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National Legal Aid &  
Defender Association

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# Case Studies in Community Economic Redevelopment

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PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK SERIES

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

# Welcome to *Partnerships that Work*

NLADA is excited to welcome you to Partnerships that Work, a five-part webinar series, helping civil and defender stakeholders to better understand the ins and outs of connecting their programs to federal resources.

The Partnerships That Work series is presented jointly by NLADA's Defender and Civil Legal Services Divisions as a collaborative effort to connect stakeholders across the civil and criminal justice landscapes to resources, partners, and to spark innovation. You can learn more and register for any of the sessions on our website at <http://www.nlada.org/webinars>.

# Today's Speakers

**Ellen McDonnell**

Reentry Coordinator and Deputy Public Defender  
Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender

**Amy Petkovsek**

Director of Advocacy for Training and Pro Bono  
Maryland Legal Aid

# What is Community Economic Redevelopment?

## Community Economic Redevelopment helps communities:

- Strengthen ties
- Preserve wealth
- Combat disinvestment
- Safe, stable and accessible

# What is Community Economic Redevelopment?

## Examples of Community Economic Redevelopment work:

- Workforce development (i.e., job training, securing fair wages)
- Removing barriers to employment (i.e., expungements, license restoration)
- Wealth preservation (i.e., creating wills, title clearing)
- Improving housing conditions (i.e., preventing displacement through eviction)
- Environmental Justice (i.e., access to municipal services, clean water)

## Amy Petkovsek, Esq

### **Director of Advocacy for Training and Pro Bono Maryland Legal Aid**

Amy Petkovsek, Esq., is the Director of Advocacy for Training and Pro Bono at Maryland Legal Aid. Prior to serving in this position, she represented children for seven years in Legal Aid's child advocacy practice in Prince Georges and Montgomery County, Maryland. She also served as an appellate law clerk for the Honorable Sally D. Adkins. Amy serves on the boards of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Alumni, the Maryland State Bar Association Legal Services section, and the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair. She is also the volunteer camp director of Carroll County 4-H Residential Camping Program. She is a past recipient of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation's Rising Star Award, The Daily Record's "20 in their Twenties" award, the Maryland Legal Aid Diane Kinslow Memorial Award, Maryland 4-H Alumni Award, and American Camp Association President's Award.



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Human Rights *and*  
Justice for All

# Removing Barriers to Employment

Amy Petkovsek, Director of Advocacy for Training  
and Pro Bono

# Funding and Service Delivery Framework

- *Maryland Legal Aid provides free civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable people in need across Maryland.*
- *Maryland Legal Aid has 12 offices throughout the state, and attorneys practice law in every Maryland county*
- *Funding is provided by LSC, Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC), grants from government sources and private foundations, and individual donations*
- *Recent work to remove barriers to employment has come in part from MLSC's One Baltimore For Jobs (1B4J) program*





# 1B4J: One Baltimore for Jobs

- 1B4J was a program established by the Mayor's Office for Economic Development in Baltimore City (MOED)
- Job training programs in Baltimore were funded by a \$5 million demonstration grant from the United States Department of Labor, via the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
- MOED officials conducted a series of community conversations before the grant started, and discovered residents felt disconnected from employment services, and services themselves were disconnected from each other



# 1B4J: One Baltimore for Jobs

- 1B4J job training programs assist young black males from distressed city neighborhoods
- Goal is to demonstrate that a workforce system can bring together occupational skills training and key support services
- In the 16 months of the program, 900 residents enrolled, over 750 completed the training, and over 500 entered the workforce



# 1B4J: Addition of Legal Services

- Through a partnership with MLSC, MOED connected every 1B4J training site with a civil legal services program
- MLSC funding to Maryland Legal Aid was made available by the Bank of America settlement
- While the DOL grant to Baltimore City job training sites has ended, MLSC has stated an intent to extend the funding through at least FY 2018



