Anti-Poverty Community Roundtable
Thursday, April 14, 2016, 8:45 am – 1:15 pm
Woodlawn Foundation at Social Venture, 5529 1st Ave. S., Birmingham, AL

Agenda
8:45 – Welcome and Purpose of Roundtable: Ted W. Small, Chair Commission on Homelessness & Poverty
Today's Agenda: Craig H. Baab, Alabama Appleseed & Former Commissioner

9:00 – Poverty in Alabama: An Overview, Kristina Scott, Executive Director, Alabama Possible

First Framing Question:
What is the importance of a ‘community quarterback’ to collaborate for better housing, education and community wellness?

“The Woodlawn Experience”

Second Framing Question:
How do we collaborate on housing, education and community wellness in a more cross-disciplinary fashion?

10:20 – Break

10:30 – Third Framing Question:
What racial and other challenges compromise each group’s ability to collaborate on various aspects of poverty alleviation?

- Shelter and housing
- Mental health, AIDS and other healthcare providers
- Schools and educators
- Funders and available resources
- Lawyers, police and courts

11:50 – Lunch

12:15 – Fourth Framing Question:
Is there a local anti-poverty dialogue, does it include a candid appraisal of race and poverty, and does it functionally relate to any state-wide dialogue?

12:45 – Next Steps:
How can the ABA and the Alabama legal community support your efforts in ongoing collaboration?

1:15 – Adjourn

American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty
www.ambar.org/homeless  •  202/662-1693  •  homeless@americanbar.org
Background:
Nearly 50 million Americans now live below the federal poverty line. Recent societal, economic and political events (economic meltdown, mortgage foreclosure epidemic, Trayvon Martin, Hurricane Katrina, Ferguson, Missouri, Michelle Alexander’s “The New Jim Crow,” 9/11, the “school to prison pipeline,” unaccompanied minors coming across the border, etc.) have given rise to unprecedented public awareness of income inequality in America, the number of children living in poverty and the disparate treatment and impacts of the law and justice systems on communities of color and populations that face other barriers and obstacles to justice, such as disability, limited English proficiency, immigrant status and other factors.

Initiative Goal:
Identify and help promote and implement best practices for eliminating legal and justice system-related policies, practices and procedures that unfairly perpetuate or worsen the harmful effects of poverty on low-income people and communities, including obstacles and barriers to public benefits, employment, housing, treatment and services needed by people experiencing homelessness or living in poverty.

Working Definition of Poverty:
Poverty is a state or lived experience caused and perpetuated by various, often compounded, factors such as:
- Inadequate economic resources and opportunity to build assets, including employment, adequate income and assets to meet basic human needs such as food, housing, clothing, etc.;
- Insufficient access to social resources such as healthcare, justice and education;
- Weak political standing and limited opportunity for meaningful association and engagement;
- Isolation and lack of cultural identity support;
- Inability to hold institutions and individuals accountable for fair and equitable behavior;
- Disparate treatment based on poverty compounded by other forms of structural unfairness and disparity based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, indigenous identity, national origin, etc.
**Manifestations of Poverty:**
1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness;
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems;
3. Food inadequacy;
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes;
5. Inadequate education outcomes;
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage;
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises;
8. Lack of personal and physical safety;
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity; and
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure.

**Implementation: Anti-Poverty Roundtables, Toolkit for Communities Seeking to Develop and Operationalize Local Anti-Poverty Agendas, and the ABA Online Quilt of Community Anti-Poverty Discussions**

The goal of each roundtable is to bring together 10-15 community stakeholders who are interested in identifying, promoting and implementing best practices for eliminating policies, practices and procedures that unfairly perpetuate or worsen the harmful effects of poverty on low-income people in that particular local community. To connect other communities with the national anti-poverty discussion, the Commission will encourage the designation of at least one panelist in each community who is willing to develop an edited summary of the ideas exchanged and proposed new programming for posting to a Commission-moderated online blog entitled, “Operationalizing A New Anti-Poverty Agenda: An Online Quilt of Community Discussions.” This online blog would allow each roundtable to share its diverse perspective on the most pressing manifestations of poverty within their community as well as its proposed solutions. With the addition of notes from each roundtable, the Commission would add a patch to the national Online Quilt in order to bring together diverse patterns of anti-poverty ideas. These shared ideas could be implemented by other communities who in turn share their own strategies for combatting poverty, creating a resource for all communities to use in removing the practices, policies and procedures that worsen or perpetuate poverty. Additionally, in furtherance of its goal of educating the bar and the general public about homelessness and poverty and the ways the legal community can collaborate with other stakeholders to assist those in need, the Commission is developing a resource entitled: Toolkit for Communities Seeking to Develop and Operationalize Local Anti-Poverty Agendas, in which the Commission will compile a wealth of ABA policy and programming knowledge into a series of “blueprints for action” that are cross-disciplinary and specifically address each of the identified Manifestation of Poverty areas.
PARTICIPANTS

Birmingham

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Selma
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Montgomery Police Department

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American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty
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Judge McPherson (Ret.) was appointed United States Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Alabama in April of 1992. During her judgeship, she has served on the Magistrate Judges Advisory Committee, the Eleventh Circuit Advisory Committee, and as ADR Coordinator of her court. She has also lectured at national training conferences for magistrate judges. Prior to this appointment, she was an associate at the Wall Street law firm of Hughes, Hubbard & Reed (1974-1975), Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama (1975-1978), and a private practitioner for 15 years in Montgomery (1978-1992). Judge McPherson's solo private practice focused on family law in the state courts and constitutional litigation in the federal courts, especially on the enforcement of employment discrimination laws on behalf of African Americans and women.

Judge McPherson was educated at the Alabama State College Laboratory School, and Howard University, where she received her bachelor's degree cum laude in 1969. She then received her master of arts degree from Columbia University in 1971. In 1974, she graduated from Columbia Law School, after serving as Chairman of the law school's Moot Court Executive Committee. During her 30-year career at the bar, Judge McPherson has been very active in bar association activities: She is a life member of the National Bar Association, past President of Montgomery's Federal Bar Association, a Master Bencher in the Montgomery Inn of Courts. During her presidency of the Alabama Black Lawyers Association in 1980-81, she served on Alabama's only Federal Judicial Nominating Commission, resulting in the nomination of the state's only two African American Article III judges. She has also served on the state bar’s committees on Character and Fitness Committee, Judicial Selection, and Economics of Law Practice. She is also a former Chair of the state bar's Family Law Section. The Alabama Supreme Court appointed her to its Advisory Committee and to its committees on Juvenile Procedure, Judicial Administration, and Child Support. As Alabama's first child support prosecutor, Judge McPherson served on the state's Child Support Commission, and for more than 10 years, she was a faculty member of the Alabama Judicial College, lecturing frequently to bar groups, district attorneys, and judges throughout the state.

Judge McPherson was a member of Class I of Leadership Montgomery and served three years on its Steering Committee, including one year as its Chairman. She is currently a member of the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Among the many boards on which she has served in her devotion to the arts are the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, the Landmarks Foundation, the Carver Performing Arts Center, and the City-County Public Library. Determined to develop a high level of cultural literacy in young children, and to institutionalize recognition and appreciation of the African American heritage, Judge McPherson co-founded, and for 11 years, co-owned Roots & Wings, A Cultural Bookplace, one of America's premier African American bookstores. Most recently, Judge McPherson was the volunteer curator of the restoration of the Dexter Parsonage Museum in Montgomery, the residence of Dr. Martin Luther King and his family during his Montgomery pastorate in the 1950's.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: U.S. Magistrate Judge (Ret.)

