

COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Highlights of 43 Years of Service	2
Message from the Executive Director	3
The Year in Review: July 2018 - June 2019	3-5
Ann Klein Advocate Awards	6
CHLP's Programs and Services	7
New Cases & Clients Served	8
Funding Sources	9
Statement of Financial Position	9
Advisory Boards & Task Forces	10
Law & Disability Issues Conference	11
Board of Trustees	12

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



HIGHLIGHTS OF FORTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE IN NEW JERSEY

- 1976** Community Health Law Project established by the New Jersey State Bar Association and designated by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a legal aid society
- 1978** Successful CHLP suit ensures that community residences for people with disabilities may operate in residential districts
- 1978** CHLP advocacy leads to amending the NJ Law Against Discrimination to apply to people with mental health disabilities
- 1985** Federal lawsuit in Mercer County opens federally subsidized housing to people with mental health disabilities
- 1988** Successful CHLP lawsuit prohibits state from terminating adult dependents with mental health disabilities from health insurance coverage under their parents' State Health Benefits Plan
- 1994** CHLP receives U.S. Housing and Urban Development grant for work in removing architectural barriers in public accommodations
- 1995** Favorable Appellate Division ruling on CHLP - initiated suit forces NJ casinos to implement affirmative action programs of employment for people with disabilities
- 1996** CHLP statewide survey shows that only 4% of residential multifamily units comply with state and federal architectural barrier laws
- 1996** CHLP federal court suit results in invalidation of NJ municipal zoning laws that exclude group homes for people with disabilities from residential neighborhoods
- 2002** CHLP class action results in agreement by developer to fund \$300,000 worth of accessibility renovations in 266 residential units
- 2004** Successful CHLP precedent – setting Appellate Division decision excluding SSI benefits from being used for child support obligations of parents with disabilities in *Burns v. Edwards*
- 2005** CHLP successfully advocated for eliminating state and county institutional and hospital liens, and limiting cost of care for patients of public psychiatric hospitals
- 2005** CHLP successfully advocated for statewide ADA standards and compulsory training of local welfare agencies to identify and accommodate the special needs of people with disabilities
- 2005** CHLP advocacy leads to NJ Fair Housing Act amendment requiring all new multifamily Mt. Laurel housing to be adaptable for use by people with physical disabilities
- 2008** NJ Superior Court judge orders \$1.5 million worth of retrofits to make condos accessible in *ADA v. Renaissance*
- 2009** CHLP successfully advocated for a law requiring public official and commercial data companies to remove lien records of former psychiatric patients from public view
- 2013** CHLP received grants from Robin Hood Foundation, Kessler Foundation, Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund, and Sandy Legal Assistance Fund to assist victims of Hurricane Sandy
- 2014** CHLP settles 2007 federal court complaint against Port Authority of New York and New Jersey alleging that Jersey City PATH Station is inaccessible with the agreement to construct an elevator and lift to give access to the Grove Street Station
- 2016** CHLP expands services to clients living with HIV/AIDS to seven counties.
- 2017** CHLP helped draft the language and advocate for the successful passage of a new law which provides “due process” rights to residents of free-standing Residential Healthcare Facilities prior to eviction
- 2018** CHLP launches Medical-Legal Partnership with addiction agency to provide legal services to those afflicted by the opioid crisis
- 2018** CHLP enters into a contract with the City of Elizabeth to assist residents in expunging their criminal records
- 2019** CHLP establishes Medical-Legal Partnerships with behavioral health providers in Monmouth and Essex Counties

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

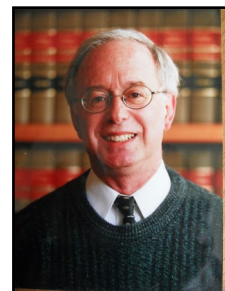
During this past year, the Community Health Law Project continued its mission to serve the residents of New Jersey who are living with chronic illnesses and disabilities. We provided information, advice, advocacy and representation to over four thousand two hundred individuals across the state.

Our five regional offices and four satellite offices handled a variety of legal issues including, housing, entitlements, consumer, health insurance, and family matters. Within those areas staff addressed questions related to accessibility, accommodations, and the various nuances involved in the Affordable Care Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Law Against Discrimination.

