

## TRAINING AGENDA

### Wednesday, May 19

8:15am – 9:45am

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:45am – 10:00am

WELCOMING REMARKS

10:00am – 11:00am

#### **Helping Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries**

1.0 CLE

*Fran Chervenak – Pennsylvania Health Law Project*

This workshop will cover the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) Program as well as the Medical Assistance Programs for low income beneficiaries, including the new rules for the Medicare Buy-In programs. We will also discuss issues around how dual eligibles access healthcare.

11:00am – 12:00pm

#### **Critical Utility Issues & Changes**

1.0 CLE

*Harry Geller – Pennsylvania Utility Law Project*

The topics which will be covered are the recent PUC reversal of Afshari; -changes to Landlord- tenant & foreign load policy, issues in the renewed CAP (Customer Assistance Program); and Rulemaking and LIHEAP updates and alerts.

12:00pm – 12:45pm

LUNCH

12:45pm – 2:15pm

#### **PUC Bureau of Consumer Services – Residential Issues and Complaints**

1.5 CLE

*Dan Mumford – PUC Bureau of Consumer Services*

The topics which will be covered are Bureau of Consumer Services – Residential Procedures and Complaint Process and utility consumer electric shopping issues

2:15pm – 2:30pm

BREAK

2:30pm – 3:30pm

#### **TANF Work Requirements and Sanctions**

1.0 CLE

*Richard Weishaupt – Community Legal Services*

*Peter Zurflieh – Community Justice Project*

This session will review the ever-shifting sands of TANF work requirements and DPW welfare to work programs. We will highlight: (i) changes to the Work Support Component (WSC) Program intended to facilitate immediate referral of interested clients to education and training programs, such as KEYS and Move-Up; (ii) a joint DPW and L&I statewide subsidized jobs program that is bringing \$300 million in ARRA stimulus funds to Pennsylvania to provide subsidized employment opportunities to low-wage workers and a combination of subsidized employment and Paid Work Experience to TANF clients; (iii) elimination of work requirements for SNAP only households; (iv) status of the rules for special allowances for supportive services; and (v) problems that advocates continue to see with clients being prevented from entering (or never being informed about) education or training programs, warehoused in fruitless job search programs or community service, or terminated/sanctioned for no-showing or for other non-compliance with work requirements.

3:30pm – 4:30pm

**Medicaid Before and After Health Reform**

1.0 CLE

*Kyle Fisher – Pennsylvania Health Law Project*

Health care reform includes a significant expansion of Medicaid to millions of uninsured low-income people. It also contains “Maintenance of Effort” requirements for states to maintain their eligibility levels for Medicaid and CHIP. This workshop will review current Medicaid eligibility rules. We will then delve into provisions of health care reform that will change the Medicaid program into what Pennsylvania can do to cover these individuals, including the timeline for the expansion, new federal matching rates, and increased payments for primary care physicians. If time permits, the workshop will also explore the challenges of making sure that health insurance is a true gateway to health care services for low-income people.

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

7:00pm



VS.



*Harrisburg Senators vs. Reading Phillies  
Metro Bank Park - City Island  
Standard tickets - \$5.00*

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**Thursday, May 20**

8:00am – 9:00 am

BREAKFAST BUFFET

9:00am – 10:30am

**Hearings and Appeals – Negotiating with CAOs**

1.5 CLE

*Richard Weishaupt – Community Legal Services  
Peter Zurflieh – Community Justice Project*

This session will provide lecture and demonstration to help trainees plan for winning fair hearing strategies. The session will talk about general approaches, and specific strategies for cases where the hearing is based on technical grounds. Various strategies and arguments will be demonstrated and participants will have an opportunity to role play.

10:30am – 10:45am

BREAK

10:45am – 11:45am

**Social Security and SSI Non-Disability Issues**

1.0 CLE

*John Whitelaw and Rebecca Vallas – Community Legal Services*

Have you ever wondered why your client is not getting a full SSI check? In this session you will learn about some of the common reasons our clients' SSI checks are reduced and what you can do about it. You will also learn the basics of Overpayments and Waivers. In particular you will learn about easy ways to have waivers granted if the amount of \$1.00 or less, and how many of our clients can limit withholding to \$10 per month. In addition, we will provide updated information about the Martinez national class action settlement and how it affects clients with warrants

11:45am – 12:45pm

**Family Violence Option/Support  
Cooperation and Distribution**

1.0 CLE

*Amy Hirsch – Community Legal Services  
Peter Zurflieh – Community Justice Project*

This session will review DPW’s Family Violence Option policies for the TANF/GA programs (recently codified in DPW regulations), as well as the CCIS child care program (codified in OCDEL regulations several years ago). These policies allow for waiver of TANF, GA, and CCIS child care program requirements when compliance with the requirement in question would place an individual or family member at greater risk for domestic violence. We will also review the child support cooperation requirement, which is often misapplied by CAOs, resulting in improper benefit reductions for TANF families. Lastly, we will review child support distribution rules for current and former TANF families, including the higher support pass-through payments and a new “family-first” distribution rule for former TANF families, which comes into play when back-support is collected by DPW via an IRS tax intercept.