Teamwork Matters:
A Holistic Approach to Provide Legal Services to People who are Homeless

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One80 Place

- Founded in 1984
- Originally named Charleston Interfaith Crisis Ministries
  - Shortened to Crisis Ministries, 1999
  - Changed to One80 Place, June 2014
One80 Place

- Started as a shelter for men & a one meal soup kitchen, housed in various churches
- 1986, City of Charleston purchased Piggly Wiggly warehouse for $1.00 and gave the building to Crisis Ministries
- 1992, Built a Family Center behind Men’s Shelter for women & children
- August 2014, Moved into a new two-story 30,000 square foot building
Current services include:
- Housing for 60 men and 40 male Veterans in new building
- Housing for 30 women and children, and 10 female Veterans in Family Center
- Community Kitchen
  - 3 meals daily
- Health clinic with full-time nurse & volunteer medical staff
- Case management staff
  - Housing First model
One80 Place

- Current services include, cont.:
  - Psychiatric services
    - In-house and local Mental Health Center
  - Educational and employment services
    - School district
  - SSVF Programs in Charleston and Columbia
  - Legal Services
Homeless Justice Project

- **Mission:**
  To practice holistic advocacy in an effort to help individuals and families who are homeless and remove obstacles, both legal and social, that prevent them from regaining self-sufficiency.

- **Holistic advocacy looks beyond legal issues,** considering any issue that impedes an individual’s ability to end their homeless situation.
Homeless Justice Project

- Began in 2006 as a monthly legal clinic through partnership between
  - Crisis Ministries
  - Charleston School of Law
  - Nelson Mullins law firm
  - Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services
- In 2008, became Homeless Justice Project
Homeless Justice Project

- Initially provided civil legal services to residents of Crisis Ministries
- Expanded to Veterans in VA transitional housing programs, then to anyone in the Charleston area who was experiencing homelessness
- Added a paralegal in 2010 and a second attorney in 2013
Homeless Justice Project

- Funded primarily through the South Carolina Bar Foundation and the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Holds legal clinic twice weekly, where anyone can sign in to speak with attorneys about their issue
- Last year served 582 clients who had 780 legal issues
Homeless Justice Project

- Primary areas of law:
  - Disability cases, both Social Security and VA, as well as other benefits issues
  - Family law, primarily child support
  - Landlord/Tenant issues
  - Consumer issues
  - Birth certificates and other identification
  - Expungements and pardons
  - Guardian/conservator matters
  - Immigration
  - Wills and powers of attorney
- Does not handle criminal matters or personal injury cases
Partnerships

• One80 Place & SSVF Case Managers
  ○ Case managers are primary resources of legal clinic clients
  ○ HJP works with case managers to insure all of clients’ needs are met
Partnerships

- **Veterans Administration**
  - Works closely with Veterans justice outreach coordinator, especially on child support matters and VA Legal Clinic matters
  - Works closely with HUD-VASH staff and psychiatric staff at local VA
  - Increase in referrals by VA social work staff regarding guardianship/conservatorship cases and VA and SSA disability
  - Participation in annual VA Stand Down
Partnerships

• Social Security Administration / ODAR
  o Developed working relationship with SSA staff over the years
    ▪ Meet with SSA field office director
    ▪ Have one SSA staff who makes appointments and checks claim status; one staff to get SSA records on CD; one SSA staff designated to handle all SOAR claims
    ▪ Can contact ODAR director to expedite cases and for claims questions
Partnerships

- Disability Determination Services
  - Close working relationship with director
    - Can contact director with disagreement about the way a case was determined
    - Has one disability examiner that handles all SOAR claims and most other claims from Homeless Justice Project
    - Able to fax appointment of representative forms when not in file
Partnerships

- Child Support Enforcement
  - Veterans Child Support Initiative
    - First non-pilot program
    - Collaboration between Homeless Justice Project, Child Support Enforcement, VA, and Family Court Judges
    - Program to assist clients, Veterans in particular, to take steps necessary to meet their child support obligations without being incarcerated
Partnerships

- Probate Court
  - Mental Health Court
    - Provide legal assistance to MHC participants and One80 Place provides a bed when needed
    - Guardianship/conservatorship matters
Partnerships

- **Mental Health Center/Pro Bono Psychologist**
  - Works with mental health client on disability matters
  - Mental Health RV comes to One80 Place once weekly
  - Able to obtain medical records within a day
  - Psychologist in the community does pro bono evaluations on clients with cognitive impairments
Partnerships

- Family Services, Inc.
  - Works with case managers in the representative payee program for clients approved for disability benefits
Partnerships

- **Police Departments**
  - Provide new recruit training on homelessness issues
  - City of Charleston training is completed at headquarters, North Charleston training is held at One80 Place
Partnerships

- **Universities**
  - Charleston School of Law externs and students fulfilling pro bono requirements
  - University of South Carolina MSW field placement site
  - College of Charleston internship site for students majoring in Crime, Law & Society
Partnerships

- Pro Bono attorneys, Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services, Public Defenders, Volunteers
  - Attorneys in the community have participated in “Guest Legal Seminar” and offered assistance in cases including:
    - Municipal court matters
    - Immigration
    - Wills and estates
    - Foreclosure and bankruptcy
    - Guardianship/conservatorship
  - Cooperative effort with both Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services and the Public Defender to obtain representation
  - Utilize former DDS staff person to complete SSA forms
Partnerships

- **Homeless Court Partnership**
  - Our newest endeavor
  - Working with City of Charleston Municipal court staff, local attorneys, and social service agencies to create a homeless court
  - **Benefits:**
    - Ends cycle of homelessness to jail to homelessness
    - Improves access to court system
    - Provides for direction of vital social services
    - Reduces jail and court costs
    - Builds community collaboration
    - Engages individuals who are homeless in productive activity
Partnerships

- Examples of other partnerships from participants
- Questions?
Collaborate to Advocate: Lawyers and Communities Working to End Poverty

Blueprints for Action
Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems