

## Outreach Staff Report

### September 25 – December 10, 2019

#### Outreach Update

- ✓ **18 outreach presentations, events, clinics, and meetings:** Outreach and Maxwell Street Legal Clinic staff activity reaching over 100 people in-person with information on immigration, workers, and healthcare rights.
- ✓ **Outreach Highlights:** presented to monthly meetings of people on probation and parole; presented to La Casita Center staff about workers' rights; presented to social workers and counselors about immigration, public charge, healthcare coverage, and SNAP eligibility.
- ✓ **Radio:** Miranda produced three new KY Equal Justice Radio episodes in English and four in Spanish for Lexington Community Radio (LCR), newly named RADIOLEX. Miranda interviewed Leah and Nathalie about the public charge regulation and Legal Aid of the Bluegrass attorney, Cindy Millay, about expungements and how this year's SB 57 changed expungements in Kentucky. And she recorded two episodes on Medicaid and Marketplace health insurance, which has re-aired several times during Open Enrollment.

#### Health Insurance Enrollment

- **Assisted 24 new individuals and families** since September 25, 2019, as well as previously established cases.
  - Mostly Medicaid and KCHIP enrollments/renewals, 7 complete healthcare.gov applications
  - 2 **BCTC** community college students
  - 4 new applicants from the **New Life Day Center**, a daytime shelter for the homeless
  - 4 new applicants from **Probation and Parole**
  - 7 **immigrant applicants** from MSLC, our Wage Claim Clinic, the Refuge Clinic, and other referrals

#### Healthcare Advocacy: Miranda

- ❖ Completed CMS Certified Application Counselor renewal training
- ❖ Participated in monthly update meetings with the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange.
- ❖ Alerted KHBE staff to technical and call handling issues:
  - alerted staff to technical issue of benefind cases pending without any Request for Information
  - requested additional DCBS staff training on Special Circumstance (retroactive) Medicaid eligibility and the lack of effect of employer-sponsored coverage on Medicaid eligibility
  - requested benefind modifications regarding entering tuition expenses
- ❖ Participated in a Justice Involved Workshop hosted by KHBE staff
- ❖ Attended a meeting of the Consumer Rights & Patient Needs Technical Advisory Committee to Kentucky's Medicaid Advisory Council

## Workers' Rights Team

- **4 claimants** attended a self-help clinic or met with us about a wage claim in October and November
- Completed assistance with **1 demand letter and 1 complaint to the Kentucky Labor Cabinet**, others pending additional information

## New Grants Work

- ✓ **Louisville Bar Foundation:** Rich, Miranda, and McKenzie put together a grant application in collaboration with La Casita Center in Louisville. We will use the funds to launch a monthly Wage Claim Clinic at La Casita during 2020.
- ✓ **Protecting Immigrant Families Grant:** MSLC, Miranda, and Allison have worked together to frame messaging around the public charge rule which discourages immigrants to enroll in public benefits. The rule would have taken effect October 15, but several courts have stopped it with preliminary injunctions. Few of our clients would be directly affected by the policy change, but many are confused and scared by it. The PIF Campaign has funded us to do advocacy, outreach, coalition building, and story gathering around public charge and other new and proposed policies that harm or will potentially harm immigrant families.
  - MSLC staff Nathalie and Allison, Miranda, and Tyler myth-busted public charge in our **presentation to social workers and counselors** with Key Assets in October.
  - Miranda coordinated a **meeting with the outgoing Medicaid Commissioner and staff**, Kentucky Office of Refugees, and Kentucky Voices for Health to discuss how to better communicate to service providers and beneficiaries about the public charge regulation.
  - Miranda connected Catholic Charities' Bakhita Empowerment Initiative with the National Immigration Law Center to **share stories** of how their staff see this policy creating a chilling effect among their immigrant clients.
  - Leah, Nathalie, and Miranda recorded new Kentucky Equal Justice and Reclama Tus Derechos **radio segments** covering public charge in English and Spanish in October. MSLC staff have recorded multiple LexRadio interviews with updates on the topic as well.
  - Miranda gave an overview of the public charge regulation to legal aid staff at the December meeting of the **Welfare and Health Task Force**.
- ✓ **On the Table Mini-grant:** With the help of local chef Dan Wu, our AmeriCorps member Beka launched this grant project. We distributed the "Immigrants & Refugees Belong Here" signs to local businesses in September. The next round of distribution will be to churches. If you know of a business owner or church who may want a sign, please let us know!

## Professional Development

- Miranda attended the Union Cooperative Symposium in Cincinnati, where she learned about creative strategies for worker empowerment, particularly in cases of wage theft and undocumented workers.