

# Community Health Law Project

Annual Report — *July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018*



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# COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT



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## Highlights of Forty-Two 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 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 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

## Message from the Director of Litigation

The Community Health Law Project (CHLP) continues its mission of assisting the most vulnerable residents of our state – those who are low-income and living with disabilities. In addition to providing individual advocacy and legal representation, CHLP continues its role in impacting broad policy and systemic change to help better the lives of our consumers.

CHLP was instrumental in helping to draft and promote the legislation which now provides residents of “free-standing” Residential Healthcare Facilities (RHCFs) with the same protections against arbitrary eviction as enjoyed by tenants and by rooming and boarding house residents. Prior to this new law, residents of RHCFs could be involuntarily discharged on 30 days’ notice at the whim of the operator without any right to due process before an impartial tribunal. The new law will protect RHCF residents from arbitrary removal and will place the authority to evict a resident in the hands of a court to make an independent, neutral decision.



*Erika Kerber*

CHLP is also at the forefront of promoting a relatively new and exciting model of providing holistic, comprehensive, and integrated care to consumers through Medical-Legal Partnerships whereby attorneys are embedded into the healthcare setting as partners in the treatment team. Research indicates that when key elements of everyday life are compromised - when housing is compromised or food security is uncertain, benefits are interrupted or terminated, or safety is compromised - health suffers and recovery is jeopardized. These social determinants of health can be addressed through legal assistance and advocacy. By screening patients for legal issues in the healthcare setting, attorneys can address these issues proactively, as opposed to reactively when the patient may already be in crisis by the time they are referred for legal services outside of the healthcare setting which, at that point, may be too late. The impact of medical-legal partnerships includes, but is not limited to, better patient compliance with care and improved health, reduced healthcare spending for high-use and high-cost patients, and healthcare cost savings for patients and recovery of vital benefits.

CHLP has a medical-legal partnership to assist individuals battling HIV/AIDS. We also recently launched medical-legal partnerships with several agencies providing services to those suffering with substance use disorders, which is critical in light of the opioid epidemic plaguing our state. And we are hoping to form medical-legal partnerships with other healthcare providers as resources permit. We are very enthusiastic about this innovative and common-sense approach to providing necessary legal services to consumers as part of the healthcare team in order to promote positive health outcomes.

In addition to these exciting initiatives, CHLP continues to provide services to consumers through our main referral system. Our priority areas include public entitlements, housing, family issues, consumer matters, and foreclosure. We also continue to serve individuals receiving home care, such as personal care assistance, private duty nursing, and durable medical equipment, to help resolve issues related to the amount of care received and continuation of care. We are also pleased to be able to continue providing services to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in all of our priority areas with the addition of assisting them in the area of surrogate decision-making, including guardianships.

In the past 2 fiscal years, CHLP has served 8,569 individuals in 10,111 civil matters. We are hopeful that given New Jersey’s new administration, CHLP will continue to thrive and grow in order to serve the ever-increasing number of individuals who face daily challenges because of their disabilities and/or financial circumstances.

Sincerely,

ERIKA KERBER, ESQ.  
Director of Litigation

# The Year in Review: July 2016 - June 2018

The Community Health Law Project staff have represented our clients in a myriad of civil matters. Some examples of the types of cases that we have been involved in the last two fiscal years include:

- **Special Education** - In a case involving a youth with special needs, our attorney was able to secure an out-of-district educational placement for a child on the autism spectrum. The child is now making measurable progress at a reputable private school that specializes in Autism Spectrum Disorder. When the child's mother originally came to CHLP, she had already filed for Due Process. However, we agreed to withdraw the complaint without prejudice if the school district performed certain requested evaluations, including a neuropsychological evaluation. We were able to use the results of these evaluations to secure the out-of-district placement without the need for a full Due Process Hearing, saving the child and his mother significant time and money.

- **DAC Medicaid** - CHLP has had a few cases involving the DAC Medicaid exception and clients being terminated from Medicaid. The DAC Medicaid exception provides that if recipients are on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and then receive Disabled Adult Child (DAC) benefits at a level that would normally make them ineligible for Medicaid, the individuals continue to be eligible for Medicaid. DAC eligibility requires that a parent be eligible for Social Security retirement or disability benefits or be deceased.