During this year and into the next year, the CHLP is actively working on our several Medical-Legal Partnerships that already exist with provider agencies and negotiating an expansion with them and two other agencies. By the end of next year, we also hope to have a partnership with a hospital system. The future should evidence the growth of this effort so that we have medical-legal partnerships in all regions of the state and with service to various client populations.

This year we had an outstanding Ann Klein Advocates Awards dinner and a very interesting, exciting and well attended Law & Disability Issues Conference sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

Truly, the future looks bright and I am extremely thankful to our Board of Trustees for their support. I am deeply grateful for the dedication, diligence, creativity, and work ethic of our outstanding lawyers, advocates, intake and administrative assistants, and impressive administrative staff.



Harold B. Garwin
HAROLD B. GARWIN, ESQ.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019

CHLP Elizabeth Office:

A subsidized housing project miscalculated a CHLP client's rent in February in his annual recertification. This resulted in the client's portion of the rental payment as too low. No one was aware of this error until August. For six months, the client paid his rent portion on time, but was advised in August that due to an "administrative error" his portion was "too low," and he was now responsible to make up the six-month deficit in a lump sum by the next month, or he would face possible eviction action.

CHLP got involved, advised the subsidized housing administrator that under the HUD handbook 4350.03, Chapter 8, "the owner must reimburse HUD for all other overpayments of assistance where such overpayments were due to the owner's error or the owner's failure to follow HUD Procedures."

Despite some resistance, CHLP was able to successfully fight for the subsidized housing administrator to pay the deficit.

In another matter, our office filed a Notice of Appeal with the Appellate Division on behalf of a 78-year-old client facing eviction based on apparent unclean conditions in her

apartment. At this time, the Appellate Division has granted a stay of eviction pending the outcome of the appeal. This means no eviction can go forward until the Appellate Division decides if the trial court's decision to order an eviction was correct or was made in error.

Tenant is a 78-year-old woman whose main source of income is Social Security Disability benefits. Tenant has resided in a federally subsidized senior building for 15 years and, as such, her monthly rental payment is 30% of her income or \$357.00. Tenant has a hoarding disability and, at most times, her apartment has been in a state of disarray and full of clutter. However, in April 2019, Tenant began receiving mental health treatment and monitoring services from Jewish Family Services to ensure the hoarding does not reoccur. Since Tenant began receiving these services, she has maintained her home in a clean and sanitary manner.

With this appeal, our office is claiming the trial court committed three errors in deciding to order the eviction. The first is that the trial court abused its discretion when it ordered an eviction based on unclean conditions in Tenant's apartment. The trial court should

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019

have granted Tenant's request for a reasonable accommodation and permitted Tenant to continue residing in her apartment while it remained clean and sanitary and while Tenant received mental health and monitoring services from Jewish Family Services.

Secondly, the trial court committed a procedural mistake when it failed to take testimony with regard to the landlord's alleged efforts to provide accommodations to Tenant prior to the eviction proceeding. The trial court should have taken testimony in order to resolve the factual dispute rather than rely on the oral submissions by counsel for the landlord.

Lastly, the trial court abused its discretion when it found Tenant failed to cure the uncleanly conditions in her apartment although the trial court acknowledged Tenant's apartment had been substantially cleaned out and that the apartment passed an inspection by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

The federally subsidized senior building in which Tenant resides is her housing of last resort. Without the housing subsidy, Tenant will be rendered homeless and face dire consequences alone. She is without loved ones who are able to assist her and she cannot afford rent at the regular market rate in light of the severe lack of affordable housing in the State of New Jersey.

Our office is putting forth every effort in fighting for this client as she is truly sympathetic and in desperate need of help.

CHLP Bloomfield Office:

Our client had worked all his life but around 2016, he developed several mental and physical conditions which made it impossible for him to continue working. He was no longer able to pay child support for his daughter and arrears began to accrue. He had exhausted temporary disability benefits and his only income was a small amount of cash assistance from Social Services. He applied for Social Security benefits but had to wait for his hearing, a process that can take up to two years.

The attorney filed a motion with the family court to suspend enforcement of our client's child support order pending a decision on his Social Security case. At the child support hearing, our client testified about his medical issues and how they make it impossible for him to work. The Court granted a short suspension of three months and then the attorney requested a second suspension. The attorney provided medical records proving that our client continued to suffer from health issues and that his Social

Security hearing was still pending. The Court denied Defendant's motion, finding that he had not shown a change in circumstances to justify suspending the child support order. The Court ordered the client to look for work and provide the Court with proof of fifteen job searches a month. The attorney made repeated requests for the opportunity for a plenary hearing but the judge denied these requests.

