Welfare and Health Task Force

DATE: August 10, 2009
TO: Every Office, Interested People
FROM: Kim Murphy, Lisa Line, Rich Seckel
RE: Agenda for August 27 meeting

Here is the agenda for the next legal services Welfare & Health Task Force meeting:

Date: Thursday, August 27
Time: 12:00 to 3:15 p.m. ET
Place: Legal Aid of the Blue Grass Community Room
498 Georgetown Street, Lexington

Note new scheduling: We’ll start with a working lunch at noon to make it easier for folks from Western Kentucky to join us. Plenty on the agenda, from new ADA forms to fleeing felon update to QIT wrinkles (now ironed out). Cases, too. See details below.

__ Yes, I’m coming to the August 27 meeting.

Name: ______________________________ Program: ____________ Office: _________

Case topic: ____________________________

Note: We need an accurate count to order lunch.

Fax to: Rich Seckel at 859-233-0007
Welfare and Health Task Force

Proposed Agenda

August 27, 2009

12:00 Lunch, Welcome and Introductions

We’ll start with a working lunch to make it easier for Western Kentucky folks to join us.

12:15 QIT it! . . . Fleeing Felons . . . DSH form reformed . . . Is $ following me?

QIT it: A new policy update rescinds an earlier troubling change from April. As before, QIT bank statements will not be required at recertification. And there’s more. Kim Murphy explains. (5 minutes)

Fleeing felon: A nationwide class action has been settled. SSA will suspend or deny benefits only for outstanding felony warrants issued for four offenses directly based on the concept of fleeing. Flight to avoid prosecution is one. Lisa Line explains. (10 minutes)

DSH it out: Kentucky law requires hospitals to screen uninsured patients, refer them to KCHIP or Medicaid if they look eligible and otherwise not bill patients below poverty. The screening form had glitches. DMS has accepted most changes proposed by KEJC. Show and tell by Rich Seckel. (10 minutes)

Show me the MFP! Patsy Decker (ARDF) reports on the real life struggle to make Money Follow the Person—including lack of knowledge of the program, even by DCBS, and difficulties getting individuals transitioned. The good news: 24 hour day care may now be available. (10 minutes)

Related story: the agency won’t let legal reps fill out key long term care forms. Kim explains. (5 minutes)

1:00 Mini-Training: Kentucky’s New ADA Notice and Assessment Form

Our long time friend, national expert Cary LaCheen, will join us by speakerphone to review two “wins” from our advocacy on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Kentucky public benefits programs:

- A new notice of ADA rights that went to thousands of Kentuckians
- A new assessment form for K-TAP and Kentucky works
Cary will point out where the forms have changed for the better, where they give new handles for requesting accommodations, and where they may fall short. Too bad the PA manual itself hasn’t quite caught up with the forms.

1:45  Break

2:00  Case reports and discussions

**Nursing home dumping:** After a newsworthy diversion to federal court under a controversial CMS rule, the case is back in McCreary County. KEJC and ARDF have proposed a settlement. The nursing home wants mediation instead. Also proposed: policy changes by the Cabinet. Anne Marie Regan, Patsy and Kim report. (10 minutes)

Your case here . . .

2:30  But there’s more . . . help line! . . . “Cat el” . . . coverage for thousands?

**Legal Helpline for the Elderly:** 3.3 million children in the U.S. are being raised by their grandparents, up 44% since 1980. Robin Cooke takes a quick look at resources for grandparents raising grandchildren with disabilities, starting with disability rights and Individual Education Programs in school. (10-15 minutes)

**Food Stamp “cat el:”** Most states have done away with the food stamp asset test for almost all recipients. It’s all through the mystery of “cat el:” aligning food stamp rules with a TANF-funded benefit. Kentucky is moving slowly, but moving. Rich explains. (5 minutes)

**Related IRA story:** a regional FNS memo makes clear that most retirement accounts are excluded assets. Kim explains how to use the regs when this comes up. (5 minutes)

**Health reform update:** thousands of Kentuckians could be covered by one of the less controversial elements in the leading Congressional health reform bills: raising the Medicaid guideline for adults to the poverty line or a little higher. We’ll get a brief update on the see-saw battle in DC. (10 minutes)

**Kids’ coverage:** Governor Beshear rolled out a plan to enroll 30,000 more kids in KCHIP or Medicaid. CHFS says they’re over 20,000 already. Are the numbers solid? Anne Joseph of Covering Kids gives us heads up. (5 minutes)

3:00  Planning ahead . . . and now to our sponsor?

**Topics:** We’ll spend a few minutes brainstorming emerging issues and topics for future agendas, plus ideas for Task Force participants and speakers—and use of technology for long distance meetings.
Sponsors: are there businesses, allies or other groups that could help sponsor task force meetings and activities?

3:15 Adjourn