This pattern would seem to raise a question as to how often Medicaid offices are incorrectly denying DAC Medicaid exception applicants. In addition to the various Boards of Social Services and Medicaid offices not understanding the DAC exception, parents, guardians and clients themselves are unlikely to understand the DAC Medicaid exception. There may be a systemic problem with Medicaid offices and the DAC exception. CHLP will continue to protect its clients who are eligible for the DAC Medicaid exception.

- **Social Security** - CHLP recently closed a case started in July, 2003. We represented a woman seeking SSI and Social Security Disability Benefits who had serious mental health issues due to multiple causes including a history of rape and other abuse. The case had to be appealed to the United States District Court four times. Each time the Social Security Administration agreed to remand the case without having a judge make a decision. Finally, an Administrative Law Judge agreed that we had been correct and granted full SSI benefits. Unfortunately, Social Security Disability Benefits were not awarded. The client received tens of thousands of dollars in retroactive benefits.

- **Home Health Care** - Staff represented a developmentally disabled child who was denied approval by the Medicaid HMO for a nurse to accompany the child to a preschool program. Staff met with the family and the preschool and provided medical documentation concerning the child's condition and the need for continuous nursing care. The HMO, after receiving the appeal, approved the nursing care for the child at the preschool program.

- **Foreclosure** - Staff represented a client who had entered into a mortgage modification agreement, but had fallen behind in payments. After reviewing the client's financial and medical situation, staff assisted in the submission of

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an application to Social Security. After initial denial, the client was successful at the hearing level. With the successful Social Security matter resulting in benefits to the client, staff negotiated with the lender to dismiss the foreclosure application and implement the balance forgiveness provisions of the modification agreement.

In another case, staff represented a client who had fallen behind in her mortgage after losing her job. A foreclosure complaint was filed and after the proceedings, a sheriff's sale was scheduled. Staff assisted the client in an application for her pension and advised the sheriff's office that a negotiation might ensue. Staff also helped the client to apply for Hardest Hit Funds, and upon the application being approved, the lender agreed to adjourn and then dismissed the sheriff's sale.

- Consumer - A client was sued by American Express for almost \$10,000.00. We filed an Answer in Special Civil Part, requested discovery from AMEX who stonewalled and kept wanting to settle. Then we filed a Motion To Strike their pleadings for failure to answer discovery. The court granted our motion, then we waited and filed another motion to convert the dismissal "without prejudice" to "with prejudice". The judge granted our motion. The client is so grateful to us since AMEX can never come after her again.

- Child Support - The NJ child support law recently changed and now provides that a non-custodial parent's duty to pay child support automatically terminates when the child reaches age 19. Exceptions to the termination at age 19 and potential continuation to age 23 include that the child is still a high school student or enrolled in another secondary school program, or attending college, vocational school, or graduate school on a full time basis, or was mentally and physically disabled prior to the age of 19 as determined by a federal or state governmental agency and needs continued support or the parties had agreed to an alternate support termination date or the court had granted a period of continued support. The new law also provides that no child support can continue after a child reaches the age of 23. But a court can still order a parent to pay for certain expenses related to raising and supporting the child past his or her 23rd birthday. There are many recipients of child support who have a physical or mental disability and who will never be able to support themselves due to the disability. The new law provides that a child beyond the age of 23 may seek a court order requiring the payment of financial maintenance. CHLP has represented the custodial parents of adult developmentally disabled children in filing actions in probate court for the establishment of financial maintenance to replace the child support which had previously been paid through probation. It has been necessary to demonstrate the severity of the disability in preventing the adult disabled child's ability to self-support. In one such case in which the adult disabled child was receiving SSI which is a needs-based benefit and which would be reduced by support even more than for children under the age of 18, CHLP was able to draft a special needs trust and have the support converted to financial maintenance and paid to the special needs trust so that it would not reduce the amount of SSI paid. CHLP was also able to implement an order of garnishment of the father's wages from a federal agency with which he was employed.