Speaker/Title/Contact Information: Vanzetta Penn McPherson, U.S. Magistrate Judge (Ret.)
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Biography:
1974 graduate of Columbia Law School; experience includes short term at Wall St. law firm, Alabama Asst. Atty. Gen., 16 years in solo practice of law (employment discrimination, constitutional litigation, federal court), 15 years as U.S. Magistrate Judge for MD-AL, retired in 10/06; past president of the Alabama Lawyers Association (association of African American lawyers), past president of Montgy. Chapter of Federal Bar Association; currently an intermittent consultant, public affairs columnist for The Montgomery Advertiser

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
1. Criminal justice reform (arrest procedures, weaponry, sentencing)
2. Diversity in judicial appointments
3. Formal secondary education on reproduction

Barriers and Challenges:
1. Excessive partisanship and bigotry among legislators
2. Popular culture
3. Presumptions of dependency and incapacity
Bryan Fair, Thomas E. Skinner Professor of Law

After earning his undergraduate degree from Duke and law degree from UCLA, Professor Fair worked as an associate with Bryan, Cave, McPheeters & McRoberts in Los Angeles. In 1987, he joined the UCLA law faculty as a Lecturer and co-directed its Academic Support Program. He served as a commissioner of the California State Bar Commission on Minority Access to the Legal Profession and as a Public Counsel legal services volunteer.

Professor Fair joined the Alabama law faculty in 1991. He was named the Thomas E. Skinner Professor of Law in 2000. He is an eleven-time member of the law school commencement hooding team (selected by students), and has twice been named the law school’s outstanding faculty member (selected by students). He has also received the University’s Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award given each year by the National Alumni Association. Professor Fair has served as the faculty advisor to the Jessup International Moot Court Team, Black Law Students Association, Outlaw, Law Democrats, American Constitution Society, and other student groups. Professor Fair has also taught law courses at Seattle University, the University of Tennessee, the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, and The Australian National University.

Professor Fair has held several administrative posts at the Law School and the University. At the Law School, from 1997 to 2010, he directed the University of Fribourg/UA Law cooperative exchange (the Swiss Program). He served as the Director of Diversity and International Programs in 2007 and 2011 and 2012, and Associate Dean for Special Programs from 2008-2010, supervising international, diversity, and public interest programs. He also served as an assistant vice president for Academic Affairs at the University from 1994 to 1997.

Professor Fair is the author of Notes of a Racial Caste Baby: Colorblindness and the End of Affirmative Action (NYU Press 1997). Professor Fair’s research agenda remains focused on equality theory under the Fourteenth Amendment, with the central theme that equal protection jurisprudence has lost its anticaste moorings, rendering it largely obsolete to address significant forms of American caste. He is a member of the American Law Institute and has served on ABA, AALS, and LSAC committees. He has served on numerous boards and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Southern Poverty Law Center.
Nancy Yarbrough

Nancy Yarbrough has been the executive director of the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program since 2013 after graduating with a juris doctorate from the Cumberland School of Law and passing the Alabama State Bar in that same year. Before becoming an attorney, Nancy worked as a vice president for 15 years at Regions Financial Corp. Previous to her financial services management career, Nancy was an award-winning investigative journalist in Birmingham and in Chicago, where she is from.

The Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program provides free legal help to keep Birmingham’s residents safe. The program focuses on three areas:

1. **SAFEhousing** including fighting evictions, ensuring safe living conditions, and stopping foreclosures.
2. **SAFEfinances** including winning against wrongful creditors, obtaining identification so clients can work, and securing child support.
3. **SAFEpersons** including obtaining domestic violence divorces, adoptions, and guardianships.

Last year, the helped more than 2,500 clients and won an American Bar Association award for significantly expanding access to justice to vulnerable clients.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile:
Aiding Alabama Legal Program at Birmingham AIDS Outreach

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
Stephen “Steve” Dennis Rygiel, Esq
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205/427-4795

Biography:
Steve has served as Director of the Aiding Alabama Legal Program at BAO since August 2010, from which time he has provided pro bono legal services to over 700 HIV+ individuals in Alabama with 3,000+ requests for legal services across a wide range of areas of law practice. Steve has solo-authored over $500,000 in grants specifically awarded to fund the BAO legal program, while serving as chief editor on awarded BAO project grants totaling over $5,000,000. Steve has lectured at numerous accredited CLE programs, as well as having presented at regional and national HIV/AIDS conferences. He serves on the Board of Directors of Alabama Appleseed and is a class member of the 2016 Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum. Steve obtained his JD from the Cumberland School of Law (2010), and graduated from Auburn University with a MA in English, BS in Microbiology, and BA in English.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
Birmingham AIDS Outreach (BAO)
http://www.birminghamaidsoutreach.org/
https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamAIDSOutreach/?fref=ts
https://twitter.com/baobham

The mission of BAO is to enhance the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS, at-risk, affected individuals, and the LGBTQ community through outreach, age-appropriate prevention education, and supportive services.

The mission of the Aiding Alabama Legal Program at BAO is to identify, protect, and promote the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS in Alabama through pro bono legal service, community education, and community outreach.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
All HIV+ clients receiving HIV/AIDS case management services from BAO are within 300% of Federal Poverty Level and reside in Jefferson County; though the majority of HIV+ clients of the Aiding Alabama Legal Program at BAO also reside in Jefferson County, Aiding Alabama is available to residents of all 67 counties in Alabama with approximately 15% of clients residing outside of Jefferson County. Aiding Alabama functions as a general law practice one-stop-shop office directly addressing all ten manifestations of poverty, primarily through the provision of high impact legal services in the following areas of poverty law practice: public benefits planning; future/estate planning; discrimination (employment, insurance, health, housing, et cetera); financial planning and financial exploitation; privacy and confidentiality; probate law; domestic relations and family law; select issues of criminal justice; and other rights violations. In addition to providing direct client legal services, Aiding Alabama conducts trainings on “HIV and the Law in Alabama” with targeted audiences including attorneys,
Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Aiding Alabama is the sole provider of pro bono legal services exclusively serving people affected by or living with HIV/AIDS in Alabama, with the Department of Public Health estimating that approximately 14,000 Alabamians currently live with HIV/AIDS. Aiding Alabama is funded predominantly by the Washington DC based organization, AIDS United, which in turn is funded primarily by the Ford Foundation in New York City; part of the Aiding Alabama annual operating budget is funded by the federal Ryan White CARE Act that serves as payor of last resort for HIV/AIDS services throughout the United States, including for legal services. Aiding Alabama is a unique program in Alabama, and functions in a small but well-connected regional and national network of pro bono legal service providers for people infected/affected by HIV/AIDS. Networking is critical to the success of Aiding Alabama, and although networking is not necessarily easily reproduced through a formulaic mechanism, the success of Aiding Alabama stems largely from strategic community partnerships, case prioritization intended to maximize individual and community impact through improved access to health and access to justice for all community members, and resource sharing with out of state providers (in addition to the sharing of resources with in-state providers both in the field of HIV/AIDS and with other organizations pursuing congruent missions/goals).

