

MORRIS COUNTY PROUD TO BE STIGMA-FREE

THE STIGMA FREE ZONE NEWS OF NJ

Bringing the Mental Health Conversation to New Jersey

**SPECIAL LABOR DAY EDITION ON WIDESPREAD
MENTAL ILLNESS STIGMA IN THE WORKPLACE**



**WHAT IS SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT
AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?**

By Cynthia Chazen, Job Developer

Supported Employment encompasses employment services for people with disabilities, including those with serious mental illness. People are assisted with obtaining and maintaining *integrated employment* (a job in the community, not in a sheltered workshop).

Job Developers, or Employment Specialists, help clients determine skills and interests through on-site assessments or job shadowing (following someone throughout the work day) and interviews. They act as a bridge between job seekers and employers and educate potential employers about hiring the disabled, and the tax benefits (there are many) of slightly altering a job description to provide accommodations so the disabled can thrive at work.

Job Coaches assist new hires on-site to help them meet challenges of a new job and reach important milestones, such as a 90 day period before permanent employment is offered. They usually give intensive help and then taper off as the employee integrates skills and routines.

Employers, like most people, still cling to stigmatizing ideas about employing the mentally ill and they often don't realize these populations provide some of the best trained and supported hires and *the most loyal employees available*. Many disabled workers, including ex-offenders and people in drug recovery, are the ones who show up, through snowstorms and overtime, grateful to have a good job and conscious of how hard it was to get one. They will often perform tasks others refuse.

Yet, according to US government agency, SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration), about 80% of people in mental health services are unemployed, despite the fact that 7 out of 10 of those surveyed have expressed a wish to work. Supported Employment Services are addressing this gap and improving lives everywhere.

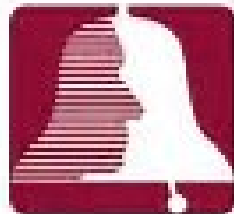
Work Force Development Boards operate in states and communities to develop jobs for the disabled, often working with Chambers of Commerce, and they educate about the many benefits of providing work to non-traditional employees. Some boards are made up of unpaid community leaders, others are employed by state labor departments.

State agencies and non-profits serving the disabled commonly provide supported employment services for people with disabilities. But any small business or employer can benefit when they decide to hire people with disabilities. Read more below about Fountain House, a clubhouse for the mentally ill in New York City who help people with serious mental illness find

work.

[The Pew Trust: Helping the Mentally Ill Join the Workforce.](#)

NJ DEPT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
READ MORE ABOUT GENEROUS
TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS OF DISABLED



**Mental Health
Association
in New Jersey, Inc.**

PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT
EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS:
A KEY TO SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION


SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Employment should be a priority at all levels of care in the mental health system.... The Mental Health Association believes that significant changes must be made in programs that provide and/or support employment related services to persons with mental illness and that these changes must reflect the values embedded in the wellness and recovery movement... Without these changes and reforms persons with mental illness will continue to live in poverty, be underemployed, live in conditions that undermine the achievement of their highest potential and will be denied an important part of the American dream.

[READ STATEMENT FROM MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN NJ](#)

Gala

FAMILY PROMISE OF BERGEN COUNTY

HONORING
THE HEART OF FAMILY PROMISE: 
25 HOST CONGREGATIONS

SAVE THE DATE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
INDIAN TRAIL CLUB, FRANKLIN LAKES

Tickets \$150 per person; \$1,250 Table of 10
For more information or
to reserve tickets contact Jane He at
jhe@bergenfamilypromise.org/201-833-8009

Quicklinks To News

[NJ SpotLight: Calls to Reopen Hagedorn Hospital to Relieve Crowding](#)

[Proskolar Publications: Impact of Mental Illness Related to Employment](#)

[HR: Employers Concerned About Hiring Mentally Ill People](#)

[The Mighty: 4 Ways to Combat Mental Illness Stigma In the Workplace](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH EDITOR



All mental health news, all the time. Stop by!



CAREPLUS NJ GOLF EVENT SUPPORTS SERVICES

The CarePlus Foundation will be holding its 6th annual “Golfers Give Back” Golf Outing on Monday, September 11, 2017, at White Beeches Country Club in Haworth, NJ. The event benefits individuals and families receiving services at CarePlus.

“New Jersey residents living with mental illness and addiction are at an increased risk of not receiving necessary services,” explained Joe Masciandaro, CEO and President at CarePlus. “With dwindling state and federal funding for behavioral healthcare, charitable giving and community support is absolutely essential.”

Proceeds from “Golfers Give Back” provide:

- Supportive funding for treatment programs and services
- Housing and medication assistance
- Educational and professional development scholarships
- Advocacy and community education

The outing includes breakfast, an 18-hole course, golf cart access, and a barbecue lunch. The event continues with a cocktail party, dinner, awards, silent auction, tricky tray and a 50/50 raffle. In addition to

various sponsorship opportunities, individuals can participate by golfing, attending the cocktail party and dinner, or purchasing 50/50 tickets.

[All options are available online here](#)

The CarePlus Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Any questions regarding the event should be directed to the Foundation office at 201-986-5070.