Under New Jersey law, the family court is required to hold a plenary hearing to allow the party an opportunity to submit evidence and examine witnesses. Our attorney filed an appeal with the Appellate Division and argued that the Court failed to provide a plenary hearing and overlooked the evidence showing that our client's medical conditions prevent him from working. The Appellate Division agreed that the judge erred in denying our request for a plenary hearing. It reversed the lower court's decision and remanded the case back to the lower court for a plenary hearing. This decision is important because it could help future clients who are also denied the opportunity for a plenary hearing.

In another matter, our office represented JB who was a patient at a county mental health hospital. After several months, his physician determined that his mental condition had improved and he was ready to be discharged back to the community. The social workers arranging his discharge contacted the landlord to get entry to JB's apartment because in the course of his acute illness, he misplaced his key. The social workers then learned that while JB was in the hospital, the landlord had sued him for nonpayment of rent and obtained a judgment of possession. The landlord also told the social workers that as the new owner of the building, he would not accept rent because he did not want JB as a tenant. The agencies involved with JB paid all rents in a timely manner prior to the court case, but the landlord refused to cash the checks. The social workers then contacted CHLP for assistance. At that point, JB received a Warrant of Removal with a lockout scheduled in 3 days. CHLP immediately went to court to obtain an Order to Show Cause staying the eviction until we could be heard by the Court on the issue of the landlord improperly refusing payment of the rent. We successfully obtained the Order to Show Cause, after which the landlord finally cooperated in taking the rent, signed various paperwork to continue the rent subsidy, and gave JB a new key. JB then was able to be discharged from the hospital and he returned to his apartment where he continues to reside.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019

CHLP COLLINGSWOOD OFFICE:

Last October, CHLP was awarded the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant. This federal grant program, offered by the US Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, was designed to develop the nation's capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable.

Through this grant, CHLP represents victims of domestic violence in four New Jersey counties: Burlington, Gloucester, Cumberland and Atlantic. These four counties were assessed to be the most underserved counties regarding legal representation for victims of domestic violence. With this three-year grant, CHLP focuses on low income clients with either mental health or substance abuse issues and helps clients to obtain final restraining orders and the post-judgement relief that can accompany a final restraining order in New Jersey, as well as assists with landlord tenant matters, various family law issues and a variety of other legal matters. CHLP has partnered with the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence (NJCEDV) (www.njcedv.org) in Trenton for this grant. NJCEDV refers clients to CHLP who meet the grant criteria for representation. In the past year, CHLP attorneys have helped numerous clients, with multiple legal issues. Within the past few months alone they have obtained multiple final restraining orders, had retaliatory restraining orders dismissed and obtained temporary support and custody for their clients. Lead attorney, Kristin Bricketto states, "though each of these cases is very labor intensive and emotional, obtaining successful results for our clients is incredibly rewarding and worth every effort."

CHLP Trenton Office:

Our office staff represented a 67 year old woman with severe developmental disabilities. Client's mother died recently leaving her entire estate (worth about \$100,000) to client in her Will through a testamentary trust fund to be administered by a friend of the family. Unfortunately, the

Mercer County Board of Social Services deemed the assets in the trust to be non-exempt and therefore terminated client's Medicaid. This result would have been devastating to the client as she needs and receives a great deal of assistance and services from DDD that permit her to live without being institutionalized. The Board of Social Services took the position that the trust fund did not qualify as an exempt asset because they believed that the relevant law required that it be funded prior to the date that the beneficiary reached the age of 65, and because the trust was set up as part of the Will rather than in a separate trust document.

After a Medicaid fair hearing and continuing benefits were requested, we researched the issues. We discovered that the age 65 requirement did not apply to the type of trust in issue here because it was set up as a third party trust rather than a self-settled trust. (A third party trust is a trust that is funded by property that was owned by a third party rather than the beneficiary, while a self-settled trust is funded by money that is owned by the beneficiary at the time that the trust is created.) In this case, since the trust was funded by property owned by the client's mother rather than the client herself, the age 65 rule was not applicable, as there are no age requirements for third party trusts. We also discovered that there was no rule or prior case law that required a trust fund to be set up in a separate document apart from a Will in order to qualify as an exempt asset for the purpose of Medicaid eligibility.

