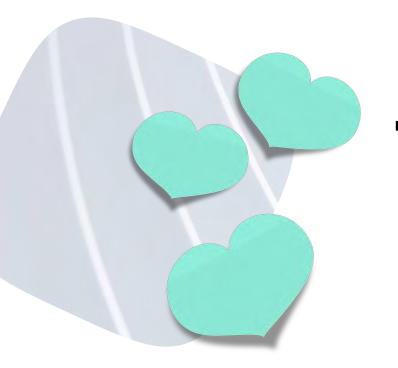
APPROACHING THE FIRST-YEAR MARK

with Jennifer Morris, MA, LPC and Evan Forster, LCSW





Thank you for being here

Stress

...through the pandemic can include:



Fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones

Changes in sleep or eating patterns

Difficulty sleeping or concentrating

Worsening of chronic health problems

Worsening of mental health conditions

Increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs





Ways to cope with stress







Ways to cope with stress



Make time to unwind

Ways to cope with stress



Connect with others



- Around the first-year mark, it's normal to experience an increase in emotions.
- It's a natural part of the healing process.
- Remember, everyone is different.





Common reactions as the date nears:

difficulty concentrating

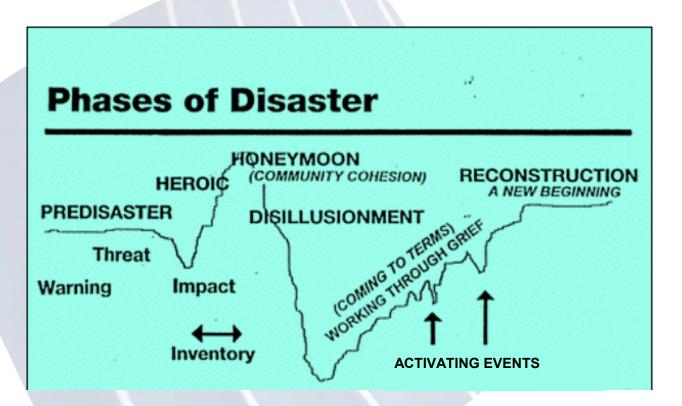
loss of appetite

irritable outbursts

nightmares

difficulty falling or staying asleep

feelings of detachment from others



Recovery has many steps.

It can make sudden changes and develop in different directions instead of heading in one linear direction.



\}

Suggestions for coping during this time





Be gentle with yourself



Participate in rituals that may provide soothing comfort



Plan activities



Reach out to friends and family



Do things that might help you with overwhelming emotion



Do what you would like to do, rather than what you think you should do



Know that it's natural to feel sad and/or angry



Draw on your own faith and spirituality



Suggestions for coping during this time

Accept kindness and help from others

Credit: April Naturale, MSW, PhD



Helping others may actually be a form of helping yourself





5

How to help children and adolescents





Communication is key



Be reassuring



Let children try new activities that help them to relax



Remind children about other difficult situations that they handled well



Get together with friends and family





24/7 Crisis Line

Counselors on this line can help you think through what support would help both in the moment and longer term (e.g., ongoing care)

Call: 1-844-493-TALK (8255)

Text: TALK to 38255

SAMHSA National Distress Hotline 1-800-985-5990



24/7 Walk In Center

Confidential in-person crisis support, information and referrals for anyone in need





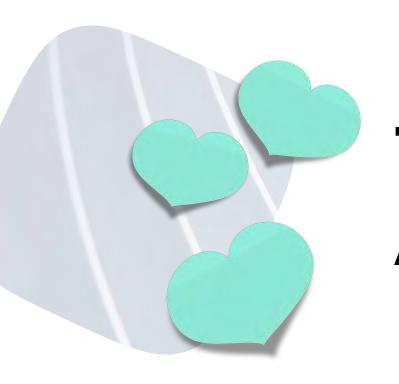


www.StemCenterForStrength.org









Thank you. Any questions?