



Message from the Director



Wow! Great summer and here we are in the fall already. Time flies when you are having fun.

We had been extremely busy and excited during these past few months. We finished our renovated facility in Toms River, we obtained new revenue sources and we hired new staff. Where can I begin?

We welcomed a new Clinical Director, Mrs. Nina Rettino-Mantone, LCSW, LCADC. She comes with a great experience in mental health and substance abuse services. Read about her in this issue of Seashore Breeze. We also have two new full time counselors, Ms. Laurel DeLuca and Mrs. Dana Passenti, both are graduates in the addiction and counseling field and they are working towards their LCADC.

In addition, our facilities in Toms River are completed and we moved in in September. The new facility enables

us to increase the number of clients that we serve as well as to run simultaneous groups. The facility is energy efficient and provides the professional and therapeutic atmosphere that our clients deserve. We are scheduled to hold an open house on Friday December 11 starting at 10:30 am. Reserve the date. Our guest speaker will be Raquel Mazon-Jeffers, Director of New Jersey's Division Addiction Services.

I am pleased to announce that SFSNJ is the recipient of a new contract with the US Federal Probation Department. Since October 1, 2009, we have been providing substance abuse counseling as well as co-occurring counseling to Federal Probation clients. This contract enables SFSNJ to diversify our revenue and the client population we serve in Ocean County. In addition, SFSNJ will begin to accept clients into the South Jersey Initiative, (SJI). SJI provides a continuum of care to adolescents with substance abuse addictions that includes methadone maintenance, detoxification, residential, halfway house, and outpatient treatment services. Our increased capacity in Toms River will also enable us to manage a greater number of clients and to provide services to the indigent substance abuse client population in Ocean County.

This is a great time to work here. We are expanding and improving our services and we are looking to serve our community with the dedication and passion as we have been. Keep an eye on our web site, www.sfsnj.org, we might be hiring soon.

SFSNJ Substance Abuse Initiatives

As a licensed alcohol and drug program, SFSNJ has joined multiple initiatives in order to serve multiple client populations. These initiatives enable clients to enter substance abuse services based on income and specific qualifications; these initiatives are:

- **Driving Under the Influence:** New Jersey set aside funds to support clients convicted of DWI that are indigent. Once the client attends the mandatory 12 hour education class, if there is a determination for treatment, the funds will cover various services in the care of the client including outpatient and inpatient services and mental health services. The purpose is to reduce the recidivism among intoxicated drivers. The townships of Brick and Toms River have the higher conviction rates in Ocean County, thank you to the great work and vigilance of their Police Departments and their courts. Anyone interested in these services shall contact the County IDRC at (732) 341-9700 or our offices at Brick (732) 920-2700, and Toms River (732) 244-1600.
- **Drug Court:** The Drug Court programs are designed in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and the Division of Addiction Services (DAS). Thru legislation, funds were made available to treat substance abusers. A collaboration and coordination of care between the Courts, County Probation Department and the treatment program is an effective method to assist our clients to gain employment, receive services and to become productive members in our communities. Mental health services are also available under this initiative. For eligibility to this program, visit the AOC at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/drugcourt/index.htm>.
- **Mutual Agreement Programs:** This program is to provide substance abuse parolees with structured substance abuse services including mental health counseling. In coordination with the Parole Officer, the treatment program and the clients, develop a treatment program directed to address the substance abuse treatment needs to assist the client to reintegrate to society after incarceration. For information, please contact our office at Brick, (732) 920-2700 and Toms River (732) 244-1600.
- **Needle Exchange Treatment Initiative (NETI):** SFSNJ provides counseling services to clients involved in the NETI programs. As part of a Blood Borne Disease Reduction Act, DAS developed the NETI program. This initiative fund medication assisted treatment along with counseling services to indigent clients. SFSNJ is a counseling provider for the clients in this initiative. All clients are referred by the NETI medication assisted program.
- **South Jersey Initiative for Adolescents (SJIA):** This funding is available for adolescents with substance abuse problems aged 13 to 18 and young adults up to 24 years old. SFSNJ outpatient services include individual, family and group counseling for alcohol and drug

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OUR NEW CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Nina M. Rettino-Mantone LCSW, LCADC



Mrs. Rettino-Mantone joined SFSNJ on October 19, 2009 as a Clinical Director.

"Nina's credentials and experience are impressive,"

said Roberto Flecha, SFSNJ Executive Director. She is a graduate of social work from Rutgers University, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor in New Jersey. She is also a Certified Mental Health Screener working for the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, PESS Psychiatric Emergency Screening.

Nina has been working in the field of social work for the past 8 years with many community agencies such as Catholic Charities and United Way.

She has been working for community mental health agencies in Ocean County for the past six years including Preferred Behavioral Health and Ocean Mental Health Services.

Nina was involved in the implementation and development of Ocean Mental Health Services Project Recovery Evening Program for adults with co-occurring disorders and has supervised that program for the past 4 years. In addition, she is an experienced therapist in private practice specializing in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, individual therapy and substance abuse counseling.

Nina is also a certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselor with the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services, a member of the National Association of Social Workers and National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Counselors (NAADC).