Barriers and Challenges:
In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States is the Deep South, marking a significant geo-cultural shift from the beginning of the US epidemic in the early 1980s. A deeply rooted cause for this shift is that the transmission and/or acquisition of HIV/AIDS currently correlates most strongly with poverty, and many Deep South states are comprised of profoundly impoverished and resource poor communities. The failure of Alabama to expand Medicaid presents just one barrier precluding equal access to health care in Alabama for all of its residents, but the main drivers of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Alabama and throughout the Deep South states involve social determinants of health, with poverty appearing as a deeply embedded and seemingly intractable common denominator among numerous barriers limiting access to health and access to justice by numerous underserved and/or marginalized and/or underprivileged and/or oppressed populations of people.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
The Aiding Alabama Legal Program at BAO exists to coordinate, organize, partner, and collaborate with members of local, statewide, regional, and national legal communities/providers/agencies/courts/systems/institutions in order to maximize the impact of poverty law practice as a means of stemming the tide of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Alabama and throughout the Deep South.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: Alabama Possible

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
Kristina Scott, JD, Executive Director
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kscott@alabamapossible.org

Biography:
Kristina Scott is the executive director of Alabama Possible, a statewide nonprofit organization that works to remove barriers to prosperity through advocacy, education, and collaboration. A seasoned coalition builder and attorney, Kristina brings a unique mix of communications and analytical skills to the job. Before joining AP in August 2008, Kristina served as the Managing Attorney for External Affairs at the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office. Kristina earned her bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Florida, where she was a member of Florida Blue Key, and her juris doctor with distinction from Emory University. She is a member of the California, Georgia and New York Bars.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
Alabama Possible
www.alabamapossible.org, Twitter: @alabamapossible
Mission: To remove barriers to prosperity in Alabama by advocating, educating, and collaborating.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
Alabama Possible removes barriers to prosperity through research, engaged learning, poverty simulations, and promoting college access and success. We build capacity and nurture reciprocal community partnerships to ensure that our research-driven work is effective and sustainable. We support and create educational equity through the following program areas:

Research: We annually publish the Poverty Data Sheet, a comprehensive graphic resource that highlights statewide poverty rates and data related to educational attainment, employment, and food security.

Engaged Learning: We promote engaged learning that combines classroom instruction with thoughtful community and civic engagement. We support relationship-building among our higher education members through statewide events including our annual Hungry for Justice and Lifetime of Learning conferences.

Poverty Simulations: We facilitate Poverty Simulations, which increase participants’ understanding of the hardships and emotional toll experienced by low-income families. Through role-playing, participants must try to provide food, clothing, shelter and other basic needs for themselves and their “families”.

College Access and Success: Our college access and success programs include the Blueprints College Access Initiative and Cash for College. Both programs promote and build educational equity for low income, minority, and first generation college-going students across the state of Alabama. Through the Blueprints College Access Initiative, we team students with near-peer mentors who equip them to make structured decisions about their postsecondary options and support them as they navigate the college admissions process. Through Cash for College, we work to increase the number of students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
See: www.alabamapossible.org/povertysimulation
College Access and Success Impact
Cash for College: www.cashforcollegealabama.org

Barriers and Challenges:
High rates of poverty and hunger; Low rates of educational attainment; Upside-down tax structure;
Persistently inequitable outcomes; Dysfunctional state constitution

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
Not directly on services; Collaborate with Appleseed on state constitutional revision
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: Birmingham Education Foundation

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
J.W. Carpenter
Executive Director, Birmingham Education Foundation
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205/582-8740

Biography:
J.W. Carpenter has served as Executive Director of the Birmingham Education Foundation (BEF) since September 2013. Before coming to BEF, Carpenter served as the founding Executive Director for Teach For America Alabama – a branch of the nationally-recognized organization committed to providing and advocating for high quality education for students in low-income communities. Prior to his role with Teach For America, Carpenter was a litigator for the Birmingham law firm of Walston, Wells, and Birchall, LLP. Carpenter earned a B.A. from Boston College and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center. He serves on the boards of A+ Education Partnership, ¡HICA!, Operation Hope-Alabama, and Youth Entrepreneur Labs. He was named Top 40 under 40 in Birmingham in 2012 and is an alumnus of UAB Leadership. Carpenter is supported by his wife, Becky and two little ones-Jack and Kate.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
Birmingham Education Foundation
www.edbirmingham.org
Twitter: @iamedbirmingham

Mission: The Birmingham Education Foundation (Ed) is dedicated to increasing the number of students in the Birmingham City Schools (BCS) that are on the path to college, career, and life readiness. We believe that this is possible by cultivating a diverse network of people who demand excellence for our students and inspire others to do the same.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
Inadequate education outcomes: Ed sees itself primarily as the connector between our broader community and our students, educators, and families.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Ed pursued pilot initiatives at the school level in everything from ACT, Pre-AP, dual enrollment, and now summer learning initiatives, to signature programs in college access, career exposure, and essential skill building to our very popular community engagement and empowerment work called "Network Nights."

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
We currently have attorneys on our Board of Directors.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: Collaborative Solutions, Inc.

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
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Community Initiatives Associate
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Biography:
Ms. Camp serves as Program Associate for Community Initiatives at CSI. Her main responsibilities are programmatic and administrative support for the Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama. She earned her Master of Social Work degree from The University of Alabama and her Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering from Auburn University. Ms. Camp is interested in the creation and administration of state housing trust funds. Prior to joining CSI, she held a number of positions in nonprofit (secular and faith-based), government and private social service agencies. She has over 10 years of experience working with special needs populations, and she has a wealth of experience in human rights advocacy. She has worked with a variety of programs and populations including homeless families with children, LEP (recent immigrants), persons with disabilities, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and youth. She previously served in the Child Protective Services Resource Development Unit of the Lee County Department of Human Resources.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI) and the Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama (LIHCA)
http://www.collaborative-solutions.net/index.html
https://twitter.com/LIHCAAlabama
https://twitter.com/CollabSolutions

Mission of CSI:
Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI) works in partnership for the empowerment of human service organizations and communities in order to positively impact special needs populations. CSI will work with our partners to improve housing and health systems that affect the lives of individuals with special needs.

Mission of LIHCA:
To increase housing opportunities for Alabamians with the greatest financial need.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
We address the following manifestations of poverty: Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness, Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises, Lack of personal and physical safety, Stigma and lack of personal dignity, and Isolation from community and political infrastructure. CSI currently operates over $2.5 million in grants and contracts delivering an array of services to strategically enhance housing and health services to special needs populations. Services that we provide include: Technical Assistance & Training, Capacity Building, Strategic Planning & Needs Assessment, Research & Evaluation, Advocacy & Systems Change and Nonprofit Organization Management Services.
Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
The Rural Supportive Housing Institute (RHSI) has been very successful in improving and increasing permanent supportive housing (PSH) for vulnerable populations in rural communities. RHSI uses a Peer Network model that serves as a supportive forum for beneficiaries to engage in shared learning, strategize overcoming local challenges, and gain confidence in advocacy efforts to change systems. The key elements of the Peer Network are affinity and flexibility. Peer Networks may be formed around geography, populations, or special topic issues and challenges faced in a community. Participants have a common goal, purpose, and investment in the work. The result is rapport and trust within the group and a supportive environment conducive to learning and change. Moreover, the Peer Network approach allows for cross-peer learning. Lastly, the Peer Network creates an advocacy network. Joining together to discuss challenges and successes sheds light on the issues that affect participants and often paves the way for system-level change. The Peer Network provides a forum for beneficiaries to assess community and organizational need, build capacity, and develop innovative strategies to increase housing options connected to health in hard to serve rural communities.

CSI is part of a new national endeavor to work with domestic violence (DV) and homeless service providers to develop collaborations, improve policies and improve housing options for DV survivors. LIHCA launched a successful multi-year campaign to create a state housing trust fund. LIHCA uses educational and advocacy efforts to increase public awareness of the current housing crisis and possible solutions.

Barriers and Challenges:
Many of our friends, family, and neighbors are seeing more and more of their income being used on rising housing costs, leaving less for other necessities such as groceries, their children’s education, and savings for emergencies. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Alabama currently lacks over 95,000 homes for low income individuals and families, including children, veterans, seniors and those who have a disability. We have also seen such a dramatic rise in child homelessness that the National Center on Family Homelessness reports 59,349 Alabama children were homeless in 2013. This organization also ranked Alabama worst in the nation in their 2014 edition of America’s Youngest Outcasts: A Report Card on Child Homelessness.