After providing the results of our research to the Board of Social Services, they agreed that a mistake was made and client's Medicaid termination was rescinded without the need for a court hearing. In addition to saving client's Medicaid and DDD benefits, this case has the potential to assist other Mercer County Medicaid residents in similar situations as the Board of Social Services did not seem to be aware of the distinction between third party and self-settled trusts or that it is possible to create valid trusts in the body of a Will without the need to create a separate trust document.

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [LinkedIn](#)

ANN KLEIN ADVOCATE AWARDS

The Community Health Law Project held the 32nd Annual Ann Klein Advocate Awards and 2019 Michael D. Lione Accessibility Award Reception at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 24th at The Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange.

The Ann Klein Advocate Awards was created in 1988 to honor Ann Klein, former Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, who was instrumental in establishing a community-based system of care for people with mental and physical disabilities. The award recognizes honorees for the outstanding contributions they have made in improving the lives of people living with disabilities.

The 2019 honorees are

Phillip Lubitz, MSW

(Stockton, NJ) Associate Director, NAMI New Jersey, The National Alliance on Mental Illness

The Miracle Project, Mayo Performing Arts Center

(Morristown, NJ)

Gina M. Plotino

(New Milford, NJ), Vice President, Programs & Operations, Bergen County’s United Way, President, GMP Consulting, Inc.;

Rabbi Dr. Francine Reibman

(South Orange, NJ), Co-founder & Co-chair Children’s Emergency Medical Fund of New Jersey;

Peter Scerbo

(Bradley Beach, NJ), Executive Director, (Retired) CBHCare, Inc.

The Michael D. Lione Accessibility Award was established in 2013 in memory of long time Community Health Law Project Board Member and former chair Michael D. Lione. This award is presented to an individual or entity that has

performed exemplary work as an advocate for accessibility on behalf of persons living with disabilities. The 2019 recipient is **Michael R. Dribbon**, PhD (Warren, NJ), Vice President of Business Development & Chief Innovation & Research Officer, Children’s Specialized Hospital & Center for Discovery, Innovation & Development.

In addition, this year the Community Health Law Project gave Special Recognition Awards to **David Lazarus**, retired Director of Litigation, and **David Popiel**, retired Senior Managing Attorney, for their more than three decades of policy, litigation, and legislation successes on behalf of persons living with disabilities.

Event Sponsors included

Awards Sponsor

Kessler Foundation

Journal Underwriter

Gold, Albanese, Barletti & Locascio, LLC

Invitation Underwriter

Children’s Specialized Hospital

Gold Sponsor

Drinker Biddle

Silver Sponsors

Columbia Bank, Wakefern Food Corp.

Bronze Sponsors

Employers Association of New Jersey

Gibbons P.C.

Meyerson, Fox, Mancinelli & Conte, P.A.

Mutual of America

The Community Health Law Project’s advocacy initiatives and student intern program are supported through this annual awards event.



Ann Klein Advocate Honorees (left to right): Peter Scerbo, Gina Plotino, Phillip Lubitz, Francine Reibman and Cathy Roy/MPAC



Michael R. Dribbon (left) and CHLP Executive Director Harold Garwin

CHLP's PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The essential mission of the Community Health Law Project is to provide legal and advocacy services to New Jersey residents with disabilities. We serve consumers of mental health services, people with physical disabilities, HIV/AIDS, developmental disabilities, and visual impairments. Our attorneys and advocates represent clients in matters involving Social Security benefits, welfare, food stamps, and other entitlements; housing habitability and landlord/tenant disputes; foreclosure defense; consumer protection and debt collection; child support and domestic violence; Medicaid, Medicare, and other health insurance issues; civil rights; and barrier-free accessibility. In FY2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), CHLP represented 4,233 clients.

In addition to the examples of services described above, CHLP operates several unique programs:

To Your Health This program concentrates on two important issues facing our clients: First is providing assistance to individuals with mental health and co-occurring conditions to enroll under the Affordable Care Act in the new Medicaid Expansion Program and the Healthcare Marketplace. For other clients, we have assisted and represented individuals receiving home health care who have had their health care services denied, terminated or reduced by the health care insurance carrier.

