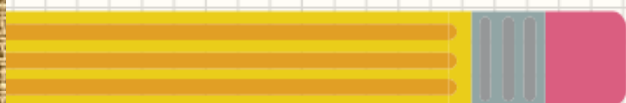


ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT
THE SALVATION ARMY BOUND BROOK
108 HAMILTON STREET

Items you can donate include,
but not limited to:

**HELP
SCHOOL AGE
CHILDREN
IN
SOMERSET
COUNTY**

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Backpacks | Erasers |
| Pencils | Rulers |
| Paper | Folders |
| Markers | Wipes |
| Crayons | Glue Sticks |
| Notebooks | Wipes |



**For More Information
Contact: 732-748-1146**

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NJ SNAP



To combat hunger, New Jersey helps individuals and families with lower incomes with the cost of groceries through NJ SNAP (NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). The maximum monthly SNAP benefit for an individual in New Jersey is \$192 and for a family of three is \$505. These benefits can be used at food retail stores and many farmers' markets to make it easier to afford food and avoid food insecurity. As of March 2019, approximately 700,000 New Jerseyans benefit from SNAP.

How to apply?

There are many ways to submit an application, get help filling out an application or to learn more about SNAP. New Jerseyans can:

- Apply online in English or Spanish at www.NJHelps.org
- Apply in-person at a local county social services agency¹
- Mail or fax a paper application (available here: www.NJSNAP.gov) to a local county social services agency

How soon are benefits available?

The county will conduct an eligibility interview shortly after receiving the application and determine eligibility within 30 days. Once approved, benefits will be issued on an electronic benefits card and loaded each month with additional funds. If a household needs help sooner and has very limited income, they may be eligible for expedited benefits within 7 days.

Murphy Administration SNAP Improvements

The Murphy Administration has taken action to increase access to SNAP benefits by:

- Expanding SNAP eligibility for community college students².
- Increasing SNAP benefits for over 27,000 SNAP households that receive SSI by an average of \$98 a month³.
- Applying to the federal government for a waiver to simplify SNAP enrollment for older New Jerseyans.
- Seeking and receiving federal waivers to ensure continued SNAP benefits for eligible working-age individuals living in areas with high unemployment.



SNAP Outreach

New Jersey's SNAP outreach partners, **The Community Food Bank of New Jersey**⁴ and **Fulfill NJ**⁵, conduct targeted outreach to specific groups including older residents, individuals with disabilities, working families and immigrants. SNAP outreach workers attend community events, visit local food pantries and senior centers, and work across the state to inform individuals and families about SNAP and assist with submitting applications.

SNAP-Education

SNAP-Education provides information, resources and education about healthy food choices and leading more active lives. Through community organizations, SNAP eligible and enrolled families are able to receive assistance with finding, buying and preparing healthier foods on a limited budget. New Jersey SNAP-Ed partners also conduct nutrition, cooking classes and trainings in various community sites for parents, seniors, and children while also helping to promote physical activity. Visit www.NJSNAP-Ed.gov for more information.

¹ <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/programs/njsnap/cbss/>

² <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/news/press/2018/approved/20181119.html>

³ <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/news/press/2019/approved/20190424.html>

⁴ <https://www.cfbnj.org/federal-nutrition-program/> ⁵ <https://fulfillnj.org/get-help/#snap>

A

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agency
events



Community

Fun Day

A Back-to-School Bash

Sat.
Aug. 17
2019

LOCATION:
The Salvation Army
108 Hamilton Street

TIME: 11-2 pm
Food • Games • Backpack Distribution • More

To Register for Backpacks Call
732-748-1146

FREE!

A**E**agency
events

St. John's Episcopal Church, Somerville

Laundry Love Ministry



As part of St. John's Faith & Action Committee's outreach efforts, once per month parishioners/volunteers gather at **Wayne's Wash World II Laundromat, 20 Division St., Somerville**, with quarters, washing pods, dryer sheets and open hearts to help fellow community members do their laundry. Two loads per family can be done, and all are welcome.

Dates and times

Thursday, June 20, 5 to 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 18, 5 to 8 p.m.

Thursday, August 15, 5 to 8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 19, 5 to 8 p.m.

Questions

Call St. John's, 908-722-1250 or Paul Grzella, 908-507-8020; email pgrzella@verizon.net.