

## FY10 United Way Mid-year Report

**Program:** Child Health Advocacy Program (CHAP)  
**Agency:** Legal Aid Justice Center  
**Date:** February 1, 2010

1. For the current funding period, please highlight your program's goals, activities and results, noting any changes to your original plan/proposal. Include any relevant budget and/or financial information. Limit your response to no more than one page.

The Child Health Advocacy Program (CHAP) addresses the needs of low-income, medically involved families with legal problems. We identify CHAP clients through outreach at the various pediatrics clinics at University of Virginia Hospital, where thousands of children are served each year. We hold intake "office hours" in the Pediatric Clinics, and also take referrals made by social workers and medical professionals who work in the clinic. In this way, families who need our assistance, but may not have otherwise found Legal Aid, get the help that they need. Cases referred through CHAP involve a myriad of problems that can affect families' health and well being, including housing, employment, consumer matters, and public benefits.

In January 2009, we hired Carolyn Pointer after a nationwide search for an attorney experienced in the medical-legal partnership model. After only a few months, however, Carolyn was forced to take an extended leave due to a medical emergency. She returned part-time in July 2009 and full time as of November 1, 2009. While our performance numbers were below projection for the year ended June 1, 2009, we expect to exceed our goals for the current fiscal year.

In the last half of 2009, CHAP led an effort among medical-legal partnerships throughout the state to create a new statewide evaluation tool, which was implemented effective January 1, 2010. The evaluation data that results from the use of this tool will help us improve our local program, improve our referrals for families at UVA Children's Hospital who live outside our service area, and reach more families in need.

We also finished our Teen Health Guide, a know-your-rights guide created in cooperation with our partners at the UVA Medical Center. We hope this kind of proactive education will prevent teens from needing legal services in the future. Our first medical provider training using these materials is scheduled for February 1, 2010. The Comprehensive School Health Specialist at the Virginia Department of Education has ordered 500 copies to use in her trainings around the state.

We are very excited that Virginia has been selected as the site for the 2010 national medical-legal partnership conference. Four of our CHAP staff (Alex Gulotta and Carolyn Pointer, attorneys; Greg Nelson, social worker; and Diane Pappas, pediatrician) will present five separate sessions over the three-day conference. This conference represents an opportunity to showcase our program to the national network of medical-legal partnership organizations.

2. Please share a success story from your program. We are especially interested in stories that show a long-term impact on a person or family, and stories that show collaborations or referrals with other community programs in meeting a client's multiple needs.

Carla<sup>1</sup> is the mother of Matt<sup>2</sup>, a four-year-old with hemophilia. She works at a day-care facility but does not have access to employer-sponsored health insurance. Matt's father left the family after learning of Matt's diagnosis and does not support his child financially. As a result of his diagnosis with hemophilia, Matt needs treatment with clotting factors three days a week. As a result of this pre-existing condition, Carla cannot afford to purchase health insurance. Matt was approved for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from the Social Security Administration, and receives Medicaid as a result of that disability determination.

Carla recently got engaged, but her fiancée also lacks employer-sponsored insurance. Matt's team at UVA referred Carla to CHAP to help determine the effect on Matt's medical benefits if Carla marries. After reviewing Carla's income information, the attorney determined that Matt would lose his SSI and Medicaid eligibility were Carla to marry.

Armed with the knowledge to make an informed decision, Carla opted not to marry at this time. Instead, CHAP's attorney referred Carla to the UVA social worker who is helping her apply for a community college program. Carla's goal is to prepare for a job that provides employer-sponsored health insurance so that she can get married while maintaining the life-saving treatment Matt needs to stay healthy.

Our advocacy on Carla's behalf exemplifies the preventive legal aid that CHAP strives to provide: helping clients make informed decisions that help avoid a medical crisis and therefore improve the long-term health outcomes of children and their families. Systemically, CHAP has joined the HAVCARE coalition to advocate for increasing the number of Virginia children eligible for subsidized health insurance.

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<sup>1</sup> Name changed to protect confidentiality.

<sup>2</sup> Name changed to protect confidentiality.

3. Complete the following Outcome Measurement update (based on your application for funding) for the fiscal year to date.

Projected FY10 Outcomes	FY10 Indicators Tracked	FY10 Outcome Results to Date (provide specific numbers and percentages)
Clients reached through outreach at the pediatric clinics and at local health fairs will receive information and/or referrals to help them effectively seek legal assistance with securing benefits, solving employment issues, maintaining housing and other legal problems, thus promoting an improved health outcome.	500 families (91% of the projection listed in the FY10 application, based on an award at 91% of request)	451 families or 90% of projection
CHAP staff represent or advise eligible families on issues relating to public benefits, employment, housing and other issues affecting their child's health outcomes.	We plan to provide full representation to 14 clients with a success rate of 70%, and to provide advice to an additional 31 clients.	We are currently representing 9 clients or 62% of projection (outcome not yet determined) and have provided advice to an additional 15 clients or 48% of projection.
CHAP staff train health professionals to recognize family issues that can affect their children's health and to make referrals.	45 professionals (91% of the projection listed in the FY10 application, based on an award at 91% of request)	24 professionals or 53% of projections

4. **Impact Report.** We are looking for issues and statistics specific to our local area; you are also welcome to include some general issues that set the framework for the local statistics. Under the Actual Results heading, we are looking for impact, especially long-term results, not just numbers served.

**Community Needs or Issues Your Program Addresses** -- please include at least 3 local issues/statistics and cite your source

CHAP benefits low-income families whose children have medical needs, and help them access benefits, preserve housing, and maintain employment so that the children's health outcomes can be improved. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 25.9 percent of Charlottesville City residents and 6.9 percent of Albemarle County residents, a total of 15,182 individuals, live at or below federal poverty guidelines. Throughout Region Ten, at least 21,619 individuals live in poverty. Federal poverty guidelines establish that a household of

four lives in poverty when their annual income is at or below \$22,050 (2009 figure). Many more people who have incomes above this threshold still make so little that they have difficulty securing such basic necessities in life as health insurance, adequate housing, child care and transportation.

### **Your Program's Solutions that United Way Community Impact Funds Support**

CHAP recognizes that low-income persons interacting with the health care system often have multiple problems, many of which have an impact on the health of their children. By viewing these medical clients holistically and seeing the interrelatedness of their problems, CHAP provides "preventive legal services." In other words, we can help persons address problems in their lives before the problems turn into crises. Poor living conditions, inadequate heat or other utilities, fear of losing shelter, lack of access to public benefits – all of these are issues that CHAP professionals help these persons to address that will produce better medical outcomes for their children. Since we began the program, we have reached over 720 families through CHAP who otherwise would not have known about our services.

**Actual Results** - based on your stated outcomes; please use percentages and numbers served to help show outcomes.

During the first half of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, the CHAP program's staff has reached 90% of its outreach, approximately half of its client service goal, and 53% of our training goal.