Student Internship Program Since 1988, CHLP has been holding its annual Ann Klein Advocate Awards, the proceeds of which support its student internship program. Using these funds, as well as funding from Legal Services of New Jersey, CHLP has been able to hire several law students and graduate students every year to work in its branch offices on direct legal services, and its South Orange office on civil rights cases. In so doing, CHLP helps to train and inspire the next generation of disability advocates and attorneys.

Civil Rights and ADA Litigation For many years the CHLP has been a leading voice and advocate for clients in Fair Housing and Americans with Disabilities litigation. Staff continues to assist clients in asserting their rights and seeking accommodations.

Training and Workshops CHLP offers a wide range of workshops for consumers and professionals. With the support of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, it presents an annual Law & Disability Issues Conference at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick every spring. Subjects range from civil rights cases to health care issues to new laws affecting people in institutional settings. CHLP staff is always ready to speak on the entire range of legal topics that affect the organization's clients. The staff also offers interactive workshops on the civil rights of persons with disabilities and on health care issues.

Public Policy Advocacy CHLP staff has continued to address system-wide issues that affect our clients in a number of ways. For example, we participated in statewide coalitions such as the New Jersey Anti-Poverty Network and the Affordable Housing Network and various county professional advisory committees to local mental health planning boards. We took active roles in the government affairs committees and activities of statewide organizations such as Disability Rights New Jersey, the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, The Arc of New Jersey, and New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies. Our direct service staff attorneys and advocates participated in numerous local advisory boards and task forces around the state addressing issues such as homelessness, mental illness, developmental disabilities, Social Security, HIV/AIDS services, prisoner reentry and human services. In addition, our attorneys and advocates provided community education and training around the state on a variety of topics of concern to people with disabilities. An example of this effort is our South Jersey office attending monthly meetings with the public policy sub-committee of the Mental Health Association of Southwestern New Jersey's Board working on getting the Camden County Board of Social Services to be more responsive and sensitive to the needs of mental health consumers and improving access to their services; and providing training to boarding home/residential health care facility operators and residential services providers on Social Security issues.

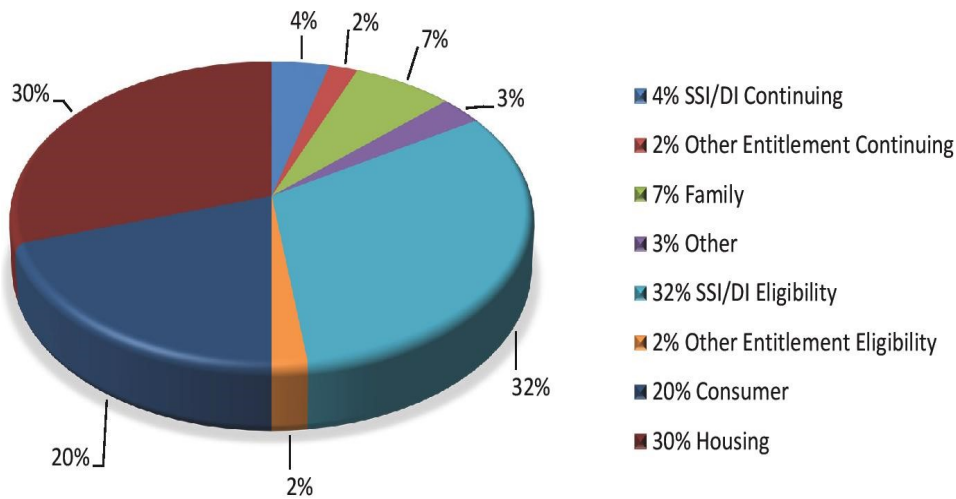
Fee-for-Service Program The CHLP has initiated a Fee-for-Service (FFS) representation program for individuals with disabilities whose income exceeds CHLP's income guidelines to obtain free legal representation or for those individuals with disabilities for whom CHLP has no funding to provide free legal representation. Under the FFS program, CHLP bills its legal services on a sliding scale, from \$125 to \$175 per hour, depending on the client's income. Legal services are provided in such areas as special education, social security, special needs trusts, health insurer's denial of coverage or services, guardianships, expungements, name changes, wills, living wills, powers of attorney, fair housing and ADA issues, and certain other civil law matters.

Medical-Legal Partnership CHLP has embarked on a new innovative model of providing legal assistance through Medical-Legal Partnerships to address the social determinants of health. In a medical-legal partnership, attorneys are embedded into a healthcare setting as part of the treatment team to provide holistic care to patients and improve health outcomes by addressing patients' life issues - such as housing preservation, entitlements, family issues, etc.- which, research shows, affect overall health outcomes significantly more than medical interventions.

NEW CASES & CLIENTS SERVED

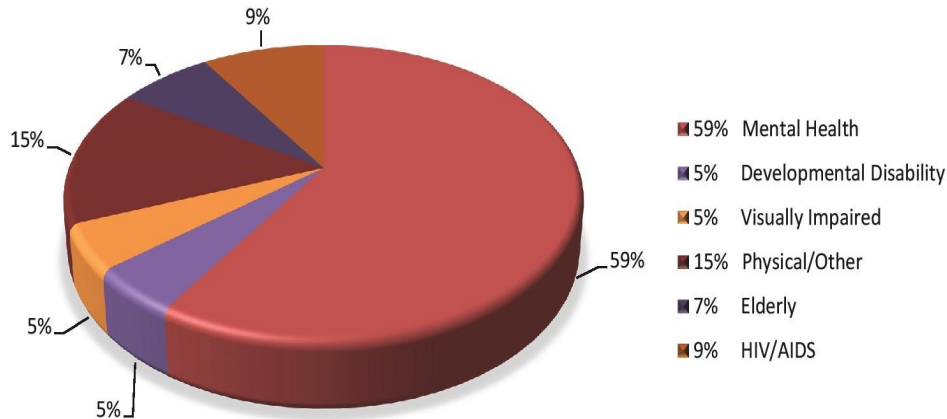
Each year CHLP attorneys and advocates help nearly 5,000 New Jersey residents with disabilities through legal representation and counseling. CHLP’s services are provided free of charge to residents of New Jersey on a full range of civil law matters, including Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income benefits, welfare, housing, family law, consumer matters, and architectural barriers. CHLP serves all disability groups in nearly all of New Jersey’s 21 counties. It receives funding from numerous state agencies, as well as from private sources. It has offices in South Orange, Bloomfield, Elizabeth, Trenton, Eatontown and Collingswood, and satellite offices in Jersey City, Toms River, Mt. Holly, and Galloway.

NEW CASES FY2019



CLIENTS SERVED BY DISABILITY

FY2019 Total = 4,233



FUNDING SOURCES

City of Newark, Department of
Child and Family Well-Being

Division of Health Planning,
Ryan White Program

Elizabeth Expungement

Hyde Watson

The IOLTA Fund of the Bar of
New Jersey

Legal Services of New Jersey, Inc.

Mental Health Association in
New Jersey

Monmouth County Mental
Health Board

Ocean County Office of Senior Services

State of New Jersey:
Department of Children and
Families

Department of Health and
Senior Services, Division of
HIV, STD and TB Services

Department of Human
Services, Commission for the
Blind and Visually Impaired

Department of Human
Services, Division of
Developmental Disabilities

Department of Human
Services, Division of Mental
Health and Addiction
Services

Union County Division on Aging

Marjorie Wyman Trust

United States Dept. of Justice-
Office of Violence Against Women-
Legal Assistance for Victims

Healthcare Foundation of NJ

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	June 30,	
	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Cash	\$624,088	\$661,276
Cash Escrow	879	7,809
Investments	646,134	478,196
Grants and Contracts Receivable	559,163	373,465
Other Receivables	10,658	56,788
Prepaid Expenses & Other Current Assets	<u>19,742</u>	<u>15,126</u>
Total Current Assets	1,860,664	1,592,660
Property and Equipment	205,196	147,900
Security Deposits	<u>29,428</u>	29,178
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$2,095,288</u>	<u>\$1,769,738</u>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable	\$89,078	\$43,702
Accrued Expenses	217,279	185,017
Client's Escrow Deposits	879	7,809
Deferred Rent	10,983	—
Deferred Income	—	23,466
Due to Grantor	72,792	56,813
Current Portions of Lease Obligation	<u>11,947</u>	—
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$402,958</u>	<u>\$316,807</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets		\$796,626
Temporarily Restricted Assets		<u>656,305</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>\$1,452,931</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
		<u>\$1,769,738</u>
Income and Expenses		
<i>For the Year Ending June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2018</i>		
INCOME		
Grants & Contracts	\$5,771,692	\$5,310,762
Contributions	221,635	37,476
Attorney Fees	411,650	369,886
Fundraising	77,835	87,309
Interest & Other Income	<u>32,243</u>	<u>15,454</u>
	<u>\$6,515,055</u>	<u>\$5,820,887</u>
EXPENSES		
Legal & Advocacy Services	\$5,413,694	\$4,992,711
Policy, Planning, Training, Administration & Fundraising	<u>904,978</u>	<u>867,665</u>
	<u>\$6,318,672</u>	<u>\$5,860,376</u>