The lack of affordable housing in Alabama requires that something be done. However, without sufficient and dedicated housing resources, the prospect of slowing or reversing the trend of increasingly unaffordable housing in Alabama is nearly impossible. Currently, the State of Alabama does not invest a single dollar of state funds to ensure that all Alabamians have a safe and stable place to live. Instead, Alabama relies solely on federal funds and programs that continue to see drastic cuts in funding and are often too rigid to meet the diverse needs in our state. Given the complex and persistent housing crisis that we face here in Alabama, a comprehensive solution is urgently needed.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
Yes, LIHCA collaborates with Legal Services of Alabama on our work to educate the public on the Alabama Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act of 2006. We also provide copies of the Alabama Tenants’ Handbook free of charge to anyone that requests it. We provide referral services to callers with questions about legal matters such as eviction.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: The Firehouse Shelter

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
Anne Wright  
Executive Director, The Firehouse Shelter  
www.firehouseshelter.com  
205/252-9576

Biography:
Anne Darden Wright is a native of Mtn. Brook, Alabama and graduated from John Carrol Catholic High School. After graduation, she attended college in Vermont where she received her BA in Legal and Justice Studies in 2003 from Burlington College. After several years living in the Northeast and working in the nonprofit sector, she returned to Alabama and received her MSW in 2009 from the University of Alabama.

Anne has worked at The Firehouse since 2011, first as Housing Director before moving into her role as Executive Director in 2013. Anne sits on many different advisory committees dealing with Mental Health Issues and Homelessness, and is very involved in raising public awareness about topics surrounding systemic poverty issues in the Deep South. She spends her spare time managing a household in Hoover that includes her eleven year old son, Hunter, and a menagerie of rescue animals that have adopted her.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:  
Cooperative Downtown Ministries (The Firehouse Shelter)  
www.firehouseshelter.com

Mission: The mission of The Firehouse Shelter is to provide the homeless men in the Birmingham area a nurturing and caring environment while empowering each individual to reach his full potential.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:  
The Firehouse Shelter serves more homeless men than any agency in the state of Alabama and operates the broadest, most comprehensive continuum of services for Birmingham's homeless. At the heart of our mission are chronic hard-core homeless men, 90% of whom come from the Birmingham metro area. Nearly 67% of the men who enter our doors are chronically homeless, which means that they have been homeless at least 4X in the past 3 years or have spent at least one year straight living on the streets (park bench, abandoned building, parked car, an alley way, etc). It is documented that 30% of these men have a diagnosed severe mental illness. Some estimates place the mental illness numbers as high as 70%.

We have found the issues and barriers to overcoming chronic homelessness to be complex and costly. Change takes time and what these men need are time - time to get to the root of their problems, time to heal, and time to put together an action plan that will allow them to achieve their full potential. We believe that we can transform these lives by working together and partnering with other social service agencies that share our mission of re-weaving homeless men back into the fabric of society.

EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAMS

• THE EMERGENCY SHELTER OPERATION  
• STOP (STREET OUTREACH)  
• PROFESSIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT
• DAY SHELTER
• MEALS PROGRAM
• CLOTHES CLOSET
• TEAM (PRE-TREATMENT ADDICTION PROGRAM)
• PROJECT H.E.L.P. (Free Legal Counsel)
• LITERACY & GED PROGRAMS
• COMMUNITY GARDEN (SMITHFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD)

HOUSING PROGRAMS
• (NASHAMAH) TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (50 BEDS @ 2 SITES)
• (SAFE HAVEN) PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (24 BEDS)
• (THE PHOENIX PROJECT) PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (62 BEDS)
• (CDM) PERMANENT HOUSING (18-20 BEDS)
• AFFORDABLE LOW INCOME HOUSING (9 PROPERTIES)

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
The Firehouse uses Housing First model for its housing. We serve over 4,000 men, women, and children every year, and sleep over 215 men per night.

Barriers and Challenges:
The Firehouse serves the chronically homeless men in Birmingham- this population suffers from multiple barriers, including drug addiction, mental illness, and systemic poverty. We focus on the chronically homeless population, which is incredibly hard to house.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
Yes. We participate in Project HELP, hosting the program 2 times a month. We also participate in homeless court.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: Greater Birmingham Ministries

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
Scott Douglas, Executive Director
Greater Birmingham Ministries
2304 12th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35234
205-326-6821/Fax: 205-252-8458/Cell: 205-527-7731

Biography:
Scott Douglas is Executive Director of Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM). Before joining the staff of GBM, Scott served as Environmental Justice Organizer for the Sierra Club - Southeast, Executive Director of the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice (where Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and Anne Braden were Co-Chairs) and Southern Field Representative for the Partnership for Democracy Foundation. Scott has served on the boards of AIDS Alabama, the Alabama Poverty Project, The Gulf Coast Fund (post Katrina), the Progressive Technology Project, the Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama, and the Alabama Organizing Project. He also served on the boards of directors of the Needmor Fund and the New World Foundation. Scott has published articles on human rights, community organizing and social change in Social Policy, Southern Exposure, and the Howard Law School Journal.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
Greater Birmingham Ministries, www.gbm.org, @GreaterBhmMin

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM) was founded in 1969 in response to urgent human and justice needs in the greater Birmingham area. GBM, a multi-faith, multi-racial organization, provides emergency services for people in need and engages the poor and the non-poor in systemic change efforts to build a strong, supportive, engaged community and pursue a more just society for all people.

GBM has three basic areas of work in the community:

- **Serving People**: Providing financial assistance (rents, utilities), food and clothing and support for families and individuals in crisis, and connecting their daily struggles with systemic and structural injustice;
- **Building Community**: Working with faith communities of Birmingham and Alabama to expand beyond direct human services to serve as allies in identifying and addressing systems of food, housing, transportation, criminal justice and access to voting that affect the [poor unjustly.
- **Pursuing Justice**: Working alongside low-income neighborhoods and congregations to improve the quality of life for all in the metro region and state through effective collaborative decision-making and working to develop viable solutions for the future of families and communities;

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Successes: Building successful, inclusive collaborations to address affordable housing, homelessness, public transportation and criminal justice reform.

To that end, GBM, knowing that it cannot serve all of the needs of which we become aware, has worked to create new civic engagement space, new services and new possibilities for community volunteer involvement ranging from service to advocacy. Among the organizations that GBM created/anchored
are the Firehouse Shelter for Men, the PATH Shelter for Women (now Bread & Roses), Bethel Ensley Action Tasks, the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama, Meals on Wheels (we started it in the 1970’s), Alabama Arise, the Alabama Organizing Project and many others.

**Barriers and Challenges:**
In Alabama, there is a major structural impediment to Lincolns’ idea of “government of the people, by the people, for the people”. It’s the Alabama Constitution of 1901 – based upon the 1890 “Mississippi Plan” that strategized an end run around post Civil War civil rights amendments. It was the third and final blow to Reconstruction in Alabama and was successful in crushing the late 19th century populist coalitions of newly freed slaves and landless whites who had joined together in common pursuit of free public education to be paid for by the rich of the day.

Absurd concentration of power in the Legislature, absence of significant home rule, recently renewed voter suppression measures and corrupt redistricting all combine to present major barriers and challenges to even the appearance of democracy in Alabama.

**Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?**
Yes. Currently we are in collaboration with the Magic City Bar association in providing free legal briefings with our low-income clients. We also work closely with the Jefferson County Public Defender’s Office—Community Law Office, one of whose staff serves on our board of directors.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: One Roof

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
Michelle Farley
Executive Director, One Roof
michelle@oneroofonline.org
205.254.8833 x114

Biography:
Michelle Farley has been with One Roof as Executive Director since 2003. In that time she has successfully raised the average annual HUD award from $3 million to over $9 million in this past grant competition. Homelessness is down by half and Veteran's homelessness has reached Functional Zero. She always does her best to play well with others but has been known to lose her temper with the often stupid things that prevent her from seeing that all of the area citizens who want a home have access to one.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
One Roof
www.oneroofonline.org
Facebook OneRoofAlabama; Twitter OneRoofBham

It is the mission of One Roof to equip and empower our community to end homelessness through advocacy, education and coordination of services.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
1) One Roof is what Housing and Urban Development refers to as the lead entity in the Homeless Continuum of Care. That means that we coordinate most homeless services in our jurisdiction (Jefferson, Shelby and St. Clair Counties); we compete for the HUD funding for this district; we bring best practices into the work of all member agencies; and we work to correct attitudes, misinformation, and policies that contribute to homelessness. We coordinate the work being done to end Veteran's homelessness. We have reached Functional Zero.
1a) We partner with the Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama to try to address the appalling lack of safe, decent and affordable housing in our area and in our state.
2) See the last question on this page
3) We actively work on redirecting public feedings of "homeless" to the areas of true need - homeless service providers, our elderly, those living in food deserts, and our children.
4) We are actively working to develop a medical respite program, a best practices program to prevent unnecessary admissions and unnecessary readmissions in our homeless population. We partner with Cooper Green, the local indigent care provider, to facilitate access to care for our homeless clients. We partner with the Jefferson County Department of Health and Cahaba Valley Health Care to improve access to dental care. We partner with the VA, with UAB, with St. Vincent's and with a host of smaller medical entities, including Equal Access, a student-led medical provider, to provide annual exams and prescription medications at Project Homeless Connect. We have a strong partnership with JBS Mental Health and with UAB Department of Psychiatry REACT program to house clients with severe mental illnesses. We have strong partnerships with the local substance abuse and recovery program agencies.
5) We struggle to develop/ improve partnerships with the local school systems.
6) Challenging.
7) Our member agencies work to quickly stabilize clients in housing and to keep them housed as long as is appropriate. We follow HUD guidelines for expected outcomes and we monitor agencies' progress to identify potential challenges and potential successes. We are working in our community to reshape housing from the traditional, but potentially destabilizing, transitional housing to a rapid rehousing model to quickly house even those homeless clients with extensive housing barriers. The majority of our housing providers practice some level of Housing First, a best practices philosophy of housing a client first and working on their problems second.

8) Please see all of the questions answered thus far. We promote out Street Outreach teams to identify and engage people to get them off the streets and into housing. The One Roof ED worked on the HUD committee to develop the education to promote safe housing in all HUD-funded entities for our transgender population.

9) Please see all of the above responses.

10) Each of our member agencies promote voter registration and assist clients to change addresses on voter records. We have at least one Voter Registration group at each Project Homeless Connect.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

1) Homeless numbers are down from 2,428 people on any given night in 2005 to 1,138 people on any given night in 2015. We can correlate, almost 1:1, the decrease in homelessness with the development of permanent supportive housing.

2) We reached Functional Zero for Veteran's homelessness in January 2016. This does not mean that no veteran is homeless currently, but it means that every current vet on the streets has been offered housing or has been in housing and we just have to figure out what kind of housing is lacking. It also means that we have a system in place to quickly identify and house any new vet who becomes homeless in our area.

3) We were the first Continuum agency in Alabama to institute a Project Homeless Connect. During our last PHC, we had homelessness service providers from three states present to see how we organize this event. At one time, the VA did a separate PHC-type event specifically for veterans, but because of the success of PHC, they chose to stop doing their event and partner with us. This event has helped reduce our chronically homeless numbers from 648 people in 2005 to 239 people in 2015.

4) As mentioned above, the majority of our housing providers practice some type of Housing First. We have reallocated multiple transitional housing programs to the best practices Rapid Rehousing.

5) We are the only Continuum to have a full-time worker that does nothing but work with homeless clients to quickly get them social security disability benefits through the national best practices SOAR (social security outreach access and recovery) program. She is at 98% acceptance on first application and her record is 13 days from submission to approval. She averages less than 90 days from application to approval.

Barriers and Challenges:

1) Politics; the good-old-boy network of only funding/promoting/publicizing programs that are personally interesting; 2) having to battle the attitude of this-is-how-we've-always-done-it; 3) lack of understanding of the complexity of homelessness by the general public and decision-makers; 4) religious objections to assisting LGBTQ persons, persons with substance abuse issues, and people who have a "different" religious belief; 5) lack of data sharing between various mainstream resources and social service providers - - we are all serving the same clients, so we should share data that would assist the client (example - Alabama requires 4 separate applications for 4 social programs when the majority of states now utilize only a single application since all the questions are the same. Another example - there is no formal data sharing between DHR and the homeless service providers even though there is a proven link between homelessness and future DHR involvement, and a proven link between DHR family separation and future homelessness.); 6) lack of affordable housing and the lack of funding to develop
affordable housing and the lack of tangible incentives to develop affordable housing and the increased hoops to jump through when affordable instead of market-rate housing is being developed; 7) the lack of funding for mental health and substance abuse services and the stigma attached to even asking for these services; 8) multiple concerns with various DOC issues including lack of ID with discharged felons and being able to use a felon ID to get state ID, challenges in getting access to soon-to-be-released prisoners and their medical records so that we can assist with applying for social security disability benefits, woeful lack of reentry programs, and the entire question of community housing for those labeled sex offenders. 9) almost every federal department has a definition of homelessness -- and none are the same; 10) Money: not just a lack of sufficient funding, but the fact that Alabama has no funding line items to combat homelessness, the fact that Alabama has a Housing Trust Fund, but no attached revenue stream to provide funding, and an insufficient amount of collaboration between funders on the federal level, the state level, and the local level. Stopping with 10 items because I don't want to sound like everything is bad...

**Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?**

Yes, One Roof and the majority of our member agencies collaborate with Legal Services of Alabama, Legal Aid, and with the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyer Program to properly refer clients; member agencies and their clients participate in Turning Point, a City of Birmingham population-specific court for people experiencing homelessness; and the BBVLP hosts free legal clinics every two weeks in member agencies serving people in homelessness. One Roof coordinates Project Homeless Connect, a best practices event designed to connect the chronically homeless with services, and the community with homelessness, and we always have 25+ attorneys and judges from multiple districts participate to resolve legal issues for attendees.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: Samford University, Cumberland School of Law

Speaker/Title>Contact Information:
Cassandra W. Adams, MPH, JD
Director Cumberland Community Mediation Center & Public Interest Program
Samford University, Cumberland School of Law
205-726-4342 | office; 205-726-2397 | fax
ceadams@samford.edu
800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229

Biography:
Cassandra W. Adams is the director of Samford University’s Cumberland Community Mediation Center and Public Interest Program. She manages the community mediation center and the public interest/pro bono activities for the law school. Additionally, Cassandra teaches the Mediator Practice course and supervises law students working on public interest and experiential legal projects. Her research interests are in civil and family mediation, restorative justice, victim outreach and access to justice. She is often called upon as a Victim Outreach Specialist in capital cases, especially those involving intra-family victims and defendants and cases involving diverse communities. Cassandra earned a law degree from the University of Tennessee, a Master’s in Public Health from Meharry Medical College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fisk University. She is licensed to practice law in Alabama and is a registered mediator with the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
Samford University, Cumberland School of Law
www.samford.edu/cumberlandlaw
Twitter - @Cumberlandlaw
Facebook.com/cumberlandschooloflaw

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
We provide opportunities for law students to work alongside volunteer attorneys that are providing services to assist our community members struggling with the manifestations of poverty. Law students provide onsite research assistance at Birmingham’s annual Project Homeless Connect and conduct intake interviews at the local homeless shelters for legal clinics.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Providing opportunities for law students to work on these projects with volunteer attorneys gives the students a blueprint on how to provide similar pro bono services to the community once they are members of the bar.

