

COVID-19 Related News Items – June 2021

Erica Egeto is a member:

[As air travel starts up again, emotional support animals get left behind](#)

Salon

As a **Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)**, **LeAnn Egeto** is passionate about training her miniature pinscher, Habibi, to serve as an emotional support animal. Professionally, Egeto has seen clients connect with animals after recalling a traumatizing event from their past. Personally, she's experienced the benefits of having the comfort and support of an animal. Before she got Habibi — right before the pandemic shut down the country — she had Willie, a rescue mutt. Before Willie passed away, he and Egeto used to fly between Boston and Florida together. He'd sit on her lap and provide support during the flight, and during her visits with her family.

Shara Ruffin is a member:

[Confessions of caregiver burnout: 5 women dealing with childcare and family needs reveal how the pandemic pushed them to a breaking point](#)

Insider

Shara Ruffin, 35, is a licensed clinical social worker in Philadelphia who has a 6-year-old son and two soon-to-be stepdaughters. She helps others in social work pass their master's, bachelor's, and clinical licensing exams. Before creating her business, [Journey to Licensure](#), she was studying for her own exam to become a licensed clinical social worker.

[NYC's Plan To Hire 500 Full-Time Social Workers Is Still Short Of The Need: Analysis](#)
New York City Patch

Flush with federal stimulus money, Mayor Bill de Blasio has proposed [hiring 500 more social workers](#) as children return to buildings carrying the trauma from the pandemic's grip on New York City. The hiring spree would ensure every school has at least one full-time social worker or access to a school-based mental health clinic, city officials have said. **But that plan still leaves 75 schools without a full-time social worker**, according to a new analysis from the Independent Budget Office, or the IBO.

Erica Sandoval is a member, and president of NASW-NYC:

[Why Leaving the Nest Is Harder the Second Time Around](#)

The New York Times

Erica Sandoval, a licensed clinical social worker and president of the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, said young adults have always faced challenges when leaving home, but the pandemic has added an additional wrinkle of uncertainty to what their lives will look like going forward. “There are a lot of different emotions due to the fact that you’re really not sure what it’s going to be like,” said Ms. Sandoval. “The world is not the same.”

Jennifer Kelman is a member:

[Why face-to-face gatherings still matter](#)

WRCBtv

The lack of in-person connection during the pandemic has threatened our collective mental health, said **Jennifer Kelman, a licensed clinical social worker in Boca Raton**, Florida. For this reason, Kelman said people should return to real-world meet-ups as soon as they feel it is safe. "So much was lost in this last year," said Kelman, who serves as an on-demand psychology expert for JustAnswer.com. "Many of us have forgotten how to relate on a fundamental level, and it's important we get that back."