ADVISORY BOARDS & TASK FORCES ON WHICH CHLP STAFF PARTICIPATE

Anti – Poverty Network	Monmouth County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee
Atlantic County HIV Collaborative	Monmouth County Re-entry Task Force
Atlantic County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee	Newark EMA Early Intervention & Retention Collaborative (EIRC)
Commissioner of Human Services Executive Advisory Committee	Newark EMA Health Services HIV Planning Council Comprehensive Planning Committee
Community Planning & Advocacy Council	New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Service Agencies
Department of Community Affairs Barrier-Free Subcode Committee	New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities: Dialogue with the Division
Disability Rights New Jersey, PAIMI Advisory Council	New Jersey Mental Health Coalition
Essex County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee	New Jersey Partners: Aging, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Inc.
Essex Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns	New Jersey SHARES
HIV Partnership Collaboration Monmouth County	New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
Hudson County Food and Shelter Coalition	Ocean County Justice Involved Task Force
Hudson County Mental Health Board	Ocean County Homeless Prevention & Assistance Coalition (HPAC)
Hudson County Professional Advisory Committee	Ocean County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee
Leadership New Jersey Board of Directors	Ocean County Professional Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Medical Assistance Advisory Council	Passaic Bergen HIV Health Services Planning Council
Mental Health Association in New Jersey Board of Trustees	Passaic County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee
Mental Health Association in New Jersey Public Policy Committee	Rutgers Law Public Interest Alumni Fundraising Board
Mental Health Association in Passaic County	Senior Legislative Issues Coalition of Union County
Mental Health Association in Southwest New Jersey Board of Trustees	Seton Hall Law School Diversity Council
Mental Health Association in Southwest New Jersey Boarding Home & Public Policy Comm.	Statewide Legal Disaster Team
Mental Health Association in Southwest New Jersey & Camden Mental Health Board Ad Hoc Committee	Statewide Recovery Partners
Mercer County HIV Collaborative	The Arc of New Jersey Government Affairs Committee
Mercer County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee	Union County Department of Human Services Code Blue Committee
Mercer County Social Impact Group	Union County Foreclosure Task Force
Mercer County SSI SOAR Committee	Union County Human Services Advisory Council
Monday Morning Project	Union County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee
Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative (HSC)	
Monmouth County Division on Aging, Disabilities, & Veterans Services	

LAW & DISABILITY ISSUES CONFERENCE

On Thursday, May 9, 2019, from 9:00am-1:00pm at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick, the Community Health Law Project presented the annual Law & Disability Issues Conference.

Sponsored and hosted by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the Law & Disability Issues Conference is presented by the Community Health Law Project (CHLP) and provides attendees with law-related education on current topics. This year’s sessions include *Integrated Care-Behavioral Health, Physical Health and Social Determinants of Health, Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, Domestic Violence, and Special Education*. Experts on these subjects lead panel discussions and were available for questions.

The *Integrated Care –Behavioral Health, Physical Health, & Social Determinants of Health* session discussed what true integrated care means and how to implement it in order to achieve optimal health outcomes. Moderated by Harold B. Garwin, Esq., President/Executive Director, Community Health Law Project, the panel included Barbara Johnston, MA, Director, Policy & Advocacy Mental Health Association in NJ; Erika Kerber, Esq., Director of Litigation, Community Health Law Project; Joseph Masciandaro, MA, President/CEO, CarePlus NJ, Inc., and Vera Sansone, LCSW, CEO, CPC Behavioral Healthcare.