**Community Health Law Project's Mission:**

**To provide legal and advocacy services, training, education, and related activities to persons with disabilities and to organizations representing their interests, with an emphasis on those most vulnerable and needy.**

## *Ann Klein Advocate Awards 2017*

The 30th annual Ann Klein Advocate Awards was held on October 19, 2017, at The Wilshire Grand Hotel and honored:

**Brenda Considine**, *President & CEO, Considine Communication Strategies*

**Gary S. Horan**, *President & CEO, Trinitas Regional Medical Center*

**Gail Levinson**, *Executive Director (retired), Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey (SHA)*

**James Romer**, *Director, Mental Health Crisis Services Monmouth Medical Center*

**Laura Williams**, *Director, The Arc, Ocean County Chapter*

**Eileen Goff**, *Retired, Former Director of H.I.P. was presented with The Mike Leone Accessibility Award, given in memory of our former Chair and long-time Board member, in recognition of Mike's significant efforts on behalf of people living with disabilities.*

The event was attended by 216 Individuals with major support from Drinker Biddle; Verizon; Wakefern Food Corp.; Columbia Bank; Employers Association of New Jersey; Gibbons P.C.; Post, Polack, Goodsell & Strauchler, P.A.; Progressive Comprehensive Services, LLC; Trinitas Regional Medical Center; Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fisher, P.C.; Mutual of America; Rubenstein, Meyerson, Fox, Mancinelli, Conte & Bern, P.A.; Starr, Gern, Davison & Rubin, P.C.; Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey (SHA); and Trenk, DiPasquale, Della Fera & Sodono, P.C.

**Brenda Considine** has worked in the field of government relations, strategic communications, and public policy as it relates to children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families since 1984. She has served as a trainer for the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities' *Partners in Policy* and *Project Take Charge* programs. For more than 25 years, she has been a contributing writer for *People & Families* magazine, and has served as editor in chief of *Common Ground*. Brenda served as Autism New Jersey's first Coordinator of Legislative Affairs and later, at the Arc of New Jersey, as Director of Government Relations. She co-founded Considine Communication Strategies in 1997, which provides comprehensive strategic communication services to state agencies, non-profit organizations, advocacy groups and small businesses dedicated to serving people with developmental disabilities.

**Gary S. Horan**, FACHE, has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Trinitas Medical Center since 2001. From 1990 to 2001, Gary served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Our Lady of Mercy Healthcare System, Inc., Bronx, NY. He is also a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, member of the Board of QualCare, Inc., and Horan is Board Certified in Healthcare Management. Gary is the past Chairman of the Hospital Alliance of New Jersey, is a past member of the Board of the New Jersey Hospital Association's Health Research Education Trust, and its Finance and Investment Committees. He is also a member of the Board of the Catholic Healthcare Partnership of New Jersey, a member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Board of New Jersey Hospital Association.

**Gail Levinson** has worked in many diverse roles centering on the disability community, including serving as Director of Policy and Legislation for the Mental Health Association in NJ, Director of Advocacy for the Community Health Law Project, Liaison to the AIDS Community at the pharmaceutical company Hoffmann-La Roche, and Team Leader for the NJ Children's Initiative. In 2007 she became Director of the non-profit organization, Arts Unbound. Gail became the Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Association of NJ (SHA) in 2012 and served there until her retirement in 2017.

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**James Romer** is the Monmouth Medical Center's, Director of Screening Services. He worked in New Jersey's Mental Health System for nearly 40 years, mostly in Emergency Services. He received his Master's of Divinity in ministry from Seton Hall University and the graduate program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Forensic Psychology. Jim worked as a case manager at St. Mary's in Passaic and went into the Crisis Intervention Team. Jim also worked in Screening at UBH in Piscataway and in 1991 became Screening Director in Ocean County.

**Laura Williams** has worked in the field of services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities for almost thirty years and spent many of those years as a leader in the Arc community. In 2004, she was named Executive Director of The Arc, Ocean County Chapter. Laura has been chair of the New Jersey Arc's Council of Executive Directors. She received a degree in psychology from Muhlenberg College, along with a certification in elementary education. Laura has also earned her M.B.A. in management from Rutgers University. Laura has also participated in many work groups established by the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities.

**Eileen Goff** is the Mike Lione Accessibility Award recipient. Beginning her career in 1974 with a focus on implementing programs for those with vision loss, she created Athletics for Blind Leisure Enthusiasts (ABLE) in 1978. In 1980, Eileen founded Heightened Independence and Progress (*hip*), where she served as President/CEO for thirty-seven years and in 1994, she established Multimedia Transcription Service. Through partnership with the Community Health Law Project, *hip* has successfully litigated cases for the benefit of individuals living with disabilities in the state.

