

Community Health Law Project Receives Support Through Partnerships



South Orange, NJ – The Community Health Law Project (CHLP) has partnered with multiple organizations in an effort to expand their supportive services for those in need.

The Community Health Law Project is excited to announce the following new partnerships and collaborations:

CHLP has partnered with the **New Jersey Department of Human Services’ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. The purpose of this partnership is to increase access to legal services, with appropriate communication accessibility services, for deaf and hard of hearing individuals with lower incomes. Funding for this partnership is provided by the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Recently, CHLP has become a partner in the **New Jersey Department of Community Affairs’ Right to Counsel Pilot Project**. This Department of Community Affairs funded project provides legal and social services assistance to low-income tenants at three pilot sites: Atlantic City, Trenton, and East Orange. CHLP will provide legal assistance to tenants with disabilities at all three sites.

Horizon and CHLP are collaborating in **Horizon’s Neighbors in Health Program**. *Neighbors in Health* aims to address the Social Determinants of Health of high-risk Horizon members by pairing them with Community Health Workers who provide support and linkages to services. In this collaboration, which is funded by Horizon, CHLP will be providing legal services to low-income participants of the Neighbors in Health Program in Essex County.

CHLP is the legal partner at the **Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey’s DULCE site** in Freehold Borough. DULCE, or Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone, is a research backed, innovative approach to pediatric care developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy. The Freehold site is one of 13 DULCE sites nationwide.

The **New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction** services has granted CHLP expansion funds to aid low-income New Jersey residents living with mental health conditions in housing related matters statewide. These additional funds will allow CHLP to aid more consumers to avert housing crises and potential homelessness.

As part of a comprehensive Housing Justice Program funded by the New Jersey legislature to **Rutgers Law School and Seton Hall Law School** in response to the global pandemic, the law schools have dedicated funds to CHLP to host two **Housing Justice Fellows**. The fellows will be providing assistance to low-income individuals with disabilities in housing related matters to help them avert eviction and promote housing stability. The two fellows will be placed in CHLP’s Collingswood and Elizabeth offices.

CHLP received a **New Jersey State Bar Foundation Co-Sponsorship Grant** to fund a one year fellowship in response to the pandemic eviction crisis. The fellow will provide housing and anti-eviction education and training to elderly tenants, tenants with disabilities, and the organizations that serve them, as well as provide direct legal services. The fellow will be based out of CHLP's Elizabeth office.

Community Health Law Project-

Founded in 1976, the Community Health Law Project (CHLP) is a statewide not-for-profit advocacy and legal service organization which provides legal representation and advocacy services to low-income individuals with disabilities and the frail elderly. The organization has traditionally specialized in services exclusively for these populations, although recently the organization has begun to provide broader services through the creation of medical-legal partnerships that offer the entire range of civil law.

Through the services it offers, CHLP maintains the independence and self-sufficiency of its clients so that they can live productive lives as contributing members of their communities. Clients are comprised of persons with chronic mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, mobility impairments, sensory impairments that render persons blind or deaf, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and more recently persons with substance use disorders and chronic health conditions. In summary, our clients are individuals who, by virtue of their age, health, or disability, cannot negotiate the complexities of daily life on their own and need the assistance of attorneys and advocates to help them with legal matters so that they may continue to live independently.

CHLP employs over 60 people, including attorneys, advocates, and support staff, who are skilled in working with these special populations. In its over 45 years of service, CHLP has represented more than 85,000 individual clients. Each year, it provides services to approximately 4,500 people in 5,000 individual cases. In addition, CHLP educates thousands of practitioners of law, health, and social work as well as consumers and families through conferences, hotlines, special programs and its website at www.chlp.org.

The administrative office is located in South Orange, and the five direct service offices are situated statewide in Neptune, Bloomfield, Trenton, Elizabeth, and Collingswood with satellite offices in Jersey City, Toms River, Mt. Holly, and Galloway.

CHLP offers services in a number of areas including, but not limited to, Social Security Disability Insurance; Supplemental Security Income; public entitlements; landlord-tenant matters; family law; Medicaid/Medicare; home care issues involving private duty nursing, personal care assistance, and durable medical equipment; consumer law; foreclosure; reverse mortgage issues; barrier-free accessibility; housing discrimination; guardianships; and document drafting such as Wills, Living Wills, and Powers of Attorney.

In addition to direct client representation, CHLP also conducts extensive outreach to advocacy and service organizations to inform staff and consumers about our services, as well as to educate them about the different areas of law that affect our client population.

Funding for CHLP's work is provided by governmental agencies, corporate and foundation grants, and individual contributions.