The workshop titled *Addiction and the Opioid Crisis*, explored the latest developments that have been initiated to

combat the opioid epidemic. Brian Smith, Esq., Managing Attorney, Community Health Law Project was the moderator. The panel was comprised of Heather Altman, MA, LPC, Program Supervisor Support Teams for Addiction Recover (STAR), Center for Family Services; William Bruck, MSN, APN, FNP-BC, CARN-AP, Director of Medical Services, Seabrook; Adam Bucon, LSW, NJ State Opioid Treatment Authority, NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Mary Merkel-Custer, MSN, APN-C, CARN-AP, Director of Nursing, Maryville, Inc.

The *Domestic Violence* workshop examined issues related to domestic violence with a focus on the most vulnerable victims, individuals with disabilities and the elderly. Moderated by Deanna Dyer, Esq., Legal Director, NJ Coalition to End Domestic Violence, the panel included Kristin Bricketto, Esq., Senior Attorney, Community Health Law Project; Carrie Liszewski, MA, LPC, LCADC, DRCC Social Work Supervisor including Adult Protective Services, Ocean County Board of Social Services; and Jessica Oppenheim, Esq., Director, Criminal Justice Advocacy Program, The Arc of New Jersey.

Special Education was the third workshop option. It discussed developments in Special Education Law with various case studies. The panel was comprised of Elizabeth Athos, Esq., Senior Attorney, Education Law Center; and Sean Benoit, Esq., Staff Attorney, Community Health Law Project.



Vera Sansone, CPC; Barbara Johnston, MHANJ; Harold Garwin, CHLP; Joseph Masciandaro, CarePlus NJ; Erika Kerber, CHLP



Mary Merkel-Custer, Maryville; Brian Smith, CHLP; Adam Bucon, DMHAS; William Bruck, Seabrook; Heather Altman, Center for Family Services



Deanna Dyer, NJCEDV; Kristin Bricketto, CHLP; Carrie Liszewski, OCBSS; Jessica Oppenheim, Arc of NJ

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Lawrence N. Meyerson, Esq.
Chairperson
Ann Marie Burke, Esq.
Vice-Chairperson
Sean M. Bradley, B.A.
Treasurer
Harold B. Garwin, Esq.
President/Executive Director

Beth L. Barnhard, Esq.
Krystina DeLuca, Esq.
Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee, M.P.A.
Paula A. Franzese, Esq.
Thomas C. Jardim, Esq.
Barbara Johnston, M.A.
Andrew B. Joseph, Esq.
Rich Levesque, B.S.
Marsha M. Moore, Esq.

John M. Mudge, Jr., M.S.
Antonia A. Pancel-Cipric, Esq.
Charles F. Rysavy, Esq.
John J. Sarno, Esq.
Christine A. Stearns, Esq.
Diane E. Sugrue, Esq.
Richard D. Trenk, Esq.
Wayne D. Vivian, B.A.
Franklin K. Wyman, Esq., Ph. D.

COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT

NORTH JERSEY

650 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite 210
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
973.680.5599
FAX: 973.680.1488
TTY: 973.680.1116
Email: Bloomfield@chlp.org

EAST JERSEY

65 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 402
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908.355.8282
FAX: 908.355.3724
TTY: 908.355.3369
Email: Elizabeth@chlp.org
35 Journal Square, Suite 831
Jersey City, NJ 07306
201.630.6201
FAX: 908.355.3724

SHORE AREA

1 Main Street, Suite 413
Eatontown, NJ 07724
732.380.1012
FAX: 732.380.1015
Email: Eatontown@chlp.org
250 Washington Street, Suite 5
Toms River, NJ 08753
732.349.6714
FAX: 732.349.6935
CENTRAL JERSEY
225 East State Street, Suite 5
Trenton, NJ 08608
609.392.5553
FAX/TTY: 609.392.5369
Email: Trenton@chlp.org
4 Commerce Place
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060
609.261.3453
FAX: 609.261.8596

SOUTH JERSEY

Station House Office Building
900 Haddon Avenue, Suite 400
Collingswood, NJ 08108
Phone/TTY: 856.858.9500
FAX: 856.858.9545
Email: Collingswood@chlp.org
4 East Jimmie Leeds Road, Suite 8
Galloway, NJ 08205
856.858.9500
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
185 Valley Street
South Orange, NJ 07079
973.275.1175
FAX: 973.275.5210
TTY: 973.275.1721
Email: chlpinfo@chlp.org