

COVID-19 Related News Items

June 2020

[A 96-Year-Old Veteran Was Near Death. Then He Met His Social Worker.](#)

[The New York Times](#)

The outlook for the patient assigned to Capt. Eric Dungan on May 1 was bleak: George Crouch, 96, seemed to have given up on life. His beloved wife had died of Covid-19, and Mr. Crouch was also battling the illness in the hospital. Since his wife's death in late April, he was refusing medical care and would not eat. **Captain Dungan, a trained social worker in the U.S. Army Reserves**, had been deployed from Indiana to New York City to help hospitals counsel the sick during the coronavirus crisis.

Stephen A. Wanczyk-Karp is executive director of NASW-CT:

[We need increased mental health services](#)

[Hartford Courant](#)

The impact on mental health delivery of the Covid-19 pandemic has yet to receive the level of attention necessary to start focusing policy makers on planning for the current and future mental health needs of our state's residents [May 22, "[Our mental health system is in critical condition, and the coronavirus is making it worse](#)"].

Mary Anne Cohen is a member:

[Emotional Eating and the Coronavirus](#)

[PsychCentral](#)

In truth, worry, [anxiety](#), fear, grief, boredom, anger and [depression](#) are always major triggers for emotional eaters. **But when you add a pandemic to these triggers**, you have a perfect storm for people struggling with food, eating, and worries about weight gain. And even those "normal" people who don't have an [eating disorder](#) are struggling as well.

[Opinion: Cutting social workers puts students at risk](#)

[Stamford Advocate](#)

Throughout this pandemic no one has addressed the continued mental health services that **the social workers in the Stamford Public Schools** are providing to our school children and our community or the proposed cuts to these essential service providers in the Board of Education budget. As a former board of education member and school nurse with a degree in social work, I am concerned about the possible cuts to these social work positions. I know that every staff member is important but our school social workers are essential in our schools and our community. I was hoping to have more in the schools this year, not less.

Prentiss Pemberton is a member:

["People suffer alone and they don't need to": Mental health during COVID-19](#)

[KTUU](#)

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and many Americans are reporting high levels of anxiety and added stress from the coronavirus pandemic. It's no different in Alaska.

Some mental health professionals believe we may quickly find ourselves in a second crisis. "Addiction thrives in isolation, so folks with addiction, meetings have gone online, which is a good support, but you know you really don't want to be alone, especially in the early stages of any sort of recovery process," Prentiss Pemberton, a licensed clinical social worker said. Pemberton is among the small army of mental health professionals providing support to clients online during the pandemic.

Lindsey Long is a member:

[Zero Suicide Initiative: the importance of mental health during COVID-19](#)

[Buckrail](#)

Mental health issues during this era of COVID-19 are more important than ever, and at [St. John's Health](#) they are treated with the same concern and attention as physical health ailments. "Now more than ever, the idea of our behavioral health program is to have a holistic approach when treating people," said **Lindsay Long, MSW, LCWS, behavioral health manager at St. John's Health.**

Margie Bodanow is a member:

[Virtual initiative promotes teen well-being, mental health in COVID-19 crisis](#)

[The Times of Israel](#)

According to the collaborative's wellness coordinator, **licensed independent clinical social worker Margie Bogdanow**, it was critical to include parents in the equation. "There can be more friction between teens and parents now because of everyone being home together all the time. And in general, there isn't a lot out there in terms of support for parents of teens. It's important to provide this support to parents before their teens are in crisis," Bogdanow noted.

Alison Boleware is government relations director for NASW-TX:

[In rural Texas, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought more accessible mental health care](#)

[The Texas Tribune](#)

The pandemic has almost certainly exacerbated existing anxiety or depression diagnoses and brought on new ones, said **Alison Boleware, a director for the National Association of Social Workers in Texas.** [Social workers and therapists](#) in the state have their hands full with an influx of both old and new patients.... And for rural Texans, the stigma of seeking help for mental issues can also be a significant obstacle. Some Texans still view mental health issues as a moral failing, Boleware said.

