

SOMERSET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

HOPE AND HEALING CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM

September/October 2021

HOPE AND HEALING

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

Coretta Scott King

Leaning on the words of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, your Hope and Healing Team of Somerset County is breaking the barriers of isolation and taking action in the community to ease the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times, cities are reopening, a new school year has begun and returned to in-person learning, and vaccination numbers are rising. We know that folks are still plagued with so many decisions regarding their safety, though long to feel free again.

In the ongoing mission to assist the community in managing the emotional impact of the COVID - 19 pandemic, Somerset County Hope and Healing has found itself in a unique space, particularly in September. Wednesday evening, September 1st, New Jersey endured the remnants of Hurricane Ida, cooked in the Gulf of Mexico, hitting land that Monday in Louisiana. She maintained her strength heading east across the United States, finishing off in New Jersey and New York, and faded into the Atlantic, causing a heavy flash flood in the streets and homes of Somerset County residences.

This catastrophic event has created a compounding disaster experience for displaced individuals and families due to damages that have deemed their homes inhabitable. The Hope and Healing Team switched gears for a moment to tend to residents who have been moved to temporary housing, providing supportive counseling, tools, and resources to assist in their sudden transition. The team continues to explore opportunities to serve those tragically affected by Hurricane Ida as they approach an eventful last two weeks of the month.

SEPTEMBER 2021 Events

Saturday, September 25th - Live

1 p.m. - Penelope The Powerful Parrot Performance at the **Branchburg Country Fair**

On Zoom:

Saturday, September 27th

3:30 p.m. - Penelope The Powerful Parrot Virtual Reading with the **Montclair and Newark Libraries**. Register here; <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJA1ceqopjstC9aWRUWpBTwb27Hjcdz6VxTI>

Tuesday, October 5th

6:00 p.m. - YMCA Penelope The Powerful Parrot Reading in English
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qc-2prTltHNF17-scURTEYiZwq6FQX8Fo>

Wednesday, October 27th

6:00 p.m. - YMCA Penelope The Powerful Parrot Reading in Spanish
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrd-mvqTMpHdHvEPHSVIsPxxgZBaxvNesFH>

We look forward to seeing you soon!



This program is brought to you through Somerset County Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center and the NJ Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) The CCP is provided in collaboration with the NJ Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and is funded through a FEMA/SAMSHA grant