# 1B4J at Maryland Legal Aid

- First staff attorney for the project was hired in spring 2016, for 5 job sites
- Additional funding for 5 new job sites was provided in July 2017, and another staff attorney was added
- The program was extended throughout Maryland, and was named “1M4J”, One Maryland for Jobs. 2 staff attorneys were hired to work at job sites in Prince George’s County (urban, DC suburb) and Alleghany County (rural)



# Job Training Sites

CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES  
BALTIMORE



Ingoma  
FOUNDATION

Civic Works



mND  
MARYLAND NEW DIRECTIONS

VEHICLES FOR  
*change*

living  
classrooms learning  
by doing



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# “Know Your Rights” Courses

- Presented on a recurring basis at each job site
- Delivered with every new “cohort” of individuals
- Cover all civil legal services and how a lawyer can remove barriers to employment
- Tailored to meet the needs of each job site
- Conclude with a “Legal Wellness” check sheet



# Legal Work at Job Sites

- Criminal record expungements- law changed in Maryland in 2015 and again in 2017, allowing many misdemeanors with a “guilty” disposition to be removed from records
- Motor vehicle advocacy to allow access to licenses
- Child support modification (agreement with local Child Support office)
- Custody/Visitation
- Housing
- Consumer



# Legal Work at Job Sites

- Wills/Estate issues
- Negotiations with Transportation Security Administration
- Education issues
- Employment discrimination
- Public Benefits





# Program Challenges

- Social workers and case managers at job sites with differing needs- inquiring about client case specifics, asking for release of information waivers
- Determining when a site is a good fit for your legal services program
- Allowing the staff attorney time for intake, follow up, case work, and community partnership opportunities



# Program Successes

- Client success stories
- Develop trust in the community, additional future partnerships, access to additional funding opportunities
- New opportunities for pro bono volunteers
- Access to a different model of service delivery in the community focusing on all barriers to client employment in a holistic setting
- Opportunities for future program partnerships with financial planners



# Federal Funding for Community Economic Redevelopment

## Receive Block Grant Funding Through:

1. Pass-through funding (direct grantee of state or local government)
2. Partnership with local human service provider receiving pass-through funding (sub-grantee)

## Block Grants Supporting CER for Civil Legal Aid:

1. Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
2. Community Services Block Grant Program
3. Social Services Block Grant Program (SSBG)

# CDBG, CSBG and SSBG

**CDBG:** From the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Works to ensure decent affordable housing and provide services to the most vulnerable individuals to address a wide range of community development needs
- [https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/communitydevelopment/programs](https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs)

**CSBG:** From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office on the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

- Provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities
- [www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/csbg/about](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/csbg/about)

**SSBG:** From HHS, ACF

- Used to support a wide range of social services directed towards achieving economic self-sufficiency, and preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or the exploitation of children and adults
- [www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ssbg](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ssbg)

# Second Chance Act (SCA)

## Helping Reentering Citizens Overcome Barriers

- From the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP):  
[www.bja.gov/funding.aspx](http://www.bja.gov/funding.aspx)
- SCA supports work to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people returning from state and federal prisons, local jails, and juvenile facilities.

## Types of legal aid SCA funds:

- reinstating a revoked or suspended driver's license;
- expunging or sealing criminal records;
- appealing denials of housing or employment
- litigating violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act; and
- creating and/or modifying child support orders
- other family law services that help stabilize individuals and families

## Ellen McDonnell

### Reentry Coordinator and Deputy Public Defender Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender

**Ellen McDonnell** has been a Deputy Public Defender with the Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office for the last 16 years and currently serves as the Department's first AB109 Reentry Coordinator. During her time at the Public Defender's Office, she has represented clients in cases ranging from misdemeanors to homicides and has worked in a broad range of assignments, including felonies, juvenile delinquency, mental health and specialty courts. During her time in felonies, she focused on mental health issues and handled numerous serious felony cases involving mental health and NGI defenses.

# CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC DEFENDER CLEAN SLATE PROJECT

Ellen McDonnell

Deputy Public Defender & Reentry Attorney  
Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender

# WHY CLEAN SLATE WORK MATTERS

- The US has 5% of the world's total population and 25% of the world's prisoners
- 65 million people have a criminal record in the United States
- One in five adult Californians have a criminal record
- Those with a record face over 4,800 restrictions based on convictions -- 58% limit employment and occupational licensing and 73% are lifetime bans



# SOME OF THE BARRIERS OF HAVING A CRIMINAL RECORD

- Employment
- Housing
- Public benefits
- Educational opportunities
- Student loans
- Military service
- Driver's licenses
- Child custody
- Civil rights (voting, jury service)
- Immigration
- Dignity / value

# CLEAN SLATE PROJECT: CHANGE YOUR RECORD, CHANGE YOUR LIFE

- Contra Costa Public Defender's Office works to help those with a prior criminal record in CCC with record clearance
- Our goal is to help people rebuild their lives after incarceration and involvement in criminal justice system
- We are committed to helping individuals gain stability by removing the barriers imposed by a prior conviction

# CLEAN SLATE PROJECT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Our Team is “embedded” in the local community throughout the county
- Frequent Clean Slate Community Events countywide
- Partnership with civil legal service providers, reentry groups, the faith community and other community-based organizations
- In addition to Clean Slate consultations, we offer additional legal services at our events, such as immigration, civil legal and traffic amnesty
- Weekly clinics at the Reentry Success Center in Richmond and monthly clinics at the Monument Crisis Center in Concord and Goodwill’s employment programs
- Partnership with government Departments and Community-based organizations

# CLEAN SLATE PARTNERSHIPS

- County Departments: Employment & Human Services, Probation, Mental Health, Workforce Development, Elections, Office of Reentry & Justice
- Community-based Organizations: Reentry Solutions Group, Safe Return Project, PICO Affiliate
- Reentry Service Providers: Reentry Success Center & Central/East Reentry Network
- Civil Legal Service Providers: Bay Area Legal Aid, Rubicon, East Bay Community Law Center
- Homeless shelters and day programs, Homeless Court, Veteran's groups
- Drug and Alcohol treatment programs and facilities
- Labor groups: AFL-CIO, Labor Coalition
- The Faith Community
- Job fairs and Employers
- County Community colleges

# CONTACTING THE CLEAN SLATE PROJECT



CONTRA  
COSTA  
PUBLIC  
DEFENDERS

- Clean Slate Hotline (925)335-8150  
[cleanslate@pd.cccounty.us](mailto:cleanslate@pd.cccounty.us)
  - Martinez Office:
    - 800 Ferry Street / Monday -Friday 8:30-5
  - Pittsburg Office:
    - Pittsburg Courthouse, 1000 Center Drive, Pittsburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Wednesday 1:30-5
  - Richmond Office
    - 3811 Bissell Ave / Monday-Friday 8:30-5
  - Reentry Success Center (Richmond):
    - 912 MacDonald Avenue, (every Thurs & Fri 9-1)
  - Monument Crisis Center (Concord):
    - 1900 Market Street (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from 9-11)

**QUESTIONS?**

# Federal Funding Opportunities for Defenders

**Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grants** – Issued to applicants in order to enhance the capacity of local and tribal communities to effectively target and address significant crime issues through collaborative cross-sector approaches that help advance broader neighborhood development goals.

**Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program** – Distributed by the State Administering Agency or, in some cases, local jurisdictions. Grantees may utilize JAG funds for State and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice, as well as research and evaluation activities that will improve or enhance law enforcement programs related to criminal justice.

**Upcoming Justice for All Act Grants** – These recently awarded TTA grants will involve significant site and partnership work throughout the country. Through an upcoming competitive RFP process, sites and jurisdictions will be selected for support in developing a criminal justice system strategic plan and/or to build applicant capacity to support the adoption of targeted strategies to enhance the Sixth Amendment Right to Counsel.

# For More Information:

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