When asked for her reasons to join SFSNJ she stated: "It's a reputable organization that is continuing to grow and expand in providing services to individuals in need within our community, and I want of be a part of their contribution to Ocean County."

Our Executive Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Roberto Flecha, MBA, LCADC, CCS

CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Ms. Nina M. Rettino-Mantone LCSW, LCADC

BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Ms. Lisa Leidecker, LPC, LCADC

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING / G.R.O.W.T.H.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Ms. Joyce Green-Rodriguez, M.A.T.

CLINICAL SUPERVISOR - TOMS RIVER OFFICE

Ms. Vivian Andersch, LPN, LCADC, CCS, CJC, CCGC

Our Board

Albert Petroni, *President*

Diane E. Kozlowski, *Vice President*

Phillip Lucas, *Treasurer*

Richard Caldes, *Board Member*

Mary Ann Ceres, *Board Member*

Cathy Lindenbaum, *Board Member*

Susan McNamara, *Board Member*

Kathleen A. Martin, RN, LSW,
Board Member

Charles Wehmeyer, *Board Member*

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Governor Signs New 9-1-1 Lifeline Legislation

New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine recently signed the New Lifeline Legislation (P.L. 2009, c.133). The legislation encourages young people to call for help in the event of an alcohol medical emergency. Alcohol poisoning is scary, but now calling 9-1-1 for help isn't

Up until now, minors faced with a medical emergency as a result of excessive drinking often hesitated to call for help, either because of uncertainty of the signs of alcohol poisoning or fear of facing legal charges related to alcohol possession and use. That is why New Jersey enacted the "911 Lifeline Legislation."

The Lifeline Legislation is a health and safety approach to an existing problem. It is meant to do one thing, promote health and safety for minors by ensuring they receive medical attention if they need it.

By no means does this legislation condone underage drinking. Rather, it responds to cases of excessive drinking by minors when medical attention is needed and creates the opportunity for their peers to save lives that are in danger due to severe intoxication. Providing immunity under these circumstances has proven to be an effective means to encourage young people to call for help.

Purchasing, possessing or consuming alcohol is illegal for those under the Minimum Legal Drinking Age of 21. This legislation provides immunity from prosecution when the steps below are followed. If a young person is suspected of alcohol poisoning and their friend(s) want to help them, they must:

- CALL for Help
- STAY with Their Friend
- TALK with Authorities

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related problems. For eligibility, please contact our office at Brick (732) 920-2700 and Toms River (732) 244-1600.

- **Work First New Jersey (WFNJ/SAI):** This initiative is the result of State multi-agency collaboration to provide substance abuse counseling services to eligible clients in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and General Assistance clients. The goal is to assist clients to resolve their substance abuse problem and to gain employment. Any person interested in these programs shall contact our offices in Brick (732) 920-2700 and Toms River (732) 244-1600.
- **Other DAS funded Services:** SFSNJ is also able to provide indigent substance abuse counseling services to adult males and females, pregnant women and women with dependent children and adolescents. The services are all on an outpatient basis including traditional outpatient counseling and intensive outpatient services.

For eligibility and admissions, please contact our offices in Brick (732) 920-2700 and /or Toms River (732) 244-1600.



Overview of DAS Outcome Report on SFSNJ

The recent healthcare debate has inundated us with buzzwords such as “public option”, “choices of doctors”, “quality of care”, etc. Various professionals have attempted to define these concepts and they end up with complex explanations that seem to be intended to impress colleagues rather than to enlighten their clients.

The addiction field, as a specialty of the healthcare field, has also struggled with the definition of our client’s choices and quality of care. From the clients’ perspective, those individuals who are involved in counseling services define quality of care by pointing to their relationship with their counselor and the solutions for their problems. If they do not have a good relationship with their counselor and they continue with the same behaviors, “the program is not good” or “the treatment does not work”. With this in mind, we are pleased to point out that SFSNJ’s treatment is based on two basic objectives: develop a relationship with every person who comes through our doors; and, help them to alter their current destructive behaviors.

Our program has struggled with these issues since our inception and we continue to focus on our relationship with our clients while devising concrete ways to change their behaviors. I am proud to say that these efforts are paying off.

Our National Outcome Measure Report (NOMS) for FY 2008-2009 prepared by the New Jersey Division of Addiction Services indicate that SFSNJ traditional outpatient program results in positive outcomes for our patients.

These results show that our treatment interventions improved clients’ outcomes for the traditional outpatient counseling.

According to the NOMS report, the percentage of SFSNJ clients who successfully completed treatment is above the average state percentages for outpatient services (SFSNJ is 58.9% vs. all State agencies: 48.6%).

However, while we are proud of our achievements, we recognize that our contribution to the problem of addictions in our communities affects only a small percentage of those who are dealing with addictions every day. Addiction problems are present in our Ocean County communities and our youth is at risk. Also, gang activity is expanding faster than we all realize.

Decisive and effective addiction prevention and treatment as well as work by law enforcement, the education community and parental involvement all need to continue in our communities. More importantly, collaboration among these groups is necessary as a way to curb the increases in incidences of substance abuse and alcohol problems in our communities.

For the entire Seashore Family Services of New Jersey Outcome Report, please visit our web site at www.sfsnj.org.



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Family Services of NJ**
Comprehensive Services for Families