Barriers and Challenges:
Funding to assist clients clear up legal fines so that they can move forward to be fully integrated/re-integrated into the community.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
Yes – Statewide Volunteer Lawyers Programs; Alabama Appleseed; Legal Services; all the court systems.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: UAB Substance Abuse and Justice Programs

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
Bailey Davis MACN, ADC
Program Manager, UAB Substance Abuse and Justice Programs
Jefferson County Community Corrections
Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC)
National TASC Consortium of Programs, Vice President

Biography (Please insert a short bio):
Mr. Davis has worked for the UAB Substance Abuse and Justice Programs -TASC for 16 years. He has oversight over a several programs that provide early intervention at various intersect points in the criminal justice system. Some of the programs include an adult drug court, adult mental health court, veteran’s court, theft court, county wide fatherhood initiative, and community corrections program. Mr. Davis is the Vice President for the National TASC Consortium of Programs. He has served on the national board for 5 years.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
UAB Substance Abuse and Justice Programs
Jefferson County Community Corrections
Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC)
www.uab.edu/medicine/substanceabuse/tasc-home

Mission Statement: “Working to improve the Criminal justice system through innovation, research and service.”

It is the mission of TASC to bring innovation and services to the criminal justice system through applied research and evidence-based practices. TASC also advocates for public policies which support community based alternatives to incarceration and treatment as critical components of the criminal justice system. Through TASC, community-based alternatives are made available to offenders who would otherwise burden the criminal justice system with their persistent criminal behavior or occupy space in overcrowded jails and prisons. TASC promotes recovery and positive change among its participants in a continuing effort to ensure a safer and healthier Jefferson County.

National Consortium of TASC Programs Inc. is a nonprofit association representing programs across the United States. TASC members are dedicated to the goal that each individual involved in the justice system will receive the care needed to restore them to healthy and productive lives. TASC promotes the exchange of ideas, information and research to improve substance abuse and criminal justice systems. National TASC and its members work to develop professional competence in the operation of the TASC model; to promote justice system alternatives; and to otherwise act on behalf of its membership on a national basis. www.nationaltasc.org

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
We intervene early in the criminal justice system for non-violent offenders that do not have access to financial options for bond, connectivity to resources—employment, housing, health care (physical health and mental health), and appropriate treatment resources.
**Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:**
We promote best practices for the county/state involving therapeutic interventions/strategies, including implementation of an individualized risk-needs assessment (ORAS) – determines specific type/dosage of interventions, as well as utilize the only evidence based offender case management model nationwide.

We act as a bridge between the criminal justice system and access to treatment providers.

**Barriers and Challenges:**
Financial Barriers - Assisting individuals to obtain treatment options.

Stigma- 
For individuals involved in the criminal justice system...limiting their access to employment and housing. Lack of community education of what it means to have a substance abuse disorders and/or other mental health disorders.

**Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?**
We collaborate at all levels of the criminal justice system.
**Expert Biography and Organization Profile:**
**The Women’s Fund of Greater Birmingham**

**Speaker/Title/Contact Information:**
Jeanne Jackson  
President and CEO  
The Women’s Fund of Greater Birmingham  
jackson@womensfundbirmingham.org  
205/326-4454

**Biography:**
Jeanne Jackson is the President/CEO of The Women’s Fund of Greater Birmingham, an organization that inspires women to use their philanthropic power to create positive social change for women and their children. The Women’s Fund is a leader in reducing domestic violence, addressing sex trafficking of minors, and enhancing women’s economic security. Under her tenure, The Women’s Fund was recently selected as an ASCEND member of the Aspen Institute, awarded the *Birmingham Business Journal*’s Non-Profit of the Year in 2014, and recognized as a leading philanthropy by *Birmingham Magazine* for their creation of Collaboration Institute.

**Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:**
The Women’s Fund of Greater Birmingham.  
www.womensfundbirmingham.org  
https://twitter.com/WomensFundBham  
Mission: To move women beyond poverty

**Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:**
We work with low-wealth single mothers to move them into higher waged skilled jobs with benefits through post-secondary education combined with the wraparound services needed to succeed, including quality educational childcare for their children.

**Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:**
Three years ago The Women’s Fund launched Collaboration Institute, a nine month program to promote collaboration among agencies working with women and children. It is a two-generational approach to support education for the mother and her young children simultaneously. We completed the second Collaboration Institute in February 2016 and it is receiving national recognition and financial support from local corporations and foundations.

**Barriers and Challenges:**
Not only is it difficult for single mothers to complete post-secondary educational programs, it is also difficult to manage the challenges and complexities of obtaining and retaining a higher waged job with benefits. Challenges include childcare, lack to dependable transportation, unstable housing and eviction, and the confidence to persist with unconnected support services.

**Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?**
We are beginning to work with Birmingham Bar Legal Services to assist the single mothers in our programs with legal issues.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: Woodlawn Foundation

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
Kelleigh C. Gamble
Real Estate Director/Woodlawn Foundation
205.599.6963 ext 104

Biography:
Mr. Gamble’s background includes affordable housing construction, homeownership counseling, foreclosure prevention counseling, project management and information technology. I've worked with BEAT Housing in Ensley, The Birmingham Center for Affordable Housing, and in the private sector. Mr. Gamble has previously served on the board of the Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama; aimed at passing and capitalization of the Housing Trust Fund to expand affordable housing opportunities to low income, elderly, disabled and Veteran populations. Mr. Gamble is a graduate from the University Phoenix, is married to his wife Kim; two children, Kymberli and Alexander Gamble.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
Woodlawn Foundation
http://woodlawnunited.org/

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
Along with addressing education and community wellness aspects of Woodlawn; the foundation has developed 64 income restricted units as a beginning phase to aid in breaking the cycle of poverty. Along with the construction of Wood Station; Woodlawn Foundation has conducted over $700,000.00 in repairs for homeowners in the Woodlawn community to enhance the quality of life for the homeowners as well as build a sense of pride and with its residents.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Since 2013 the Woodlawn Foundation has rehabbed over 50 homes within Woodlawn through varied partnerships with the State’s Attorney General’s Office, local philanthropic agencies, and the private sector. The existing homeowners are the strongest fabric that any neighborhood can have. Improvements to plumbing and electrical systems are large expenditures that are high in costs.

Barriers and Challenges:
Biggest challenge is resources meeting the need. While Woodlawn Foundation has made significant strides in meeting the needs of the neighbors in Woodlawn; more resources are needed. WF currently maintains a waiting list of 86 individuals in need of repairs to their homes. Another challenge WF encounters is the disproportionate number of renters versus homeowners; many residents of the area rent their homes and therefore did not qualify for the rehab work.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
The only collaboration we have legal course via the real estate side of the house is for quieting title and acquisitions.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: Woodlawn Foundation

Speaker/Title/Contact Information:
David Liddell
Woodlawn Innovation Network Site Coordinator, Oliver Elementary School
david@woodlawnunited.org
770-289-3670

Biography:
David Liddell returned to his native Birmingham in August 2014 to join the Woodlawn Foundation as the Woodlawn Innovation Network’s first site coordinator, based at Oliver Elementary School. At Oliver, he was tasked with establishing a model for leveraging community partnerships to support students within the WIN schools, and is responsible for coordinating daily with families, teachers, administrators and partners to holistically support Oliver’s students through a broad menu of programs and services.

A Birmingham native who grew up in Atlanta and graduated from the University of Georgia, David returned to Alabama in 2011 to join Teach for America's Alabama Corps as an English teacher at Greene County High School in Eutaw, Alabama. David remains an active Alabama Corps alumnus, serves on the board of Young Education Professionals of Birmingham, and mentors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham.