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## *Ann Klein Advocate Awards 2018*

The 31st annual Ann Klein Advocate Awards was held on October 25, 2018, at The Wilshire Grand Hotel and honored:

**Linda G. Gochfeld, M.D.** *Community Psychiatrist*

**Lisa McCauley Parles, Esq.,** *Partner, Parles Rekem, LLP*

**Dean Pastras, ACSW, LCSW,** *Executive Director, Bergen's Promise*

**Cory Storch,** *President & CEO Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services*

**Advancing Opportunities, Inc.** *was presented with The Mike Lione Accessibility Award, given in memory of our former Chair and long-time Board member, in recognition of Mike's significant efforts on behalf of people living with disabilities.*

The event was attended by 208 Individuals with major support from Drinker Biddle; Mutual of America; Verizon; Wakefern Food Corp.; Columbia Bank; Gibbons P.C.; Post, Polak, Goodsell & Strauchler, P.A.; Progressive Comprehensive Services, LLC; Employers Association of New Jersey; Meyerson, Fox, Mancinelli & Conte, P.A.; and Starr, Gern, Davison & Rubin, P.C.

**Linda G. Gochfeld, M.D.** has been active in public and community psychiatry and advocacy, throughout her long career. A graduate of Barnard College and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Linda completed her residency at Hillside Hospital and trained at the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies. She has practiced in New Jersey since 1978 and has worked and taught at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson (Rutgers) Medical School from 1978-1999 where she became Clinical Professor of Psychiatry. In 1999, she became the Medical Director of SERV Behavioral Health System. In May 2018, Linda retired from SERV, but plans to continue her small private practice in Princeton, as well as her advocacy.

**Lisa McCauley Parles, Esq.** is a partner in the Springfield, New Jersey law firm Parles Rekem, LLP, and the parent of a 28 year old with severe autism. Lisa began her career as an Assistant District Attorney in the Sex Crimes/Special Victims Bureau of the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office and was admitted to the New Jersey and New York State Bars. She earned her B.A. with honors from Hamilton College and her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law-Newark where she served as a General Editor of the Law Review. Lisa is a founder of the Quest Autism Foundation and the Special Quest Recreation Program. Lisa served as the Director of the Leadership Studies Program at Seton Hall University Stillman School of Business and an adjunct Professor in both the undergraduate and MBA programs where she has received the Adjunct Professor Excellence Award.

**Dean Pastras, ACSW, LCSW** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, receiving his Masters in social work from Rutgers, The State University. Dean started his career as a clinician working with children of all ages and challenges. He then joined Care-Plus NJ as the Director of Children Services, developing and expanding a range of innovative programs. In 2002, Dean became the founding Executive Director of Bergen's Promise, a premier children's behavioral health agency. Dean served on the Governor's Task Force for Mental Health, a committee charged with improving the mental health system. He is a past chair of the Children's Interagency Coordinating Council and the Trauma and Youth Project.

**Cory Storch** has served Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services since 1977. He began his career at Bridgeway as a new graduate of the University of Arizona's Master's Degree program in Rehabilitation Counseling. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from The State University of New York at Buffalo, he served in the positions of Team Leader, Program Director, Executive Director, and ultimately in his current role as President & CEO. He was a founding member and the first Chairman of the Board of the Supportive Housing Association of NJ (SHA). Cory has also served on the Board of the New Jersey Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (NJPRA) and has chaired its Public Policy Committee.

**Advancing Opportunities, Inc.** is a proactive leader in disability services, providing a wide array of supports in New Jersey with an aim to improving access to work, education, living spaces and recreation. Formerly known as Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey, the agency traces its roots back to a group of parents with children who had cerebral palsy who banded together to advocate for their children. Nearly 70 years later, the organization continues this vital work by providing services to improve accessibility for people with disabilities and their families. Advancing Opportunities' mission is to achieve full societal participation for all people with disabilities.

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## 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 FY2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017), CHLP represented 4,341 clients. In FY2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), CHLP represented 4,228 clients.

An example of how the Law Project's direct services adjusts to the needs of our clients is the continuing crisis of foreclosures facing New Jersey residents. During the last few years, various media outlets have spoken about the foreclosure epidemic continuing to be a crisis. Unfortunately, New Jersey has stood high on the list of states facing this situation. An article in The Star Ledger from July 2016 stated that New Jersey might well have the nation's highest rate of foreclosures in a large number of properties mired in the process. With many of our clients being low-income, as well as a large number being aged, our staff have addressed this problem by assisting clients to either overt foreclosure or work out settlements that enable them to stay in the property or have sufficient time to find other housing.

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 addictions 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.

***Trainings 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.

### LAW & DISABILITY ISSUES CONFERENCE

CHLP's annual Law & Disability Issues Conference, sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, was held on May 9, 2017.

#### Health Care Reform-The Affordable Care Act and Its Aftermath

Moderator: **John J. Sarno, Esq.**, President/General Counsel Employers Association of New Jersey

Panel: **Thomas Bane, LMSW**, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Consortium for Medicare Health Plan Operations (CMHPO);

**Joel Cantor, Sc.D.**, Professor of Public Policy and Director, Center for State Health Policy, Rutgers University;

**John Jacobi**, Dorothea Dix Professor of Health Law & Policy, Seton Hall Law School;

**Wardell Sanders, Esq.**, President, New Jersey Association of Health Plans

#### Workshop 1: Surrogate Decision-Making and Guardianships

Presenters: **Erika Kerber, Esq.**, Director of Litigation, Community Health Law Project;

**Elizabeth Scannella, Esq.**, Deputy Surrogate, Mercer County Surrogate's Office

#### Workshop 2: Affordable Housing-Mandate and Gap Litigation

Moderator: **Steven Leder, Esq.**, Senior Attorney, Community Health Law Project

Panel: **Adam Gordon, Esq.**, Associate Director and Staff Attorney, Fair Share Housing Center;

**Joe Young**, Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey

#### Workshop 3: Housing-The Bricks and Mortar and Support Services

Moderator: **Madeleine Coghlan, Esq.**, Managing Attorney, Community Health Law Project

Panel: **Valerie Mielke, MSW**, Assistant Commissioner, DHS, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services;

**Robert Parker**, Chief Executive Officer, NewBridge Services, Inc. (New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies Inc. representative);

**Mary Rossettini**, Assistant to the CEO Advance Housing, Inc. (Supportive Housing Association of NJ representative);

**Jonathan Seifried, M.A.**, Director of Housing, Division of Developmental Disabilities

### LAW & DISABILITY ISSUES CONFERENCE

CHLP's annual Law & Disability Issues Conference, sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, was held on May 8, 2018.

#### Medical-Legal Partnerships

Moderator: **Harold B. Garwin, Esq.**, President/Executive Director, Community Health Law Project

Panel: **Lydia Gottesfeld, Esq.**, Staff Attorney, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia,

**Erika Kerber, Esq.**, Director of Litigation, Community Health Law Project,

**Linda Y. Mur, PhD, LCADC**, Associate Vice President, Adult Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Services, Center for Family Services, Inc.

#### Workshop 1: Importance of SSI and Medicaid for DDD Services

Panel: **Beverly Roberts**, Director, Mainstreaming Medical Care Program, The Arc of New Jersey,

**Kelli Rice**, Director, Waiver Unit, Division of Developmental Disabilities, NJ Department of Human Services

#### Workshop 2: Update on Services and Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders

Moderator: **Stuart H. Weiner, Esq.**, Senior Attorney, Community Health Law Project

Panel: **Carolyn Beauchamp**, President and Chief Operating Officer, Mental Health Association in New Jersey;

**Adam Bucon**, State Opioid Treatment Authority, NJ Division of Mental Health and Addition Services;

**David Roden, LCSW, LCADC**, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, New Hope Foundation, Inc.

#### Workshop 3: Recent Legislative Activity Affecting Low-Income Individuals and Those with Disabilities in the Area of Public Entitlements, Housing and Addiction and Recovery

Moderator: **Steve M. Leder, Esq.**, Former Managing Attorney, Community Health Law Project

Panel: **Renee Koubiadis**, Assistant Commissioner, DHS, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services;

**Edward Martone**, Policy Analyst, National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence--New Jersey;

**Connie M. Pascale, Esq.**, Retired Legal Services Attorney

## Funding Sources

### Fiscal Years 2017-2018

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

Division of Health Planning, Ryan White Program

Hudson Homeless Prevention

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

van Ameringen Foundation, Inc.

