

## Outreach Staff Report

### December 15 - April, 2018

#### Outreach Update

- ✓ **48 outreach presentations, events, and meetings:** Outreach and MSLC staff activity since the last board meeting December 14, 2017.
- ✓ **Enrollment clinics:** monthly at the Village Branch Library, twice-per-month at the New Life Day Center (partnership with Community Action).
- ✓ **Radio:** Miranda and Corinna recorded three half-hour episodes of “Reclama tus derechos (Claim your rights)” radio program in Spanish for El Pulso Latino WLXL 95.7 FM, one of Lexington Community Radio’s two stations. VISTA Corinna scripts and edits the show. We now address health care topics on the show in addition to workers’ rights and are recording episodes in English for “Know Your Rights,” soon to air on Lexington Community Radio WLXU 93.9 FM. Listen at [kyequaljustice.org/ReclamaTusDerechos](http://kyequaljustice.org/ReclamaTusDerechos)
- ✓ **Re-entry Focus:** The outreach team continues to expand our reach amongst re-entry populations with:
  - regular visits to Natalie’s Sisters-affiliated inmates at the Fayette Co. Detention Center
  - tabling at events of the Federal Medical Center prison, Opportunity for Work and Learning, and the annual conference of Mission Behind Bars and Beyond
  - direct collaboration with FCDC and OWL staff on achieving and maintaining healthcare for re-entering adults

#### Health Insurance Enrollment

- **Assisted 37 new individuals and families** since December 15, 2018, as well as previously established Benefind and HealthCare.gov cases.
  - Mostly Medicaid and KCHIP enrollments, 3 complete healthcare.gov enrollments
  - 10 applicants from the **New Life Day Center**, a day shelter for the homeless
  - 5 applicants from **Natalie’s Sisters**, shelter for sexually exploited women, including 3 inmates of the Fayette County Detention Center
  - 9 **immigrant applicants** from Village Library, outreach, and referrals from partners
  - 2 Federal Medical Center **inmates before their reentry**
  - 3 **Substance Abuse Program inmates** of the FCDC before their reentry
- Received new referrals from NAMI/Mental Health Court and Catholic Charities

#### Wage Claim Clinics

- **11 claimants** attended a self-help clinic December through April
- Assisted with **7 demand letters** and **2 Kentucky Labor Cabinet complaints**
- Confirmed **\$725 payment received** by one claimant (voluntary claimant feedback)

## Healthcare Advocacy: Miranda

- ❖ Interviewed with and referred clients to reporters: Bloomberg News, Modern Healthcare, the Center for American Progress, Christian Science Monitor, Kentucky Forward, Newsweek, and the Southern Maine Workers' Center
- ❖ Assisted with 1115 Medicaid waiver lawsuit
- ❖ Participated in monthly update meetings with the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange; contributed feedback on the KHBE's outreach methods and shared enrollment events; submitted questions regarding the proposed medically frail determination process under Kentucky HEALTH
- ❖ Nominated to the newly revived Consumer Rights & Patient Needs Technical Advisory Committee to Kentucky's Medicaid Advisory Council

## Additional AmeriCorps VISTA Activities: Corinna

- Co-managed VITA tax site in partnership with the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence
  - The VITA site was smaller than it has been in past years. With only two tax preparers, the site helped 75 individuals and families file an accurate tax return and claim their maximum refund for free
  - Corinna prepared 32 of those returns, over half were for Spanish-speakers
- Researched potential new website platforms, as Wikispaces is going out of business

## Media

- “The Trump Admin’s Approval of Medicaid Work Requirements Threatens the Lives of Poor People,” Meaghan Lasala, In These Times, January 18, 2018, <http://inthesetimes.com/working/entry/20843/trump-medicaid-work-requirement-healthcare>
- “Kentucky’s Medicaid Work Requirement Is an About-Face,” John Tozzi and Zachary Tracer, Bloomberg Businessweek, January 18, 2018, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-18/kentucky-s-medicaid-work-requirement-is-an-about-face>

*Gina Evans, 42, has been on Medicaid since 2014. Her coverage has lapsed twice—once, in 2016, after she forgot to submit some paperwork, and again last year. The second cancellation was never explained. “I got a letter in the mail saying my insurance was terminated,” she says. She went without medicine for her recurring migraines for six months. If she can’t see her doctor, Evans goes to the emergency room. Bureaucratic snags are common, says Debbie Farinelli, who works at the New Life Day Center in Lexington, a church-backed homeless center where Evans volunteers. Farinelli, 59, is also on Medicaid and saw her coverage canceled last October, even though she says she had until Nov. 28 to submit a pay stub to verify her eligibility. Additional requirements for Kentucky’s poor will only make the problem worse, she says: “I don’t think the right hand knows what the left hand is doing.”*