



COUNTY OF SOMERSET DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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February 24, 2017

Dear Family Members, Residents, School Personnel, Providers, and Law Enforcement Officers,

The Somerset County Psychiatric Emergency Screening Service will transition to a new provider on March 1, 2017.

Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services was awarded this contract by the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services on December 30, 2016 in recognition of the agency's history of providing acute care services to people diagnosed with serious and persistent mental illness since 1996 with locations in 11 of New Jersey's 21 counties, including Somerset.

Bridgeway Rehabilitation will move PESS out of the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and into the community on March 1, 2017.

The new program will be located temporarily at 515 Church Street, Suite 2, Bound Brook, New Jersey.

A larger permanent site in Somerville is being renovated and will offer a safe, trauma free environment for residents to meet with therapists.

Providers, family members, nursing home staff, school guidance counselors, and law enforcement officers are strongly urged to contact the program by phone and a certified screener will be dispatched to the community to meet with any resident in crisis. An evaluation will be completed and if appropriate referrals to a community mental health and/or addiction service will be made.

Children and adolescents referred to PESS by a school system or by a parent will be evaluated at the school or in their home. This will decrease the trauma experienced by children and their families who have been sent to a hospital emergency department in the past.

Residents who are experiencing acute psychiatric distress and meet the criteria for commitment will be evaluated by Bridgeway PESS staff at Robert Wood Johnson-Barnabas and will be referred to inpatient care as necessary.

The Somerset County Department of Human Services will continue to provide support and assistance to Bridgeway Rehabilitation during this especially crucial transition period.

The telephone number for PESS remains 908-526-4100 and many of the current PESS staff have been hired by Bridgeway and will be available to serve the community.

Finally, it has been an honor for the Somerset County Department of Human Services to provide Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services to the residents of Somerset County for 30 years and we look forward to this new chapter in the acute care system.

If you have any concerns now or in the future please feel free to contact me at any time.

Very Truly Yours,

Pamela A. Mastro, MSW
SC Mental Health Administrator

– Mission Statement –

The County of Somerset is committed to excellence and innovation in public service, promoting the well-being of all residents and communities by providing effective, efficient and responsive leadership.

Somerset County is an Equal Opportunity Employer