Marjorie Wyman Trust

**As always, the true highlight of the year is the number of clients served. In FY2017, the Community Health Law Project provided legal services to 4,341 persons with disabilities in New Jersey and in FY2018, 4,228. Since its founding in 1976, CHLP has provided services to tens of thousands of residents living with disabilities and their families.**

## Statements of Financial Position

*As of June 30, 2017*

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	\$720,680
Cash Escrow	23,722
Investments	542,340
Grants and Contracts Receivable	404,126
Other Receivables	31,135
Prepaid Expenses & Other Current Assets	13,916
Property and Equipment	147,900
Security Deposits	<u>29,178</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,912,997</u></b>

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

Accounts Payable	\$35,565
Accrued Expenses	265,326
Client's Escrow Deposits	23,722
Deferred Income	34,487
Due to Grantor	61,477
Current Maturities of Mortgage Payable	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>\$420,577</u></b>

**Net Assets**

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$632,054
Temporarily Restricted Assets	<u>860,366</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,492,420</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,912,997</u></b>

**Income and Expenses**

*For the Year Ending June 30, 2017*

**INCOME**

Grants & Contracts	\$5,374,864
Attorney Fees	260,908
Contributions	229,328
Fundraising	76,930
Interest & Other Income	<u>16,955</u>
	<b>\$5,958,985</b>

**EXPENSES**

Legal & Advocacy Services	\$5,003,276
Policy, Planning, Training, Administration & Fundraising	<u>837,847</u>
	<b>\$5,841,123</b>

*As of June 30, 2018*

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	\$661,276
Cash Escrow	7,809
Investments	478,196
Grants and Contracts Receivable	373,465
Other Receivables	56,788
Prepaid Expenses & Other Current Assets	15,126
Property and Equipment	147,900
Security Deposits	<u>29,178</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,769,738</u></b>

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

Accounts Payable	\$43,702
Accrued Expenses	185,017
Client's Escrow Deposits	7,809
Deferred Income	23,466
Due to Grantor	56,813
Current Maturities of Mortgage Payable	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>\$316,807</u></b>

**Net Assets**

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$796,626
Temporarily Restricted Assets	<u>656,305</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,452,931</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,769,738</u></b>

**Income and Expenses**

*For the Year Ending June 30, 2018*

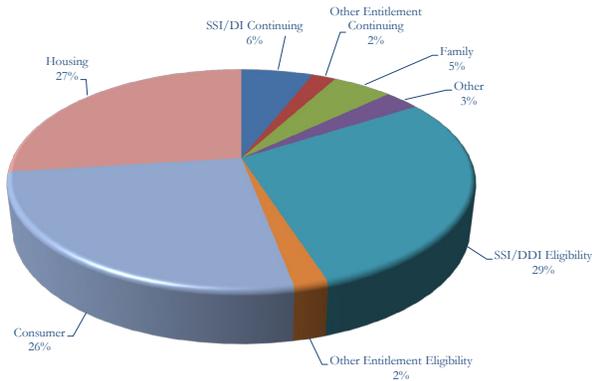
**INCOME**

Grants & Contracts	\$5,310,762
Attorney Fees	369,886
Contributions	37,476
Fundraising	87,309
Interest & Other Income	<u>15,454</u>
	<b>\$5,820,887</b>

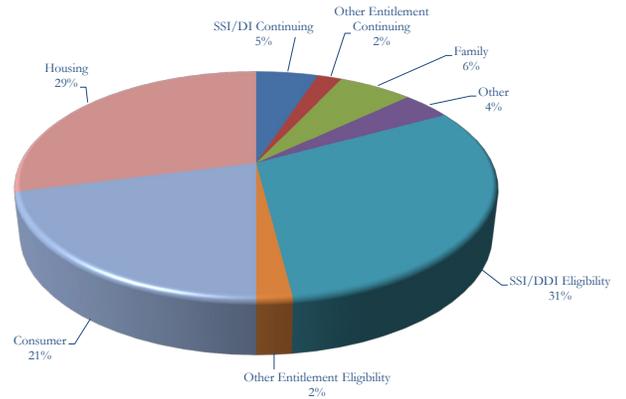
**EXPENSES**

Legal & Advocacy Services	\$4,992,711
Policy, Planning, Training, Administration & Fundraising	<u>867,665</u>
	<b>\$5,860,376</b>

