

Surviving Abuse, Exploitation and Neglect Committee.
6/30 Civil Legal Needs & Services Subcommittee notes.
12:00pm-1:13pm

12:00pm-12:20pm: Welcome

- Distribute Chief Judge Barbera order on reopening the court.
- Introductions
 - Ashley Young: legal services for survivors of sexual assault.
 - Sandra Barnes- interested in how to get representation for abuse victims.
 - Karen Pope-Onwuke: elder law + disability rights
 - Stephen Bergman: Public defender- delinquency.
 - Reena Shah: Executive director Maryland Access to Justice Commission.
 - Dorothy Lennig: director of legal clinic at House of Ruth. Works with victims of DV.
 - Nick Katz: Senior manager at CASA legal team. Immigration, Employment, Housing.

12:20-12:1240: Ongoing issues. With respect to Covid19.

- Currently in Phase 2 of reopening. Courts are fully operational by October 5th but this may change if cases rise.
- Need to think in terms of how this closing has effected access and whether adjustments will need to be made.
- Vulnerable groups: people of color, immigrants, LGBT, youth, elderly, disabled.

Issues members have dealt within court during phases 1 + 2.

- Courts were open but it was hard to get the message out to victims.
- Lack of communication. Many people thought legal services were closed when they were really open.
- When courts were having meetings remotely, there was poor communication/disconnect with lawyers, clients, litigants getting called.
- Many victims are pro se, do not have access to electronic filings. Many do not have reliable access to technology.
 - We need to widen resources of pro bono attorneys while working remotely.
- Remote hearings, especially with disabled residents, are not always accessible.
- Guardianships have been on hold since april. Concern: getting doctor certificates on time.
 - Institutional facilities need to be held responsible for those they are in charge of, not just shut out communication. County/state is still responsible for that person.
- CASA: Housing insecurities. Most residents worried about finances.
 - Immigrants are mostly left out of receiving benefits or stimulus. Cannot pay rent.
 - Immigration detention centers: conditions of facility are more susceptible to COVID and many are still getting deported.
- Many instances of abuse neglected are isolated- no one knows where to look for safety.
- Financial exploitation-look to organizations providing consumer law assistance .

12:40-1:10: Future.

- Even after the state of emergency ends, the aftermath on vulnerable groups will be brutal.
- What should be the subcommittee goals? Big or small?
 - Look at specific points where abuse is happening, then make sure people are getting the information and resources.
- Suggestion: getting all the information into one place to alert the public that the resources exist.
- Should information be divided by group or issue?
- Dividing by issue allows for intersectionality to be accounted for.
- Pre-pandemic we were only meeting the needs of 20% of people seeking legal care.
- Cases projected to raise by 70%
- Resource constraints will be even more limited.
- Need to teach the public how to navigate their system on their own (tutorials?).
 - Educate on where the information is and how to navigate it.
 - Social Media
 - Websites
 - TV
 - Print.
 - Create a digital toolbox-work with Data & Legal Tech?

1:10-1:15: Future meeting date?

- Monday, 7/6/2020 at 10:00 AM.