

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc. is to promote mental health, including the integration of physical healthcare, to improve the care and treatment of individuals with mental illness, and to remove the stigma associated with emotional and mental disorders. We, as a community organization, accomplish our mission through advocacy, education, prevention, early intervention, treatment and service.



IFSS is a service of the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc.

For more information about IFSS,
please contact us at:

Essex- 973-509-9777 x112
Sussex- 973-579-4399 x402
or
IFSS@mhaessexmorris.org

Intensive Family Support Services



33 South Fullerton Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042
973-509-9777 x112
Fax: 973-509-9888

83 Spring Street, Suite 302B
Newton, NJ 07860
973-579-4399 x402
Fax: 973-459-4487

*For families and friends of
individuals with mental illness*

IFSS Mission

The Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS) is a program of the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc. that provides support for individuals who have an adult family member with mental illness.

We recognize that caring for someone who has a mental illness may be physically and emotionally stressful. These stresses may cause feelings of frustration, embarrassment, resentment, and anger. We can provide you with the resources you need to cope with your situation.

Are you...

- ▶ Concerned or caring for an adult family member with mental illness?
- ▶ Looking for information about mental illness and current treatment options?
- ▶ Stressed, worried, and unsure about how to help a loved one?
- ▶ In need of support and coping techniques?
- ▶ Feeling isolated from other families?

IFSS Provides Relief Through:

- ▶ **Family Support Groups:** Parents, siblings, spouses, or offspring coping with mental illness meet together with a professional for mutual support and sharing of resources.
- ▶ **Supportive Counseling:** A mental health professional will meet with you to provide support and education while teaching skills to enhance family relationships, either in the community, individually or with family, or office visits.
- ▶ **Psycho-educational Workshops:** Educational presentations and time-limited trainings for the purpose of providing families with a greater knowledge of mental illness, treatment options, and skills.
- ▶ **Advocacy:** Family empowerment will be enhanced by learning effective ways to get what they need from mental health service providers and community resources. By joining with other families as part of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-NJ/Sussex) families can become more successful and effective advocates for individuals with mental illness.
- ▶ **Linkage:** IFSS refers families to services assuring continuity of care.

IFSS Services May Include:

- ▶ Information necessary to recognize and understand mental illness.
- ▶ Support and coping techniques.
- ▶ Clarification about family members' rights.
- ▶ Knowledge about community resources and entitlement programs (SSI, Welfare, etc.).
- ▶ Specialized workshops with guest speakers.
- ▶ Help loved ones understand what to do in the event of a psychiatric emergency and to understand what to expect from a mental health evaluation or psychiatric screening.