Susanne Riemer is a member:

[Maps Counseling Services Peterborough clinicians give encouragement during pandemic](#)

[Monadnock Ledger-Transcript](#)

School-aged students miss their friends and talk about how they struggle with completing school work when they are at home and not in the classroom near their teacher. Many worry about getting sick or having a loved one affected by the COVID-19 virus, **LICSW Susanne Riemer** said. Adults talk about how each day feels like every other, since they rarely leave home, and notice increased or decreased sleep, which can indicate depression.

Devon Lewis-Buchanan is a member:

[WLRN Connects: Handling Anxiety Amid The Pandemic And Racial Justice Protests](#)
[WLRN](#)

Devon Lewis-Buchanan is a registered clinical social worker and former college athlete. He's the founder of [Inspire Youths](#), an organization that brings behavioral health education to marginalized communities in Palm Beach County. He says representation in the mental health field is an important factor to alleviate trauma in distressed communities; young black boys relate to him but he also "sees himself in a lot of the young men he serves."

Susan Townsley is a member:

[Governor Evers makes appointments to Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity](#)
[News8000.com](#)

Governor Evers today named leaders from around the state to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity. The governor announced the commission during his State of the State speech in January. The commission will work on developing long-term strategies on how Wisconsin can best support the needs of rural Wisconsin communities.... The commission is expected to hold listening sessions around the state later this summer on the impact of COVID-19 on rural communities and businesses, as well as the challenges and opportunities the pandemic has created.

Michelle England is a member:

[Health experts worry 'quarantine fatigue' could lead to more COVID cases](#)
[Detroit Lakes Online](#)

"We're concerned that in some aspect, people are done with it (social distancing)," said **Michelle England, a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker** at Essentia Health-St. Mary's. "They've decided that they're not very concerned, which is concerning ... What I'm seeing is that people may be letting their guards down, especially in public. I'm seeing people going into stores and not masking, and that leads to problems, like breakouts."

Rick Miller is a member:

[Amid pandemic, homeowners, their children, and designers turn to these 'alone spaces'](#)
[realestate.boston.com](#)

One doesn't need a dedicated space to meditate, however. **Rick Miller, a clinical social worker with private practices in Boston and Cape Cod**, reminds us that peace is a state of mind. He asserts that people can draw on memories of a beautiful place that inspires them to conjure calm. "It's a combination of physical space and internal space that contributes to one's mindset," Miller explained.

Angelo McClain is executive director of NASW:

[Social workers critical in fight against coronavirus](#)
[Boston Herald](#)

It's said that the coronavirus doesn't discriminate. Yet minorities and low-income people are contracting the virus, and dying, at disproportionate rates. COVID-19 has also made life more difficult for marginalized groups, including victims of domestic

violence, older adults, and those without adequate housing or transportation. **America's 700,000-strong corps of social workers specialize in addressing these social determinants of health.** Their contributions will be crucial to ensuring that those for whom the coronavirus poses the greatest risk get the care they need. Our health-care system needs to recognize that fact — and pay them like the essential workers they are.

Diana Anzaldúa is a member:

[8 expert tips for adjusting to the "new normal" of life in the big cities](#)

Hello Giggles

Anxiety is normal, especially in the midst of a global health crisis. “Anxiety comes from fear, unpredictability, and the unknown of what’s going to happen,” **Diana Anzaldúa, licensed clinical social worker and trauma therapist**, tells HelloGiggles. Try not to feel shame or embarrassment at feeling anxious; instead, work to normalize, understand, and better manage your anxiety.

Ronnie Tyson is a member:

[Rebound Mid-Michigan - Identifying Risks & Caring For Mental Health During COVID-19](#)

FOX47News

LANSING, Mich. — **Ronnie Tyson LMSW, CAADC, CCS**, a Social Worker and Director of Outpatient Services at [Odyssey Village](#) in Flint Michigan talked with us today about identifying risks & caring for mental health during COVID-19.