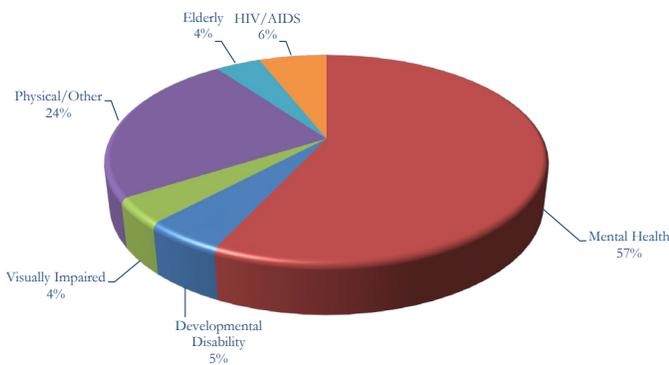
## NEW CASES FY2017



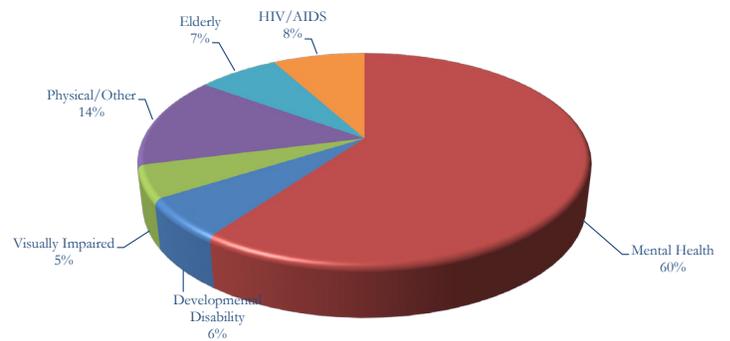
## NEW CASES FY2018



## CLIENTS SERVED BY DISABILITY FY2017 Total = 4,341



## CLIENTS SERVED BY DISABILITY FY2018 Total = 4,228



## Board of Trustees

Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee, M.P.A.

*Chairperson*

Lawrence N. Meyerson, Esq.

*Vice-Chairperson*

Sean M. Bradley, B.A.

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Richard D. Trenk, Esq.

Wayne D. Vivian, B.A.

Franklin K. Wyman, Esq., Ph.D.



## Advisory Boards and Task Forces on which CHLP Staff Participate:

Anti – Poverty Network

Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group

Atlantic County Long Term Recovery Group

Atlantic County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee

Camden County Mental Health Board Boarding Home/Residential Services Committee

Cape May Long Term Recovery Group

Commissioner of Human Services Executive Advisory Committee

Community Planning & Advocacy Council

Department of Community Affairs Barrier-Free Subcode Committee

Disability Rights New Jersey, PAIMI Advisory Council

Essex County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee

Essex Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns

HIV Partnership Collaboration Monmouth County

Hudson County Food and Shelter Coalition

Hudson County Mental Health Board

Hudson County Professional Advisory Committee

Leadership New Jersey Board of Directors

Medical Assistance Advisory Council

Mental Health Association in New Jersey Board of Trustees

Mental Health Association in New Jersey Public Policy Committee

Mental Health Association in Passaic County

Mental Health Association in Southwest New Jersey Board of Trustees

Mental Health Association in Southwest New Jersey Boarding Home & Public Policy Comm.

Mental Health Association in Southwest New Jersey & Camden Mental Health Board Ad Hoc Committee

Mercer County HIV Collaborative

Mercer County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee

Mercer County SSI SOAR Committee

Monday Morning Project

Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative (HSC)

Monmouth County Division on Aging, Disabilities, & Veterans Services

Monmouth County Long Term Recovery Group

Monmouth County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee

Monmouth County Re-entry Task Force

Newark EMA Early Intervention & Retention Collaborative (EIRC)

Newark EMA Health Services HIV Planning Council Comprehensive Planning Committee

New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Service Agencies

New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities Dialog with the Division

New Jersey Mental Health Coalition

New Jersey Partners: Aging, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Inc.

New Jersey SHARES

New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Ocean County Justice Involved Task Force

Ocean County Homeless Prevention & Assistance Coalition (HPAC)

Ocean County Long Term Recovery Group

Ocean County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee

Ocean County Professional Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Passaic Bergen HIV Health Services Planning Council

Passaic County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee

Senior Legislative Issues Coalition of Union County

Seton Hall Law School Diversity Council

Statewide Legal Disaster Team

Statewide Recovery Partners

Supportive Housing Association (SHA)

The Arc of New Jersey Government Affairs Committee

Union County Department of Human Services Code Blue Committee

Union County Foreclosure Task Force

Union County Mental Health Board Professional Advisory Committee

# COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT



[www.chlp.org](http://www.chlp.org)

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FAX: 732.349.6935

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856.858.9500

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