**RAMAPO COLLEGE HOSTS
SUICIDE AWARENESS
PROJECT
"SEND SILENCE PACKING"
ON SEPTEMBER 20
INVITES SFZ COMMUNITY**

**By Jane Demsky,
Mahwah Stigma Free Task Force**

Ramapo College will be hosting an exhibition on suicide/mental health awareness exhibit **Send Silence Packing*** on September 20, from 9-3, at Ramapo College, The Grove. Rain Location in Ramapo Alumni Lounges, SC 156-158.

It's a visually stunning reminder of the prevalence of mental illness and suicide featuring 1100 backpacks (1100 college students die by suicide annually) and personal stories of college kids who died by suicide. The exhibit was created by Active Minds, a college campus mental health student advocacy group with 400 US chapters.

It was started by Alison Malmon, a U Penn Student whose brother died by suicide his senior year of college. She felt that that no one on campus was talking about how prevalent mental illness is in college age kids.



****Send Silence Packing is a trademark of Active Minds, Inc.***

I initially met with Ramapo to ask if they would allow our Mahwah Stigma Free group to invite our town. They graciously offered to open up this up to the whole county.

Ramapo College invites Bergen County residents, Stigma Free Zone groups and schools to attend this event held on their campus. They also invite our mental health providers and 501C3s to take a table.

[Contact Jayne Demsky of the Mahwah Stigma Free Task Force for more information on participating in this event.](#)



Send Silence Packing



1,100 College Students Lose Their Lives To Suicide Each Year

Send Silence Packing inspires action for mental health awareness, breaking through the silence that surrounds mental illness and suicide.

Wednesday, September 20th
9:00am-3:00pm in the Grove
Rain location - Alumni Lounges

View the backpacks & read the personal stories of those affected by suicide.
Visit the resource tables and learn how to become a mental health advocate.

This event is free and open to the public.

***Send Silence Packing is a trademarked program of Active Minds, Inc.**



To request disability-related accommodations, please call 201-694-7593 at least one week in advance of this event.



AACT-NOW!

SAVE-THE-DATE!

Monday, September 18, 2017



AACT-NOW (African American Community Outreach)
in partnership with the
Central Jersey Community Coalition Presents:

Multicultural Mental Health in our Increasingly Diverse Society
Mental Health Stigma: Community Dialogue

Location: 123 East Cliff Street, Somerville, NJ

Time: 7 to 9 pm

Event Host: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills

According to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness):

“Diverse communities face many barriers such as higher levels of stigma, misinformation about mental health and language that prevent them from receiving care. A person’s beliefs, norms, values and language affect how we perceive and experience mental health conditions.

Cultural differences can influence whether or not we seek help,
what type of help we seek,
the coping styles and supports we have, and which treatments might work for us.”

Please join us for this important conversation!





Presents

MEET THE PROFESSIONAL

Our County and State Mental Health Systems

What is new over the last 12 months?
What changes are the county and state mental health systems going through?
What lies ahead in the near and ongoing future?
How can we join in the effort to decrease the stigma associated with mental illness?

Do not miss this opportunity to learn from an eminently qualified expert!

Thursday, September 14, 2017

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Bergen Regional Medical Center
230 E. Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ

Enter at Main Entrance, and proceed right to the Auditorium at the end of the corridor.

Featuring

**Michelle Hart-Loughlin, Program Coordinator
Bergen County Department of Health Services
Division of Mental Health**

Along with Ms. Hart-Loughlin's years of experience working in the Bergen County service system, she has extensive knowledge of the services available in Bergen County and is passionately committed to fulfilling the agency's mission to help improve the lives of residents whose lives are touched by mental illness. The Division of Mental Health Services also focuses on decreasing the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness and linking people who are afflicted with the disease to services that will help them recover.

 **NAMI Bergen County**
304 Valley Boulevard, Wood Ridge, NJ 07075
201-935-NAMI (6264)

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

*Presented by Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare's
Intensive Family Support Services [IFSS]*

**BERGEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER: Behavioral Health Building, Room E218
230 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652**

If interested in attending, please contact Intensive Family Support Services:

WEEK 1: September 26, 2017

DISCUSSION OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND MEDICATIONS

Presented by Dr. Jack Dang, Medical Director at CBHCare, Inc.

Learn about the commonly diagnosed mental illnesses and the medications that are used to treat them

WEEK 2: October 3, 2017

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS: MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Presented by Regina McKenna, LCSW, LCADC, Substance Abuse Clinician

Discussion of Widely Abused Substances and Treatment for Mental Illness and Substance

WEEK 3: October 10, 2017

BERGEN COUNTY'S WELLNESS AND SUPPORT CENTER

Presented by Tara Glaser, MSW, LSW

Learn about this short-term, crisis intervention program that provides stabilization services for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis

WEEK 4: October 17, 2017

BERGEN COUNTY WELLNESS CENTER AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Presented by Christie Moss, Outreach & Community Inclusion Coordinator

Learn about this peer led, recovery focused, wellness driven center where you can "drop in" for support, activities, and linkages to other resources

ALL OF OUR LINKS ARE LIVE PLUS A NEW VIDEO MONTHLY !

STAY CONNECTED