Organization Name, Website, Twitter and Mission:
The Woodlawn Foundation
woodlawnunited.org
On Twitter: @WoodlawnUnited

The Woodlawn Foundation's mission is to serve as the community quarterback organization that protects the vision of a revitalized Woodlawn and collaborates with partners -- families, non-profit organizations, businesses, and public entities -- to break the cycle of poverty in Woodlawn.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
The Foundation's purpose is to address numerous manifestations of poverty within a defined geographic area. Some of the primary ways that the Foundation does this include the development of new mixed income housing options; homeowner rehab for Woodlawn seniors; the redesign of teaching and learning practices in a five-school feeder pattern, including intensive professional development for teachers and administrators; school-based nutrition assistance programs, health screenings with coordinated follow-up, mental health services, and referral to community agencies for crisis intervention.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
The Woodlawn Foundation is a member of the Purpose Built Communities Network, whose place-based model calls for the simultaneous implementation of strategies to build (1) a cradle-to-career education pipeline, (2) high quality mixed-income housing options, and (3) a comprehensive menu of community wellness initiatives and amenities -- all in order to affect long-term poverty reduction and revitalization within a defined community.

As a school-based site coordinator within our network of five schools, my work straddles the education and community wellness pillars of the Purpose Built model. In undertaking this work, we have adopted
the "community school" approach of establishing schools as hubs where partners serve students and families across a spectrum of needs spanning education, health (including mental health), youth development, family support, and community engagement.

**Barriers and Challenges:**
As a place-based organization, an ongoing challenge and privilege is continuously holding ourselves to working with and not just for Woodlawn residents -- that every thing we do is done with the ingenuity and partnership of the people who call Woodlawn home. Other challenges include navigating partnerships -- with the school district, for example -- to ensure that our initiatives are executed to fidelity.

**Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?**
While we don’t regularly collaborate with members of the legal profession, last summer we engaged with Noah Jones of Alabama Appleseed to pursue an alternative breakfast options grant for Oliver Elementary School. In the end, we settled on a option that was more efficient for our campus from a human resource perspective: to leverage the possibility of the alternative option to compel the Child Nutrition Program and our local cafeteria manager to extend breakfast hours an additional forty-five minutes. The result is that far fewer of our students -- especially those who are chronically tardy -- worry about whether they must go hungry until lunchtime and can instead focus on the high-quality instruction that their teachers have planned for them.
Expert Biography and Organization Profile: Woodlawn Foundation

Sally Mackin
Executive Director of the Woodlawn Foundation
205-599-6963 (office) 205-370-8436 (cell)
sally@woodlawnunited.org

Biography:
Sally earned a B.S. in Economics from the University of Alabama Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration. Her professional background includes experience marketing and advertising in the retail industry as well as expense and operation management. She has worked in the financial industry as a licensed broker, participated in extensive fundraising efforts of several Birmingham charities and served on many non-profit boards. Sally is a certified as a Licensed Salesperson through the Alabama real Estate Commission, is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional and has completed the Senior Leaders Program for Nonprofit Professionals at Columbia University Business School. Sally is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, the 2012 class of Leadership Birmingham and 2015/2016 class of Leadership Alabama. Sally also serves as an Advisory Board Member of Building Alabama Reinvestment (BAR); an Advisory Member of Community Policing & Revitalization (CPR) City of Birmingham and an Advisory Member of the UAB Department of Education.

Organization Name: Woodlawn Foundation
http://woodlawnunited.org/

The mission of the Woodlawn Foundation is to serve as a catalyst and facilitator for the transformation and revitalization of the Woodlawn community in Birmingham, Alabama into a vibrant and sustainable community in which its residents have an opportunity to thrive. The community, and the greater Birmingham, Alabama community, including public, governmental and charitable organizations and agencies, businesses, and individuals.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
The Woodlawn Foundation and the partners of Woodlawn United have adopted the Purpose Built Communities framework of community revitalization. The Purpose Built Communities’ strategy focuses on three defined tracks of holistic community revitalization currently being implemented throughout the Woodlawn community: (1) a first-class education system with a clear “cradle-to-college-to-career” pipeline; (2) mixed-income housing to eliminate the concentration of poverty; (3) community wellness, which includes economic development, a reliable network of family and community support services and facilities to enhance the overall quality of life of the residents in the community.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Education: Woodlawn Foundation’s education efforts address the entire cradle-college-career continuum. Our goal is to ensure that all children progress seamlessly through the pipeline and graduate from high school with an intentional path forward: college, career, or military. The Woodlawn Innovation Network (WIN), currently in year one of implementation, is a partnership between Birmingham City Schools, Woodlawn Foundation, A+ Education Partnership, EDWorks, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Lawson State and other community partners to transform Woodlawn High School (WHS) and its four feeder schools into a dynamic, 21st century system of schools. WHS is now an Early College High School, where every student will have the opportunity to graduate with up to 60 hours of college credit, an associate degree and/or professional certification for free during their four-
year high school career. **School Resource Coordinators** at each school address non-academic barriers to learning. Woodlawn Foundation is also in the midst of a capital campaign to build the **James Rushton Early Learning and Family Success Center** in the heart of the community. Scheduled to open in late 2016, the center will provide high quality early learning experiences for up to 100 0-3 year olds. It will also house a number of community wellness partners for ease of access for residents.

**Wood Station:** Recognizing the negative impact of concentrated poverty, the Woodlawn Foundation is developing a critical mass of mixed income housing units to stabilize the neighborhood and attract private investment to the surrounding area. The first phase of Woodlawn Foundation’s mixed income housing initiative, The Park at Wood Station, is complete and all 64 townhouse-style units are occupied with a long waiting list. All 64 of the units will have income restrictions from 50-60% AMI. This project received a $1,400,000 allocation ($14,000,000 over 10 years) of Low Income Housing Tax Credits and leverages $670,000 of City of Birmingham HOME funds.

**Increased property values and homeowner equity:** We are working with the City of Birmingham to address code violations and to abate nuisance properties. The Woodlawn Foundation’s **Homeowner Rehabilitation Program** provides needed physical improvements to residences within the Woodlawn community that are at risk or could become at risk of foreclosure. Many Woodlawn homeowners live on a fixed income and have been living with roof leaks, mold, outdated plumbing and electrical boxes for years, creating legitimate health and safety issues in their homes. To date, 54 rehabilitation projects have been completed and over 400 residents have attended homeowner workshops.

**Barriers and Challenges:**
- Commercial and residential blight in chronically distressed neighborhoods;
- An insufficient number of affordable housing units connected to economic opportunities;
- A deficit of healthy food and other healthcare resources;
- Disconnection of low-income individuals from key opportunity drivers such as employment, quality schools and transportation; and
- High barriers to accessing capital for traditionally underserved and underrepresented small businesses.
*The Commission will be greeted by Ms. Woofolk before touring the Institute on Thursday afternoon.*


During her extensive career with the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) Woolfolk directed the Center for Urban Affairs, taught urban history and served as Assistant to the President for Community relations. Her expertise was applying academic research to urban problem solving. At her retirement from UAB in 1993 the University established the Odessa Woolfolk Presidential Community Service Award to be given annually to a member of the faculty.

Woolfolk was frequently cited in local newspapers as one of the region’s most influential citizens because of her service in the fields of housing, education, community development and public welfare. She continues to be known as one who crossed racial, ethnic, geographic and socio-economic boundaries to promote civic engagement, community leadership and race relations.

She was State Chair of the National Conference of Christian and Jews, first African American President of Operation New Birmingham’s Board of Directors and founding member of Leadership Birmingham. She was the ‘driving force’ behind the establishment of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and is its Emerita President and Board Chair. The Institute named a gallery in her honor.

A Birmingham native she graduated from the A. H. Parker High School. She earned a B.A. Degree from Talladega College (Alabama) and a Masters from Occidental College (California). She pursued additional studies in political science at the University of Chicago, and as a National Urban Fellow at Yale University.

