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FCEH CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 21 - 23, 2022 · DOUBLETREE ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD

FloridaCoalition
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Using Legal Services in the Prevention and Ending of Homelessness

Marissa A. O'Connor
Manager of Public Interest and Public Benefits
Community Legal Services of Mid Florida
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Housing is More than Placement, Housing is a Long-Term Commitment

Self-Sustaining

1. Know the Barriers to Housing
2. Overcome the Barriers to Housing
3. Self-Sustaining impact on those who are literally and at risk of homelessness

Common Barriers to Housing

- **Income**
  - Resources to meet daily basic needs
- **Housing and Utilities**
  - A healthy physical environment
- **Education and Employment**
  - Quality educational and job opportunities
- **Legal Status**
  - Access to jobs and public benefits
- **Personal and Family Stability**
  - Safe homes and social support

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Break the Barriers with a Holistic Approach

Ways to Approach Problems *Holistically*

ho·lis·tic /hōˈlistik/

Adjective

PHILOSOPHY - characterized by comprehension of the parts of something as intimately interconnected and explicable only by reference to the whole.

MEDICINE - characterized by the treatment of the whole person, taking into account mental and social factors, rather than just the symptoms of a disease.

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How Legal Services Can Assist with Breaking the Housing Barriers

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Income – Resources to Meet Daily Basic Needs

Food Stamps
Social Security Benefits
Veterans Benefits
Child Support
Unemployment Benefits

Appeals on Denials of Public Benefits
Appeals on Overpayments of Public Benefits
Appeals on Terminations of Public Benefits
Credit History Disputes
Bankruptcy
Creditor Harassment
Student Loans
Creditor Garnishments

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HOUSING AND UTILITIES – A HEALTHY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Landlord/Tenant Evictions
Subsidized Housing Eviction/Termination
Landlord Prohibited Practices (e.g., utility shut-off)
Landlord Failure to Make Repairs
Foreclosure Defense
Housing Discrimination matters
Security Deposit Return
Negotiation of Lease Renewal and Move Out Time Requests
Homebuyer Counseling

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Education and Employment – Quality Educational and Job Opportunities

- Employment Discrimination
- Workplace rights
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- GI Bill/Education Benefits
- Unemployment compensation
- Children's Rights
- Sealing and Expungements
- Background Check Inaccuracies

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Legal Status – Access to Jobs and Public Benefits

- Discharge Upgrades and Corrections
- Driver License Reinstatement
- Sealing and Expungement
- Guardian Advocacy
- Estate Planning/Advanced Directives

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Personal and Family Stability – Safe Homes and Social Support

Divorce

Child Custody/Timesharing

Paternity

Divorce

Guardian Advocacy

Child Support

Estate Planning

Injunction for Protection (Petitioner)

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Self-Sustaining Impact on Those Who are Literally and At Risk of Homelessness

Increasing income means fewer trade-offs between basic needs

Financial stability ensures a place to live and focus on health

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Self-Sustaining Impact on Those Who are Literally and At Risk of Homelessness

A stable, decent, affordable home helps people to avoid costly emergency room visits related to homelessness.

Consistent housing and utilities help people to have structure and enable them to follow medical and mental health treatment plans.

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SELF-SUSTAINING IMPACT ON THOSE WHO ARE LITERALLY AND AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Consistent Employment

Provides Money for Food and Safe Housing

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SELF-SUSTAINING IMPACT ON THOSE WHO ARE LITERALLY AND AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Having a cleared or proper legal status allows individuals to seek VA or public benefits, healthcare, employment, and housing as well as empowers them to be able to determine their future as well as their families' futures.

SELF-SUSTAINING IMPACT ON THOSE WHO ARE LITERALLY AND AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Stable family relationships significantly reduce stress and allow for better decision-making

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Legal Services and Legal Aid

Both Legal Services and Legal Aid are throughout the State of Florida

Legal Services and Legal Aid are grant funded to be able to provide services to zero to low income individuals free of charge to them

Not all Legal Services and Legal Aid provide the same assistance as each other

Contact the Legal Services or Legal Aid in the County where the individual resides or has a matter pending to find out what help an be provided

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COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES of MID-FLORIDA

Marissa A. O'Connor
Manager of Public Interest and Public Benefits
marissao@clsmf.org
(407) 706-9080

CLSMF has approximately 100 staff including lawyers, advocates, and support staff who work in 11 offices serving 12 counties in Central Florida: Brevard, Citrus, Flagler, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia.

Helpline Toll Free: (800) 405-1417