

COVID-19 Related News Items – August 2021

Courtney Tracy is a member:

[Anxious the Delta variant will pause life again? This therapist can help you cope](#)

Yahoo News

Over the last year and a half, doctor of clinical psychology and **licensed clinical social worker Courtney Tracy** has emerged as one of the leading voices in a thriving community of TikTok therapists giving advice on everything from dealing with intrusive thoughts to navigating the emotional fallout of COVID-19. (She's also one of the most satisfying to watch: After all, who doesn't love seeing their therapist drop an F-bomb from time to time or dance to Soulja Boy?)

Lynnay Carona is a member:

[\[Video\] Your Healthy Family: In the era of COVID and back to school time, communicating with your kids is key](#)

KOAA

Lynnay Carona, a licensed clinical social worker with UHealth Primary Care – Fontanero, says that in general, kids may not be as stressed out about all of this as much as their parents. "What I see is actually that kids are a lot more resilient than their parents. They tend to roll with change much more easily than adults do, and that is not to discount what the adults are experiencing and their concerns. But, kids do tend to be able to manage change more effectively than adults when we get stuck in our ways."

Greg McGann is a member:

[Greg McGann: Americans are either in denial or oblivious to dual calamities](#)

The Gainesville Sun

Now though, in this strangest of times in this strangest of years, any comforting respite is hard to find. **Two existential challenges haunt us: an out-of-control climate and the raging COVID pandemic.** Both issues are made drastically worse because so many Americans seem to be in denial or oblivious to these dual calamities. It's as if a good part of the country has lost their tethers to reality. Almost daily Mother Nature is sending us warnings about the costs of defiling the planet.

Sonyia Richardson is a member:

[Pandemic Unveils Growing Suicide Crisis For Communities Of Color](#)

Science Friday

"COVID created more transparency regarding what we already knew was happening," said **Sonyia Richardson, a licensed clinical social worker who focuses on serving people of color and an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte**, where she researches suicide. When you put the suicide rates of all communities in one bucket, "that bucket says it's getting better and what we're doing is working," she said. "But that's not the case for communities of color."

Susan Pinne is a member:

[Kansas City-area student thrives in virtual learning during the pandemic](#)

KSHB

Susan Pinne, a clinical social worker at St. Luke's Health System, had similar advice. She also encouraged parents to manage their own emotions. "The most important thing to do is to be calm yourself, to set aside enough time for your child to open up and to let them know that you understand their fears, that you validate their concerns and that whatever they say, you'll be calm and you won't over react to it," Pinne said.

Jonah Green is a member:

[Back to the nest](#)

Bethesda Magazine

"When the teens are gone...there's better sleep, there's more time with each other, there's more opportunities for sex, there's more opportunities for intimacy," says **Jonah Green, a licensed clinical social worker in Kensington**. With the return of their grown children, he says, many clients in their 50s and 60s are finding the relationship with their partner is even more strained than when their kids were in high school. Concerns over exposure to the virus, the kids' unhappiness at home, and increased financial pressures have made it harder for some couples to function as a unit.

Lauren Zingraff is a member:

[\[Video\] With COVID-19 surging in NC, some say long-term care facility workers should be mandated to get vaccine](#)

CBS17.com

One local advocacy group told CBS 17 that now is the time that legislators and health leaders need to step in and mandate vaccinations for employees. "Upwards of 84 percent of everyone [in North Carolina] aged 65 and up is fully vaccinated... that includes our long-term care residents," said Lauren Zingraff, the executive director of Friends of Residents in Long Term Care, an advocacy group for residents in such facilities.

[Without full reimbursements, advocates warn future of telehealth in Maine at risk](#)

Maine Beacon

Lynn Stanley, executive director of the Maine chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, said the smaller reimbursements could limit providers from offering telehealth — even though it's become critical for many people facing a lack of childcare, transportation or other limiting factors. "We're concerned mental-health providers will not be able to afford to provide telehealth services to their clients," said Stanley. "If insurance companies lower the reimbursement rate when a service is provided by a telehealth, it becomes financially unsustainable for the therapist or the agency."

Abby Barrett is a member:

[Remembrance Event Planned September 26 in Paris, Tribute to Honor Lives Lost During the Pandemic](#)

MyRadioLink

“COVID prevented many people from visiting or even saying goodbye to their loved ones,” said **Abby Barrett, licensed clinical social worker**. “This event allows community members to gather and grieve together as we remember those who were so important to us.” In her role as a social worker at Horizon Health, Barrett recently helped facilitate a COVID grief group.

Kim Reynolds is a member:

[\[Video\] With the school year beginning, there are mixed reactions about returning to campus](#)

23ABC

With the school year beginning and COVID-19 cases on the rise, there are mixed reactions when it comes to returning to campus. But school officials say they're doing everything they can to ensure the health and safety of returning students. “We’re all going to be jumping in and helping out where we can to support our students,” **said Kim Reynolds, Lead School Social Worker for the Kern High School District**. “That’s obviously our main going is to make sure they’re supported and safe.”

Deborah Schlesinger is a member:

[COVID era brings new mental health issues](#)

All Otsego

Deb Schlesinger, a clinical social worker who works with children and teenagers as part of school-based health clinic with Bassett Healthcare, said she has seen how the sudden shutdown was experienced by young people and had adversely affected their mental health. “That kind of thing never happened to any of us before,” Schlesinger said, calling the effects “jarring.”

Rick Redmond is a member:

[COVID-19 and its impact on mental health: Part One](#)

WABI

“We started seeing more people in the ED’s in mid to late May, but we saw the youth trends a couple months after that. We really started seeing more youth, and we’ve seen that ever since,” said **Rick Redmond, LCSW, associate vice president of access and service development for Acadia Hospital**. According to the [CDC](#), during the height of the pandemic, emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts began to increase for adolescents ages 12 to 17 years, especially girls.

[Interim CPS CEO Wants to Engage With 100K Students at Risk of Not Re-Enrolling This Fall](#)

WTTW

Members of the Chicago Teachers Union picketed outside CPS headquarters prior to the board meeting, calling on the district to also use some of the \$1.8 billion it received in COVID-19 relief funding to pay for more staff like counselors, nurses and social workers. “**Even though we’re supposed to have a social worker in all of the (school) buildings, that’s not happening**,” said Tara Stamps, CTU’s administrator of

new teacher development. “We’re supposed to have nurses in all the buildings and that’s not happening ... We know that we are out here to fight for the schools that our children deserve, for the city that Chicago deserves.”