

COVID-19 Related News Items – September 2021

Kristine Reynolds is a member:

[Fourth COVID wave taking a toll on health care workers](#)

WCAX

Mental health professionals say the stress and grief associated with the pandemic is a type of prolonged trauma. “So often, especially in health care professions, there’s a need to feel like you have it together and you can do all the things. While they can do all the things and they’re rocking it and are awesome, it’s okay not to be okay,” said **Kristine Reynolds, a licensed clinical social worker.**

Denise Thorn is a member:

[How the mind reacts to the pandemic](#)

Lewiston Sun Journal (ME)

Denise Thorn, a licensed clinical social worker from The Bethel Health Center, explains how the pandemic and its traumatic experience can affect the mind and body in both the short and long-term. Thorn argues it was a traumatic experience for everyone. “When anybody goes through any kind of trauma, and you can consider this as a trauma [the pandemic] because the carpet was ripped out from underneath us,” Thorn begins. “There are so many unknowns. You know back in the beginning we were like ‘what is going on?’”

[Psychotherapy after the pandemic will likely be a hybrid — part office, part telemedicine](#)

The Philadelphia Inquirer

“There is a huge, unresolved gender pay gap,” said **Sarah Butts, director of public policy for the National Association of Social Workers.** “Historically, social workers, like teachers and nurses, tended to be women and were undervalued.” Moreover, Medicare’s reimbursement rate is 100% of the cost of the visit for psychiatrists and psychologists and only 75% for social workers even when they and psychologists often provide similar services.

[NASW Foundation Partners with University of Texas-Austin on COVID-19 Vaccination Grant](#)

Social Work Helper

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Foundation and the Health Behavior Research and Training Institute (HBRT) at The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work have been awarded a \$3.3 million, one-year grant by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to engage the nation’s more than 700,000 social workers in boosting COVID-19 vaccine confidence, uptake and access, particularly among populations with low vaccination rates and higher vulnerability to severe forms of infection.

Martha M. Crawford is a member:

[The Limits of My Empathy for Covid Deniers](#)

The New York Times

Afraid that I am hunkering down in the certainty of my perspective, I turned to my friend **Martha M. Crawford** to get my empathy back on track. Martha is one of what I call my thinking friends, a person I think through life and its many problems with. We often do that online. She is a psychotherapist and clinical social worker with a grounded approach that resonates with me. When I asked Martha to help me with my empathy, she started with the topic of grief. If you are like me, struggling with empathy as the world seems to split apart at its social seams, Martha's perspective may help guide you back to a version of yourself that you can live with.

Clarissa D'Ambra is a member:

[The Impact of COVID-19 on Alcohol Abuse & Recovery](#)

TAPintoNJ

September is National Recovery Month and this year's theme, "Recovery is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community" reminds people in recovery and those who support them, that recovery belongs to all of us. We are all called to end gatekeeping and welcome everyone to recovery by lowering barriers to recovery support, creating inclusive spaces and programs, and broadening our understanding of what recovery means for people with different experiences. This pandemic has led to many new and uncharted territories for all of us. But to those seeking to obtain or maintain sobriety despite all the obstacles the pandemic has created; these are heroes to be celebrated!

Tay Robinson is a member:

[\[Video\] Baptist Health of Louisville welcomes National Guard's assistance with COVID patients](#)

Courier-Journal

At his day job as a licensed clinical social worker, Tay Robinson provides mental health therapy. But starting this week, Robinson, 30, a technical sergeant with the Kentucky Air National Guard, will transport medical supplies, as he helps a short-staffed Baptist Health Louisville hospital weather surging COVID-19 cases. Robinson, of Madisonville, is among [more than 400 guard members deployed to help 25 hospitals](#) throughout Kentucky, some overwhelmed by record numbers of COVID-19 patients — most unvaccinated and driven by the delta variant.

Angela Melzer is a member:

[Mental health impacts of pandemic are multifaceted](#)

Steamboat Pilot

"We have had a lot of new people who have not done counseling before," said Minds in Motion owner **Angela Melzer, a licensed clinical social worker** who specializes in neuro-based therapy and mindfulness. "I don't think more people in the community are falling apart. What I'm hearing from people who haven't been in before is, 'I needed to do this for a long time, and this was the last straw.'" Melzer reported many of her

patients are now working through tough issues very successfully. “More people are willing to take accountability for their mental health,” she said.