Connie Gibson is a member:

[Logging on to therapy: Mental health centers embrace telehealth](#)

SWNewsMedia

When clinical social worker Connie Gibson went to school for her master's degree, one thing definitely wasn't a specific part of the curriculum: “How To Help Clients Through COVID: 101.” “Have we been trained to handle this? Sure. Have we been specifically trained to deal with pandemics? No.” said Gibson, a therapist at First Street Center in Waconia.

Jaclyn “Jacki” Alessio is a member:

[Torrington health center giving free COVID-19 tests Wednesday at Coe Memorial Park](#)

The Register-Citizen (CT)

Community Health and Wellness Center is offering weekly testing for COVID-19 throughout the next month at locations around the community. The test is free, and results are available in two to three days. The CHWC testing team includes Michelle Brady, director of nursing; Tara Monroy, practice manager; nurses; patient service representatives; and **Jaclyn “Jacki” Alessio, licensed clinical social worker**, who assists with registration and offers behavioral health and wellness counseling.

Gale Dean is a member:

[Nearly 2,000 families affected by COVID-19 receive financial support from LA insurance agency](#)

WBRZ

According to the release, 500 families along the I-20 corridor were given gift cards as well. New Horizons Independent Living is one of the organizations that has been distributing the cards to client families in need, according to **Gale Dean, LCSW**, Executive Director. "This unprecedented epidemic truly requires all of us working together to address the challenges faced by local families," Dean noted. "We are fortunate to have partners like Louisiana Healthcare Connections that share our commitment to helping families affected by COVID-19 to get the resources and services they need when they need it most."

Kat Geiger is a member:

[\[Video\] Thrive Wellness continues to serve patients during pandemic](#)
[foxreno.com](#)

With the pandemic going on and Black Lives Matter protest happening around the world it puts a lot of stress on people. **Kat Geiger, LCSW and founder of Thrive Wellness of Reno** says, "Avoidance is never the way to go. So finding a way to learn and educate yourself about the protest, about the perspective of BIPOC people. So I think that's incredibly important and talking about it and not staying silent."

Jacqueline Tangires is a member:

[Caregiver Well-Being is Key!](#)
[The Avenue News](#)

The BCDA Caregivers Program would like to share some helpful tips that was presented during the first Caregiver Support Network on Wednesday evening. **Jackie Tangires, LCSW of The Options Group**, presented on the topic of caregiver stress and healthy strategies to care for oneself. Stress can cause negative changes to the body, and worsen other health condition symptoms. Exhaustion, panic attacks, resentment, headaches, feeling overwhelmed, among others are common symptoms of stress.

Necole Muhammad is a member:

[‘What if I don’t get better?’ Some COVID-19 survivors struggle with symptoms for weeks, even months, mystifying doctors.](#)
[Chicago Tribune](#)

Necole Muhammad of the Roseland neighborhood tested positive for COVID-19 in mid-May but said her symptoms began weeks prior to the diagnosis. The first thing she noticed was a strange metallic flavor in her mouth. Then she [lost her sense of smell and taste](#). The cough and shortness of breath were moderate. Headaches felt "like a vise – someone squeezing a vise" around her head, she said. Muhammad said she never had a fever, but the exhaustion and chills were intense.... "Here's the scary part," said **Muhammad, a 47-year-old licensed clinical social worker**. "You are sick and you can't, there's nothing really you can do about it, except try to build up your immune system."

Anisah Miley is a member:

[Helpful Tips for Anyone Experiencing Mental Health Issues for the First Time Right](#)

[Now](#)

[Allure](#)

“Since the [onset of the pandemic](#), I have seen an uptick in the number of people seeking therapy to address grief, anxiety, depression, and trauma symptoms,” **Anisah Miley, a licensed clinical social worker based in New York City**, tells *Allure*. “People are struggling to cope with grief associated with the loss of family and friends, the loss of livelihood, financial resources, role, and purpose, the loss of everyday social connections, and the loss of one's sense that the world is a safe place.”