Woolfolk has received scores of honors including the Humanitarian Award from the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Pioneer Award by the Alabama Shakespeare Theatre. She was inducted in the Birmingham Gallery of Distinguished Citizens and the Alabama Academy of Honor. She was awarded honorary doctorates by Talladega College, The University of the South at Sewanee and Birmingham-Southern College. Her personal credo is – Only enlightened intelligent personal concern for the world in which we live can solve the problems of our day.
BIRMINGHAM BAR VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

FREE LEGAL HELP TO KEEP BIRMINGHAM’S RESIDENTS SAFE

THE NEED

- 658,000 people live in Jefferson County*
- 125,000 residents in poverty**
- 31,250 residents in poverty are in need legal help***

*U.S. Census
**Alabama Possible
***ABA estimate
THE NEED

- 2,305 people were served by the BBVLP in 2015
- 1,000 more served by other legal aid organizations
- 27,945 vulnerable people in need of legal help did not receive it

BBVLP CAN HELP

- SAFEhousing
  - Fighting evictions
  - Ensuring safe living conditions
  - Stopping foreclosures
BBVLP CAN HELP

- **SAFE** finances
  - Winning against wrongful creditors
  - Obtaining identification so clients can work
  - Securing child support

BBVLP CAN HELP

- **SAFE** persons
  - Domestic violence divorces
  - Adoptions
  - Guardianships
THE BBVLP HELPS

Civil Help Desk
Monday & Thursday mornings

Domestic Relations Help Desk
Wednesday mornings

Homeless Help Desk
Tuesday mornings

Patent Program
By appointment

Extended Pro Bono Representation
SPECIAL CLINICS

- Project Homeless Connect
- Wills Clinics
- Magic City Bar Association Neighborhood Clinics
- Birmingham AIDS Outreach Clinics

WHO PROVIDES HELP

- 4,000 members of the Birmingham Bar Association
- 400 members volunteered in 2015
- 5,500 pro bono hours
- $825,000 in legal aid*
- For every dollar invested in the BBVLP, the community receives $12.38 in benefits**

*Based on $150 an hour
**Alabama Civil Justice Foundation Survey
FAST FACTS

- BBVLP was incorporated in 1994
- Began significantly increasing clients in 2013 with the Help Desk model
- One of five VLPs in Alabama
  - South Alabama, Madison County, Montgomery and State
- Closes more than double as many cases as the next highest VLP

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FAST FACTS

- Won the ABA Harrison Tweed Award in 2015 for significantly expanding access to civil legal aid service to the poor
- Clients must be under 125% of poverty level
  - Under $30,000 a year for a family of four
- No original criminal defense
- No fee-generating cases
FUNDING

Percentage of Funding

- Private Law Firms
- State IOLTA Funds
- Legal Services of Alabama
- Pro Hops Vino
- Small grants & one time donations

2016 AND BEYOND

- Neighborhood SAFE housing Help Desk
- Bankruptcy SAFE finances Help Desk
- Expand coverage areas: Bessemer cut-off
- Increase Domestic Violence SAFE persons services
- New areas of SAFE persons legal assistance
  - St. Vincent’s Breast Cancer survivors
  - Refugee children guardianship
- Develop long-term strategic plan
BIRMINGHAM BAR
VOLUNTEER
LAWYERS PROGRAM

2015 American Bar Association Harrison Tweed Award Winner

• Significantly expanding access to civil legal services for the poor •
Russell L Bennett, LGSW, PhD
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Our History

Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI) was incorporated in 2003 and started business January 1, 2004. CSI was started by Russell Bennett, Randall Russell, and Sharon Fenstermaker who recruited the first Board of Directors to begin agency operations. The three original staff members brought direct service experience and federal policy experience to this new effort. All three were committed to the mission of providing safe, decent affordable housing to people with special needs. Both Russell and Fenstermaker were previous Executive Directors of nonprofit human service organizations and clearly understood the challenges nonprofits experience and wanted to provide technical assistance to nonprofits to increase their capacity.
Who is CSI?

Mission:
Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI) works in partnership for the empowerment of human service organizations and communities in order to positively impact special needs populations.

Vision:
CSI will work with our partners to improve housing and health systems that affect the lives of individuals with special needs.
Program Areas

CSI has four programs:

- HIV/AIDS Housing and Health
- Homeless and HMIS
- Affordable and Rural Housing
- Administration and Operations.
CSI currently operates over $2.5 million in grants and contracts delivering an array of services to strategically enhance housing and services to special needs populations.
Rural and Affordable Housing

- Peer Network
- Leadership Institute
- Rural Supportive Housing Institute
HIV/AIDS Housing and Health

- HUD Technical Assistance
- HOPWA/HIV/AIDS Housing Planning and Training
- National Data Services
- National Policy Initiatives
Gulf Coast Recovery Project

- CSI has maintained a constant presence in New Orleans and the State of LA since Hurricane Katrina
- HUD and private funding has helped CSI:
  - Organize HIV/AIDS service providers
  - Provide training and assistance on housing development
  - Use data to influence funding priorities for HIV+ and homeless households
HIV Care Continuum

Explores the Connection Between Housing And Improved Outcomes Along The HIV Care Continuum

Housing stability is an important factor in helping HIV+ persons have better health outcomes, including viral suppression
Homeless and HMIS

- HUD Technical Assistance
- Data Driven Solutions
- Rural Homelessness
- Domestic Violence Initiative
Domestic Violence Project

- CSI is part of a new national endeavor known as the Domestic Violence Housing Technical Assistance Consortium
- Purpose: Work with domestic violence and homeless service providers nationwide to develop collaborations, improve policies and improve housing options for DV survivors
- Funded jointly by:
  - Dept. of Justice (DOJ)
  - Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
  - Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS)
National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC)

Mission:
The National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) works to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by ensuring that persons living with HIV/AIDS have quality, affordable and appropriate housing. NAHC accomplishes this through policy and resource advocacy, fostering, translating and disseminating research, and convening leaders to affect change at the local, national, and international levels.

- HOPWA Modernization
  - HR 3700 Passed the House by a vote of 427-0 on Tuesday, February 12
  - Rep. David Price (D-NC) mentioned NAHC on the floor
  - 3 Major Changes:
    - Switches from cumulative AIDS to living HIV/AIDS
    - Directs HUD to include housing costs and local poverty rates as formula factors
    - 5 year implementation including a stop-provision to cap gains and losses at 10% and 5%.
Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV/AIDS (PASWHA)

Mission
To energize and support social workers and other professionals providing social work services to impact Hepatitis C, HIV, and AIDS infections through education, research, policy/advocacy, networking, and professional development.

Integrated Clinical Social Work Interventions Webinar
- An interactive webinar illustrating the path that CrescentCare, a 32 year old New Orleans-based AIDS Service Organization now Federally Qualified Healthcare Center, is taking to ensure the provision of high-quality integrated behavioral health services at its primary care sites. In this webinar, PASWHA aims to set the stage for a deeper dive into clinical social work interventions against the backdrop of the medical model—a position that many programs are considering as behavioral health services move into primary care settings and become positioned as a key component of chronic disease management. This webinar will be followed by brief focus group among participants intended to elicit input for future advanced clinical social work webinar offerings.
Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama (LIHCA)

Mission:
To increase housing opportunities for Alabamians with the greatest financial need.

Housing Trust Fund
- Passage of Alabama Affordable Housing Act in 2012.
- Designed to maintain, retain, and create affordable homes in Alabama.
- Funds can be made available for programs as well as development and rehabilitation.
- The AHTF is a powerful tool to improve the housing opportunities and quality of life for Alabamians.
- We are one of six states with no dedicated revenue.